

UNMASK THE FACTS

May 2023

May 11, 2023

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends in the U.S. and worldwide

The U.S. government and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) have ended the public health emergency for COVID-19. There are fewer cases now than there were last summer. But the virus is not gone yet. It is still a leading cause of death in the U.S., with about 250 daily deaths. You can see how the end of the emergency impacts COVID-19 tracking, testing, and vaccine access [here](#).

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May 12, 2023

COVID-19 vaccine is no longer needed to travel to the U.S.

Before May 12, people traveling to the U.S. from other countries had to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter. But now, they don't have to! The Biden administration dropped the vaccine requirement for foreign travelers. So now, people from other countries can come to the U.S., with or without first getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

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May 25, 2023

FDA fully approves Paxlovid to treat COVID-19

The FDA fully approved Paxlovid to treat COVID-19. The oral treatment is for adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at risk of getting very sick from the virus. Paxlovid was already available, but now it is approved by the FDA. This means that doctors can prescribe it more easily. Paxlovid is not for children, but it is still available for teens ages 12 to 18.

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May 26, 2023

Adults without a bivalent mRNA vaccine have little protection against COVID-19

A new [study](#) found that adults who haven't gotten a bivalent dose of the COVID-19 vaccine have little protection from hospitalization compared to unvaccinated people. The bivalent vaccine is 62% effective at preventing hospitalization for up to 3 months, but its effectiveness drops to 24% after 6 months. The updated vaccine offers longer protection from severe illness and death though, with 69% effectiveness at 3 months and 50% effectiveness at 6 months.

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May 7, 2023

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available in the U.S.

The COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson & Johnson (J&J) is no longer available in the U.S. The last doses in the U.S. stockpile expired on May 7. The CDC [told providers](#) to dispose of any doses that they had left over. About 19 million people in the U.S. have gotten at least one dose of the J&J vaccine. For U.S. adults who received J&J's shot—either at one or two doses—a follow-up bivalent mRNA dose from Moderna or Pfizer is recommended at least 2 months after their most recent J&J dose.

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