

# Remembering the Milestones of the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Across the Globe

### MARCH

March 11: WHO declares pandemic.  
March 21: Illinois initiates stay-at-home order.

### APRIL

U.S. announces Operation Warp Speed to develop a COVID-19 vaccine as quickly as possible.

### JUNE

U.S. reports 2 million cases.

### AUGUST

COVID-19 becomes 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S.

### SEPTEMBER

Global deaths reach 1 million.

### DECEMBER

The FDA issues Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 vaccines.

### JANUARY

New COVID-19 variants are reported in the U.S. and across the globe.

### FEBRUARY

COVID-19 cases surpass 100 million worldwide, with 2 million deaths.

### MARCH

Over 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been given in the U.S.

### NOVEMBER

WHO declares omicron variant of COVID-19 a "variant of concern."

Booster mRNA vaccines are approved for everyone ages 18 and older.

### JANUARY

Omicron variant surges in the U.S., accounting for 99% of COVID-19 cases.

FDA fully approves the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 18 and older.

### MARCH

WHO shows pandemic increased anxiety and depression by 25% worldwide — especially in young people and women.

More than 450 million cases are reported worldwide.

FDA authorizes 2nd booster dose of mRNA vaccines for adults ages 50 years and older and people who are immunocompromised.

### JUNE

More than 84 million COVID-19 cases recorded in the U.S.

### FEBRUARY

Worldwide tally reaches 755 million COVID-19 cases and 6.8 million deaths.

U.S. President Joe Biden announces plans to end national and public health emergencies for COVID-19 in May 2023.

## At Northwestern Medicine

### MARCH

Cardiovascular units are quickly converted into COVID-19 units.

A COVID-19 testing lab is established in less than 10 days.

An at-home COVID-19 monitoring program serves more than 17,000 patients in its first year.

### APRIL

More than 130 COVID-19 research projects are underway.

Personal protective equipment is donated to community organizations.

Testing sites are launched across the health system.

### JUNE

A patient whose lungs were destroyed by COVID-19 receives first double-lung transplant in the U.S.

### SEPTEMBER

An emergency grant to Bright Star Community Outreach supports critical mental health programs.

### DECEMBER

Northwestern Medicine Comprehensive COVID-19 Center launches to provide care for people with long COVID-19.

Vaccination clinics are set up across Chicagoland.

### MARCH

A first-of-its-kind study launches to examine neurologic symptoms in patients with long COVID-19.

### APRIL

Guidelines for performing double-lung transplants in patients with COVID-19 are shared with institutions around the world.

### NOVEMBER

Northwestern Medicine Canning Thoracic Institute launches to meet the growing patient demand for lung care.

### FEBRUARY

Study shows positive outcomes in patients who underwent double-lung transplants for COVID-19.

### MARCH

Using techniques pioneered with COVID-19 lung transplants, surgeons transplant the lungs of a man with stage 4 lung cancer.

### APRIL

New "Lungs in a Box" technology allows lung transplant teams to keep donor lungs alive outside of the body before transplant.

### MAY

Study shows patients with long COVID-19 continue to experience neurologic symptoms an average of 15 months after initial infection.

### FEBRUARY

Canning Thoracic Institute launches lung failure training program for community hospitals.

#### Sources:

United States Department of Defense, <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/DOD-Response-Timeline/>

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CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/03/us/race-disparities-coronavirus-six-months/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/museum/timeline/covid19.html>