

Distance Lesson – 26 March 2020

Learning the Corona-talk – COVID-19 around the English Speaking World

Hello!

In today's class, we'll learn the *Corona-talk*, a rather grim yet relevant topic amidst this international health crisis.

Here's how this class works: first, think about between 5 to 10 COVID-19-related words in Portuguese, which you've read or heard in the news recently (you may think of their translation into English or not). Then, have a look at the vocabulary list (ex. #2). Try to sort the words out by *similarity / synonyms or antonyms / words you recognise or don't recognise*.

Before you proceed to ex. # 3, have a look at the link which explains the correct translation for the Portuguese expression "*estado de calamidade pública*".

In exercise # 3, you'll find a list of 10 links with short videos, articles, podcasts and photo-articles which have been recently published on CNN, ABC Canada, ABC Australia and BBC UK. In these, you will find the words you saw in exercise #2, and many more. In the videos & podcasts, you will also be able to observe differences in accent and vocabulary, whereas in the articles, you'll find a wealth of different verb tenses. You don't need to read the entire articles; reading the headlines and the opening paragraph will give you a good overall idea of the content. After you've had a look at all the links, you may choose an article or two on which to work in greater depth.

Finally, in exercise #4, you'll find some extracts (graphs, charts) of interesting data regarding the pandemic (including a comparison with the 1918 influenza pandemic), taken from this study conducted by two professors at the London Business School:

SURICO & GALEOTTI. *The Economics of a Pandemic* – The Case of COVID-19
Lecture – London Business School

Ready? Let's go!

Exercise # 2 - Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| - to self-isolate | - a pandemic | - to take a toll on somebody |
| - a curfew | - to disseminate | - panic shopping/buying |
| - an outbreak | - disinfectant | - to look after somebody |
| - mild symptoms | - social distancing | - to call something off |
| - a shutdown | - a ban | - to work from home |
| - a lockdown | - quarantine | |
| - confinement | - quarantine shaming | |
| - to spread | - death toll | |
| - epicentre | | |

How to say “*estado de calamidade pública*” in English:

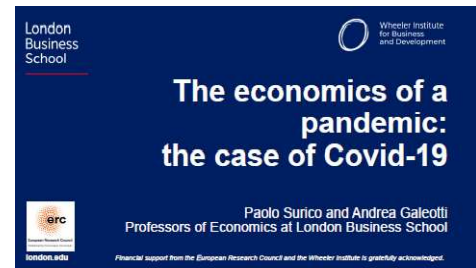
https://www.lexico.com/definition/state_of_emergency

Exercise # 3 - Links

1. Coronavirus Explained – ABC Canada (video)
2. Coronavirus and the Human Body – ABC Canada (video)
3. The Best Tips for Working from Home – ABC Canada (video) <https://abcnews.go.com/>
4. Global Health Emergency – ABC Canada (photo article): https://abcnews.go.com/International/photos/coronavirus-outbreak-sparks-global-health-emergency-68676204?cid=clicksource_4380645_23_posts_outbrain_card_hed/image-york--69801231
5. The Tantalising Scheme to fix CORONAVID – ABC Australia (podcast and mini-article) <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/coronacast/the-tantalising-scheme-to-fix-coronavirus-in-only-six-weeks/12090206>
6. When the Olympics are stopped by extraordinary world events (CNN article & video) <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/25/sport/tokyo-1940-olympics-spt-intl/index.html>
7. Fears over rapid spread in Italy – BBC (article) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52048919>
8. Inside a COVID-19 ICU – BBC (video) <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-52046339/coronavirus-inside-a-covid-19-intensive-care-unit>
9. India observes 14-hour curfew – BBC (video) <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-india-51994194/coronavirus-india-observes-14-hour-curfew>
10. Can I go for a walk – BBC article <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52022743>

Exercise # 4 - Extracts from:

SURICO & GALEOTTI. *The Economics of a Pandemic – The Case of COVID-19*
Lecture – London Business School



London Business School

Health care policies

Table 7: Summary of NPI interventions considered.

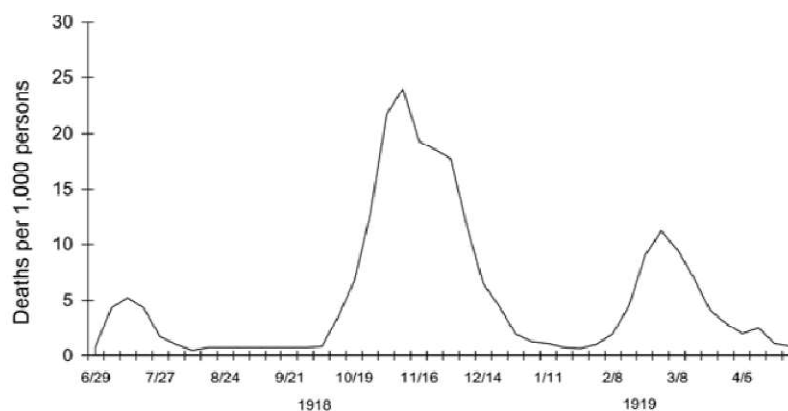
Label	Policy	Description
CI	Case Isolation in the home	Symptomatic cases stay at home for 7 days, reducing non-household contacts by 75% for this period. Household contacts remain unchanged. Assume 70% of household comply with the policy.
HQ	Voluntary quarantine home	Following identification of a symptomatic case in the household, all household members remain at home for 14 days. Household contact rates double during this quarantine period, contacts in the community reduce by 75%. Assume 50% of household comply with the policy.
SDO	Social distancing of those over 70 years of age	Reduce contacts by 50% in workplaces, increase household contacts by 25% and reduce other contacts by 75%. Assume 75% compliance with policy.
SD	Social distancing of entire population	All households reduce contact outside household, school or workplace by 75%. School contact rates unchanged, workplace contact rates reduced by 25%. Household contact rates assumed to increase by 25%.
PC	Closure of schools and universities	Closure of all schools, 25% of universities remain open. Household contact rates for student families increase by 50% during closure. Contacts in the community increase by 25% during closure.

Source: Ferguson et al. (2020), [Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions \(NPIs\) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand](#). Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team.

(p. 37)

London Business School

The mortality curve during the 1918 influenza



Three weekly combined influenza and pneumonia mortality, United Kingdom, 1918–1919

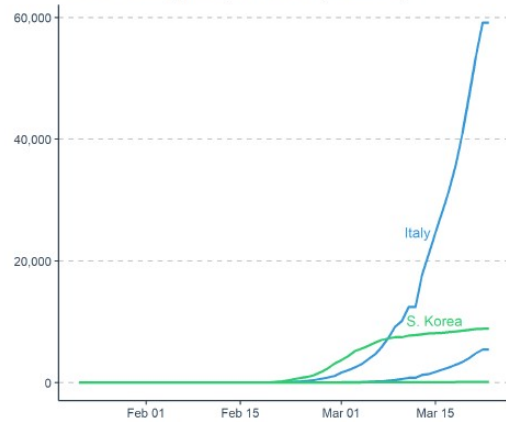
(Idem, p. 40)

An early success: the case of South Korea

- South Korea had a sharp increase in cases during February but has managed to slow the spread in March
- In addition the death rate as of March 24th has been particularly low: 1.4% (vs 10.1% in Italy)
- Additional measures in South Korea:
 - Rapid scaling of testing, (e.g., 5,500 test for every one million people; U.K.: 750 for every one million people)
 - Readily available tests (e.g., free with doctor prescription, available privately, but reimbursed by the government is positive)
 - Contact tracing, targeted testing and monitoring infected (e.g., government app to locate people)

South Korea has managed to contain the spread

Number of cases (top lines) and of deaths (bottom lines)



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE, own calculations. Last update: 2020-03-23

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/opinion/coronavirus-best-response.html>

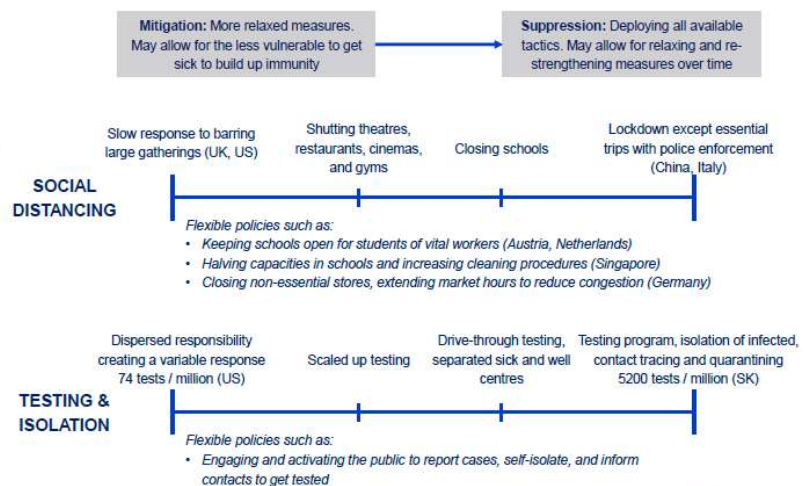
(Idem, p. 44)

What tactics have been used across countries

Different strategies and associated policies have been devised across nations, with varying effects. It can be argued that there is some flexibility in the policies put in place, but there is a consistent call for more policies, more measures, and more severe suppression tactics

Everybody needs to do more, "Not testing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not quarantine alone. Do it all." says WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"At this point 100% of nations that got it under control did so based on testing and tracing, isolation, quarantining" Marcel Slaathe, epidemiologist at the Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne



Source: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6484/1287.full>

(Idem, p. 45)