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Tech is bringing new tools to the COVID-19 fight

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We're beginning to accept that the global pandemic of 2020 will change so many aspects of life, much of it for the worse. Mauro Guillen, a management professor at Wharton, has put together a presentation on the many ways the adoption of technology will accelerate because of the crisis, some of it for the better.

In Spain, where Guillen is from, an emergency respirator assembled from 3D-printed parts has just been developed. Cell phones, social media, and the plain old World Wide Web are being used in creative ways to analyze infectious-disease trends. Machine learning, properly directed, should be able to [predict future pandemics](#)—now that health policy experts are paying proper attention. Telemedicine finally is getting its due, and then some.



Guillen has collated multiple examples of the good that even suspect technology can do. Drones can shift from being merely annoying presences over our cities to tools for compliance monitoring and large-area disinfecting. Robots can go where humans shouldn't, including in some instances to care for infected patients.

“The key concept here is network effects,” says Guillen. “As more people use these technologies, more people will find them increasingly useful. They will help us track and stop the pandemic, reimagine organizations and society, and ultimately change the way to live, play, and work.”

The powerpoint presentation can be found at:

http://www.management.wharton.upenn.edu/guillen/COVID19_Resources.htm