COVID-19 Explained:
Facts & Common Terms in Epidemiology

**Incubation Period**
The time between exposure to an infection and the appearance of the first symptoms.
The incubation period is between 2 to 14 days, with an average of 4 days.

**Transmission**
The virus spreads via respiratory droplets as well as direct contact with infected objects or materials.
People who show no symptoms may be able to shed the virus but are not the main drivers of the spread of infections.

**$R_0$**
short for basic reproductive ratio, $R_0$ is a mathematical term for the contagiousness of an infectious disease. $R_0$ is how many other people one contagious person will potentially infect, on the basis that they are not already immune.
The $R_0$ for COVID-19 is 2.2 — one person can spread it to an average of 2.2 others.

**Case Fatality Rate (CFR)**
The proportion of deaths from a certain disease compared to the total number of people diagnosed with the disease from over a certain period of time.
For intact health systems, the CFR for COVID-19 is 0.8% to 1%.
However, in health systems where the patient load overwhelms hospital capacity and resources, to the extent it cannot attend to all patients, the CFR will increase to between 2.1% and 7.3%.

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Source: “Factsheet COVID-19” posted on National University of Singapore, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine’s Facebook page on 20 March 2020.