Public health experts often use the following terms during a disease outbreak:

- Persons under monitoring
- Quarantine
- Persons under investigation, and
- Isolation.

To understand these terms, it is important to know whether the person has symptoms. It is also important to understand whether the person or group is separated from others.

Broadly speaking, **persons under monitoring** refers to people who:

- Do not have signs of illness, and
- May have been exposed to a disease that can spread to others.
- People may have exposure to COVID-19 through:
  » Contact with another person who has COVID-19, or
  » Travel to a place where the virus is very active.
- Signs of illness with COVID-19 can include:
  » Fever
  » Cough, and
  » Shortness of breath.
- Persons under monitoring should watch for these symptoms. They may also have a health care provider or public health professional monitor their health.
- Health experts may ask these people to limit their movement and contact with others.
Quarantine separates and restricts movement of people or groups who may have been:

- Exposed to a disease or
- Infected but not show symptoms.

Health officials sometimes use quarantines if they do not know whether a disease can spread before a person has signs of illness.

Persons under investigation are people who have exposure to a disease and then developed symptoms; public health officials worry they too may have the disease and could spread it to others.

Health officials often want to learn more about these people and their illness. They can then better understand how to prevent further spread of the illness.

- People may become exposed to COVID-19 through:
  » Contact with a sick person, or
  » Travel to a place where the virus is very active.

- Signs of illness with COVID-19 include:
  » Fever
  » Cough, and
  » Shortness of breath.

- Health officials may ask these people to limit their movement and contact with others. Health officials ask those exposed to COVID-19 to isolate themselves from others by avoiding:
  » People
  » Public places, and
  » Work or school.

- Health officials may ask some of these people to get tested for the disease.

Isolation separates people who have an illness from people who are healthy. Isolation restricts the movements of people who have an illness to prevent the spread of the disease.

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