

# “Why outbreaks like coronavirus spread exponentially, and how to flatten the curve”

By Harry Stevens, Washington Post, March 14, 2020

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1. Read the whole article once without looking up anything.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/>

2. Describe the four pictures (*free for all / attempted quarantine / moderate distancing / extensive distancing*) in your own words.



3. Restart the simulations for the different scenarios several times. Comment on the results you get.

## 4. Short statements:

- Explain why a forced quarantine like in China is neither very often used nor very effective.
- What can governments do in order to move from moderate distancing to extensive distancing?
- State the differences between “simulitis” and “corona”.

## 5. Discuss...

- ... the impact social distancing has on people. Find positive and negative aspects.
- ... the impact the COVID-19 outbreak has on our world? Find positive and negative aspects.
- ... the impact the COVID-19 outbreak has on you and your family.

Write about your thoughts, your fears, your joys and about the current or future changes in your life.

*(Here it's up to you to decide. You may include all aspects in your text or focus on a selected part that you are especially interested in.)*

## (6. Extra – Creative Writing)

Imagine you are 85 years old and you tell your grandchildren about 2020.

- Write a letter to your grandchildren in which you remember this weird time in the past...  
... OR...
- ... write a dialogue in which you answer your grandchildren's questions.

Be creative and use your imagination.

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Dear students,

we think that this text is highly topical and interesting and we are really looking forward to receiving your feedback and results.

Stay at home. Stay healthy. Best regards,

R. Telle-Hiepel and H. Ortelbach