

COVID-19 global emergency declared over more than three years later as the world nears the end of the pandemic

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially declared an end to the COVID global health emergency more than three years after the alert was made.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had the "pleasure" of sharing the report of the 15th meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the COVID-19 pandemic which was held on Thursday (May 5, 2023).

According to the WHO, the Committee's position has continued to evolve in the past few months before deciding to shift the long-term management of the pandemic.

"The WHO Director-General concurs with the advice offered by the Committee regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," the WHO's statement read.

"He determines that COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)."



The COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a global emergency. Picture: Ren Yong/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

One of the main factors that have contributed to the end of the global emergency has been the significant decline in the COVID death rate.

A peak of more than 100,000 deaths per week in January 2021 has declined to just over 3,500 in the week to April 24, 2023 according to WHO data.

Many countries began to slowly return to their normal way of life as early as 2021 as restrictions continued to ease across the world.

Dr Tedros warned nations to still remain vigilant against the virus, reminding the danger of COVID-19 still remains and the emergency system could still return.



Dr Tedros refuses to rule out a return of the emergency declaration for COVID-19 in the future.

Picture: Getty Images

"The worst thing any country can do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that Covid-19 is nothing to worry about," he said.

"I will not hesitate to convene another emergency committee should COVID-19 once again put our world in peril."

Australia put an end to their rule which required COVID-positive people to isolate in 2022 while most countries including Australia and the United States have removed their restrictions which required international travellers to be vaccinated against the virus.

The WHO doesn't declare when a pandemic ends or begins however the name COVID-19 was officially adopted in March 2020. -www.skynews.com.au, May 6, 2023