

NEWS BRIEF

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Fauci Says United States Is “Out of the Pandemic Phase”

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, the United States was deemed to be “out of the pandemic phase” by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious-disease expert in the country.

In a television interview, Fauci clarified his comments. He stressed that the world is still very much experiencing a COVID-19 pandemic, but the level of hospitalizations and death are declining to a manageable point in the United States.

Put another way, months ago, the United States saw around 900,000 COVID-19 infections, tens of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths every day. Now, the number of daily U.S. COVID-19 deaths is around 300, according to Fauci.

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“A pandemic means widespread infection throughout the world. In our country, we’re transitioning into more of a controlled endemicity.”

- Dr. Fauci, in an interview

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What’s Next?

COVID-19 is still present and concerning in many ways, particularly for vulnerable populations and the unvaccinated. However, as cases fall, the country appears to be nearing a point of controlling the disease through targeted treatments and vaccinations.

As such, much of the country has rescinded mask-wearing requirements. Officials have even stopped enforcing the federal mask mandate in transportation settings.

With fewer restrictions and an increase in more in-person activities, it remains to be seen if the United States can maintain its low COVID-19 case volume.

Ultimately, it appears the United States is ready to move on from the pandemic, dealing with the potential consequences as they come.

As the country transitions out of the most devastating part of the pandemic, employers should continue to enforce whatever COVID-19 prevention measures they deem fit to protect their workers.

Employers should also look out for updated guidance from state or local governments, as COVID-19 rules have been notoriously fluid throughout the pandemic.

Stay tuned for additional updates on the pandemic as they develop.

