

COVID-19 Activities at CDC

May 11, 2023, marks the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration. After this date, CDC’s authorizations to collect certain types of public health data will expire.

The United States has mobilized and sustained a historic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a nation, we now find ourselves at a different point in the pandemic – with more tools and resources than ever before to better protect ourselves and our communities.

CDC has been working for many months to fold the agency’s COVID-19 emergency response activities into its existing structure and programs, as part of an ongoing transition to sustainable public health practice. The agency has also been working with partners, including states and local territories, to prepare for the end of the PHE declaration and communicate updated reporting requirements and cadences.

While reporting frequency and source data for some metrics will shift when the PHE declaration ends, CDC will continue to report valuable data to inform individual and community public health actions to protect those at highest risk of severe COVID-19. Our priority remains providing the information necessary to protect the nation’s public health.

Below is a list of some of CDC’s key COVID-19-related activities, including their planned status post-PHE. Please note that this is **not** a comprehensive list of COVID-19-related activities at the agency.

Key CDC Activities Affected by the COVID-19 PHE Expiration	
Activity	Details
Case data	Aggregate case data will be sunset on May 11. On approximately June 1, line-level data visualizations will be sunset from COVID Data Tracker. CDC will continue to receive line-level data on COVID-19 cases through the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System—a system that CDC uses to regularly collect case data for around 120 notifiable diseases. These data are available to the public for analysis at data.cdc.gov .

COVID Transmission Levels	Percent positivity data from national COVID-19 electronic laboratory reporting, upon which the COVID Transmission Levels rely, will not be available at the county level post-PHE. COVID Transmission Levels will be sunset and removed from COVID Data Tracker on May 11. CDC is determining how to address healthcare guidance without use of Transmission Levels.
COVID-19 Community Levels (CCLs)	Due to changes in reporting requirements for case data post-May 11, CDC will no longer be able to calculate COVID-19 Community Levels (CCLs). CCLs will be sunset and removed from COVID Data Tracker on May 11. CCLs will be replaced with COVID-19 hospital admission levels, which have shown 99% concordance with CCLs in analysis.
COVID Data Tracker (CDT)	<p>CDC will focus on weekly tracking of key public health outcomes as part of an ongoing transition from the emergency phase of COVID-19 response to sustainable public health practice. The agency will prioritize tracking markers of severe illness using surveillance systems with national coverage. Phase 1 changes to CDT will launch on May 11.</p> <p>Beginning May 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary metrics displayed on the CDT homepage will include hospital admissions and death data (from NVSS) • COVID-19 Community Levels and COVID Transmission Levels will be sunset • COVID-19 hospital admission levels will be posted and updated weekly • Aggregate case and death data will be sunset <p>Anticipated May 25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test positivity data source will change to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVVS); data visualizations and footnotes will be updated accordingly • Emergency department data visualizations will be updated <p>Line-level case data visualizations will be sunset on CDT; these data are available to the public for analysis at data.cdc.gov.</p>
Death (mortality) data	Beginning May 11, provisional COVID-19 death certificate data from the National Vital Statistics System will be used as a primary source for COVID-19 deaths. Currently, COVID Data Tracker displays COVID-19 death data reported through aggregate case surveillance, which will be discontinued with the end of the PHE.

Genomic surveillance	Genomic surveillance activities will continue, and data will be published on COVID Data Tracker. The laboratory data source for percent positivity, which is a statistical weighting input for model-based estimates of SARS-CoV-2 variant proportions, will be adjusted. After May 11, reporting will become bi-weekly. State-level estimates for variants will also be removed from CDT; regional estimates will remain.
Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) Program	CDC will continue to fund pharmacy-based testing through the ICATT program for people who are uninsured. Testing access may be reduced if fewer testing sites are enrolled and available due to insurance and reimbursement adjustments.
Percent positivity data/CELR	After May 11, HHS can no longer require reporting of negative SARS-CoV-2 laboratory testing results, which diminishes the ability to monitor percent positivity using COVID-19 electronic laboratory reporting (CELR) data. Laboratory-based (virologic) surveillance from CDC's National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVVS), an established sentinel network, will be used for monitoring national and regional trends in SARS-CoV-2 percent positivity. The shift to voluntary reporting of test positivity will no longer allow for calculation of COVID-19 Transmission Levels; COVID-19 Transmission Levels will be sunset after May 11.
Vaccine administration data	Receipt of vaccine administration data will be unaffected for jurisdictions that have signed data use agreements (DUAs) with CDC, though data completeness and submission timing may be affected. Receipt of data for jurisdictions without DUAs will cease after May 11. Final updates for existing vaccine data visualizations and data on COVID Data Tracker will occur on May 11. New COVID Data Tracker pages and visualizations for vaccines will be updated monthly.

Key CDC Activities Unaffected by the COVID-19 PHE Expiration	
Activity	Details
Demographic case data	Demographic case data will be accessible through data.cdc.gov.
Genomic surveillance	Genomic surveillance activities will continue, and data will be published on COVID Data Tracker. The laboratory data source for percent positivity, which is a statistical weighting input for model-based estimates of SARS-CoV-2 variant proportions, will be adjusted. After May 11, reporting will become bi-weekly.
Long COVID	CDC's work on Long COVID is not affected by the end of the PHE and will continue past May 11.
Sentinel surveillance	Sentinel surveillance activities (e.g., COVID-NET) will continue past May 11, and data will continue to be published on COVID Data Tracker.

Traveler genomic surveillance	Traveler genomic surveillance activities will continue past May 11, and data will continue to be published on COVID Data Tracker. After May 11, reporting will become bi-weekly.
v-safe	After May 19, those who enrolled and participated in v-safe for COVID-19 vaccines will be unable to add new COVID-19 vaccine doses to their account. Health check-ins for any doses added before May 19 will continue until June 30. CDC is developing a new version of v-safe , launching later this year, which will allow users to share their post-vaccination experiences with new vaccines.
Vaccine administration data	Receipt of vaccine administration data will be unaffected for jurisdictions with signed data use agreements (DUAs) with CDC to share data, though data completeness and submission timing may be affected. Current updates are weekly, and final update for current pages will be May 11. New COVID Data Tracker vaccine pages and visualizations are planned to launch in June as part of phase 2 updates and will be updated monthly.
Vaccine effectiveness	Vaccine effectiveness activities are not tied to the PHE and will continue past May 11.
Wastewater surveillance	Wastewater surveillance activities will continue past May 11, and data will continue to be published on COVID Data Tracker.

Key Activities Outside of CDC's Scope AND Affected by the COVID-19 Expiration		
Topic	Responsible Organization	Updates and/or Resource*
Exposure Notification System	APHL	The Exposure Notification System will be sunset after the PHE expiration. Exposure Notifications (aphl.org)
HHS Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatment**	HHS	Fact Sheet: HHS Announces 'HHS Bridge Access Program For COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments' to Maintain Access to COVID-19 Care for the Uninsured HHS.gov
Hospital data reporting	CMS	Several data elements, including those related to suspected COVID-19 hospitalizations, will no longer be required. However, reporting of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations to the National Healthcare Safety Network will be required by CMS until April 30, 2024. After the end of the PHE, the reporting cadence will be weekly, and the number of data elements required to be reported will be reduced. CDC will update the Hospital Reporting FAQs page with full details in the coming weeks: COVID-19 Guidance for Hospital Reporting and FAQs for Hospitals, Hospital Laboratory, and Acute Care Facility Data Reporting (hhs.gov)

Jurisdictional COVID-19 policies and guidance	Jurisdictions	Individual state policies may change as data reporting requirements are eliminated and states' priorities evolve. State COVID-19 Data and Policy Actions – Sources KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation state sources for all COVID-19 policies tracked)
Medicaid/Medicare	CMS	CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the Transition Forward from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency CMS
Other HHS & USG Programs	Various	Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap HHS.gov www.usa.gov/coronavirus

*Note this information is subject to change. CDC cannot make official statements on behalf of other USG entities or private organizations. Please refer to responsible organizations for the most up-to-date information.

**The process of transitioning to vaccine commercialization will be overseen by HHS ASPR and will not be affected by the end of the PHE. More information is available here: [FAQ - Commercialization of COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures \(hhs.gov\)](#) ; [COVID-19 Vaccine Program Update to 4/19/23 ACIP Meeting](#)<https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Pages/FAQ-Commercialization.aspx>