

TOPICAL SCIENCE UPDATES



Starlink

May 2020



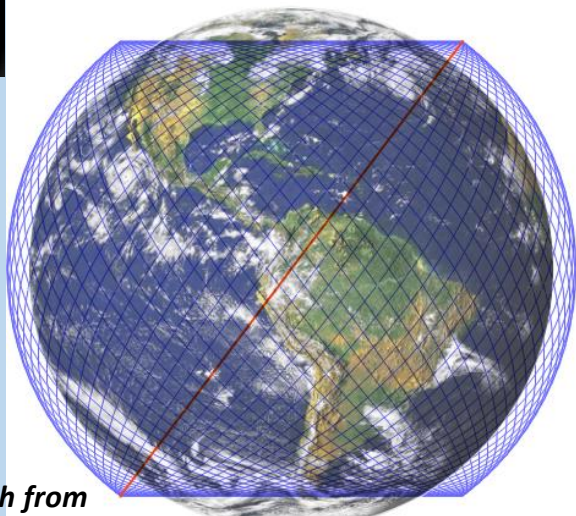
Commons Wikipedia

Starlink is a new satellite system from SpaceX, technology innovator Elon Musk's space exploration company.

The plan is that the network of satellites will eventually give everyone on Earth reliable hi-speed internet access.

Starlink Initial Phase

1,584 satellites into 72 orbital planes of 22 satellites each



Commons Wikipedia

The satellites are launched, flat packed, using Falcon 9 rockets. Over 400 are already in a low Earth orbit and have been spotted by stargazers from across the globe flying past in a satellite train.

Eventually the network will comprise of over 12,000 tiny satellites orbiting Earth. The project has had a lot of criticism from astronomers and stargazers who fear the introduction of these man-made objects could mean the night sky is about to change forever.

What do you think about Starlink? Do some additional research from the links below and let us know at #TopicalScience whether you think global internet access is worth changing the night sky for.

[Starlink](#)

[Starlink Launch](#)

[Why Starlink?](#)

[Stuff in Space](#)

[Starlink Criticism](#)

Trimeresurus salazar

A new species of pit viper has been discovered in northeast India. This beautiful green snake has been named *Trimeresurus salazar* - or Salazar's pit viper, after the founder of Slytherin house in the Harry Potter books.



Commons Wikipedia

Can you research other new species that have been discovered in 2020?

[Salazar's Pit Viper](#)

[New Species](#)

SCIENCE AT WORK

Meet scientists from the past and the present
Learn more about people who do jobs that use science

[Science at Work](#) consists of weekly activity sheets about scientists and people who work in a science-related job. Children send in questions to the scientist who will answer as many as they can in a video released the following week.

Science at Work is a fantastic new resource from the [PSTT](#) in collaboration with [Spectrum Drama](#) and [St. Mary's University](#)

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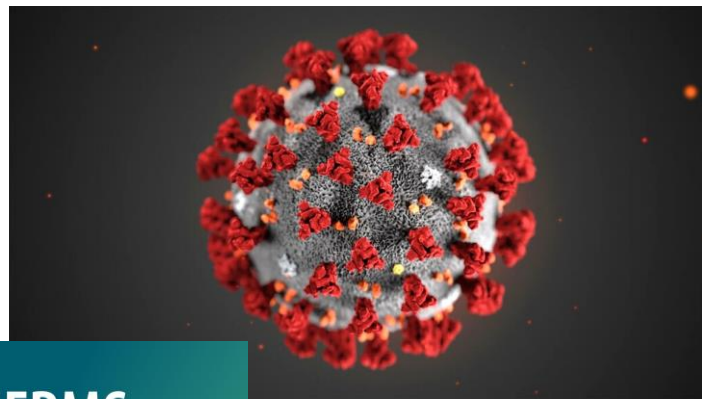
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If you have been watching the news you might be mistaken for thinking that there is only one story going on in the world right now. The COVID19 Coronavirus pandemic has dominated almost every country in the world and seems likely to for a while yet.

What are the facts that you should really know about COVID19?

Stay away from the 'facts' you read on Social Media, there is a lot of misinformation being spread. Get your facts from the [World Health Organisation](#) and official government sources in your country.



COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



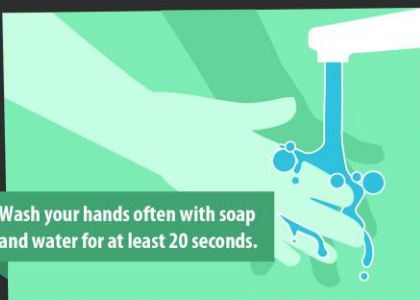
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



How can you keep yourself and your family safe?

The advice from around the world is pretty much the same now and is summarised on this [CDC](#) poster.

In addition to this advice it is important that you talk to someone if you are worried about anything to do with COVID19. Use Social Media to stay in touch with family and friends and check up on each other regularly.

Here are some more questions you might have about the current situation.

[What is Coronavirus?](#)

[What is a pandemic?](#)

[What is Social Distancing?](#)

Remember, stick to facts from reputable sources only, wash your hands lots and stay safe!



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19