

CDC: Monitoring of COVID-19 will remain a priority

May 9 2023, by Elana Gotkine



Surveillance data sources and indicators will support monitoring the

impact of COVID-19 after expiration of the U.S. COVID-19 public health emergency declaration on May 11, according to two articles published in the May 5 early-release issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Heather M. Scobie, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues examined national COVID-19 surveillance data sources and indicators in anticipation of the transition of public health surveillance data to other [data sources](#) or discontinuation, coinciding with expiration of the U.S. COVID-19 public health emergency declaration.

The authors note that COVID-19 hospital admission rates from the National Healthcare Safety Network lagged one day behind case rates and four days behind percentages of positive test results and COVID-19 emergency department visits from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program during April 2022 to March 2023. National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) trends in the percentage of COVID-19-associated deaths were seen 13 days earlier than those from the aggregate [death](#) count, which will be discontinued.

Strong correlations were observed between NVSS and aggregate death data and between the percentage of positive severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) test results and COVID-19 electronic laboratory reporting during October 2020 to March 2023. Levels of COVID-19 hospital admissions will replace weekly COVID-19 Community Levels, which demonstrated >99 percent concordance by county during February 2022 to March 2023.

Benjamin J. Silk, Ph.D., also from the CDC, and colleagues note that COVID-19-associated hospital admission levels will be the main indicator of COVID-19 trends to help guide community and personal decisions relating to risk and prevention behaviors after expiration of the public health emergency.

The primary indicator used to monitor COVID-19 mortality will be the percentage of COVID-19-associated deaths among all reported deaths, based on provisional death certificate data. Early changes in trends will be detected based on emergency department visits with a COVID-19 diagnosis and the percentage of positive SARS-CoV-2 test results.

"Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of prevention and control strategies continues to be a public health priority during the transition from the emergency phase of the COVID-19 response to routine public health practice," Silk and colleagues write.

More information: Heather M. Scobie et al, Correlations and Timeliness of COVID-19 Surveillance Data Sources and Indicators — United States, October 1, 2020–March 22, 2023, *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (2023). [DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7219e2](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7219e2)

Benjamin J. Silk et al, COVID-19 Surveillance After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Declaration — United States, May 11, 2023, *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (2023). [DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7219e1](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7219e1)

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