

COVID 19 What's Next??

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Received: March 02, 2022

Published: March 24, 2022

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This well-known story began two years ago in the city of Wham (December 2019, hence its “2019” or “19” label in its name) when the World Health Organization was informed by the Chinese authorities, on the presentation of 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology (SARS-CoV-2). It was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization in January 2020 and declared a pandemic in March 2020, for which the World Health Organization warned that the risk of spread would be very high in China and the rest of the world [1]. The fear of the unknown began, the coronavirus pandemic represents not only the spread of a highly contagious and potentially deadly virus, but it has also had an impact on the world like no other, people were dying everywhere, it was real chaos, nobody knew what to do.

Undoubtedly, the first reality we had to face was that the countries health systems were not prepared to deal with a disease of this magnitude, which exceeded the limitations of public and private hospitals, which could not guarantee care for those who suffer, despite having expensive insurance and sufficient economic resources, they could not find a place that offered them the opportunity to save their lives, with greater impact on the poorest and most vulnerable population.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global humanitarian crisis like no other, in which governments around the world have imposed lockdown and movement control measures to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2, crippling the economies of the world and safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of citizens. The confinement and distance measures evidenced the serious inequities that exist in terms of housing,

sanitation, education, labor formality, and the level of economic vulnerability. However, the ability to adapt to these restrictions also brought with it a greater use of alternative means so as not to stop economic activities, education or attention to health demands. Thus, during the pandemic, new forms of teleworking (home office), tele-education, appeared, and in the field of health, telemedicine activities increased significantly. It is a reality that the health of a nation's economy depends on the health of its citizens and the well-being of the world depends on the well-being of its people.

Scientists quickly went to work trying to find a solution against the pandemic, it has been more than a year since people began receiving the first licensed covid19 vaccine to protect against SARS. CoV-2 infection and more than a third of the US population had received a booster dose [2].

The reasonable questions are, when will we return to normal? and when the measures against covid 19 should be terminated? The answer is not easy, social life will not suddenly return to normal. Instead, gradually most people will stop seeing COVID-19 as a risk and abandon precautionary measures.

Vaccination against COVID-19 will continue to be an important control strategy as new variants emerge; thanks to the booster dose effectiveness some countries are given a fourth booster dose. The use of facial masks and social distancing will be relaxed, which will increase risk levels, although they will be able to remain in crowded places [2].

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged countries to assess the balance between freedom and public health after the pandemic. It is likely to be early to move into an endemic phase (a term used

when infection rates stabilize and people return to pre-pandemic behavior patterns) given that Omicron-related hospitalizations are still high and the therapy has little efficacy, there is a gradual transition to normality, which will probably be soon. As changes begin, managing COVID-19 is likely to require contact tracing and isolation, which could be reduced based on case and hospitalization rates, as well as social and economic needs [3].

The world population may no longer accept school closures, lockdowns, and travel bans as a harsh strategy against COVID19. Denmark and the UK recently lifted all COVID-19 restrictions and the Governor of Colorado declared that “the emergency is over”, in South Africa they no longer consider quarantine necessary [4,5].

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

None.

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