



# Coronavirus Disease Named Covid-19

## Why in News

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) has named the [new coronavirus](#) disease as '**Covid-19**'.

- The new name is taken from the words "corona", "virus" and "disease", with 2019 representing the year when it emerged (the outbreak was reported to the WHO on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019).
- The WHO wanted to avoid stigmatizing a country or particular group, so it chose a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or a group of people.
- Moreover, the word coronavirus refers to the group of viruses it belongs to, rather than the latest strain. The latest strain **has been designated 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)'** by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.
- The new strain has killed over 1,000 people in China and sickened more than 43,000 others globally.

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