

Definition

What does it mean?

- AS AN ADJECTIVE: - a disease that is prevalent over a whole country or across the world.
- AS A NOUN: - an outbreak of a pandemic disease / an epidemic occurring over a vast area.

Morphology/Origins (breaking down the word)

The word “**pandemic**” originates from Greek:

pan = all

demos = people

ic = an English suffix that converts a noun into an adjective i.e. *metal* - *metallic* / *poet* - *poetic*

WORD OF

PANDEMIC

THE WEEK

Synonyms

Expand your vocabulary!

- widespread
- prevalent
- pervasive
- rife
- rampant
- universal

In a sentence

How may you use it?

- It is now illegal to socialise in groups of more than six. The move follows a rise in the UK’s R number as the **pandemic** gathers momentum again. (*noun*)
- ...a problem of **pandemic** proportions. (*adjective*)

England's uncivil war over the 'rule of six'



Bubble burst: Hip-hop band Brookhampton would struggle to work in London © #Soundcheck

Is the "rule of six" wrong? Critics say that people should be free to go out and take risks with their own health. But others insist that we cannot put personal freedoms ahead of saving lives.

As of yesterday in England you can go to a wedding or a funeral with 30 people, but not to a house party with seven. You can play football at your local grounds, but not five-a-side in the park with your friends.

Confused? You're not the only one.

It is now illegal to socialise in groups of more than six. The move follows a rise in the UK's R number as the pandemic gathers momentum again.

Critics of the UK's response to the pandemic have drawn on these ideas. MP Steve Baker describes the rule of six as "draconian" and "authoritarian". Jonathan Sumption, a former justice of the Supreme Court, insists that individuals must be free to make their own decisions.

But supporters of the rule of six claim that it is impossible for individuals to make a rational judgement of the risks in going out during the pandemic because scientists still do not know enough about the effects of the virus. Its long-term impact on health may be greater than is currently believed.

Click here for the link to the full article.

What's your opinion?

