

WHO 75th ANNIVERSARY

7 April 2023



On 7 April 2023 – World Health Day – the World Health Organisation celebrated its 75th anniversary. In 1948, countries of the world came together and founded WHO to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health and well-being.

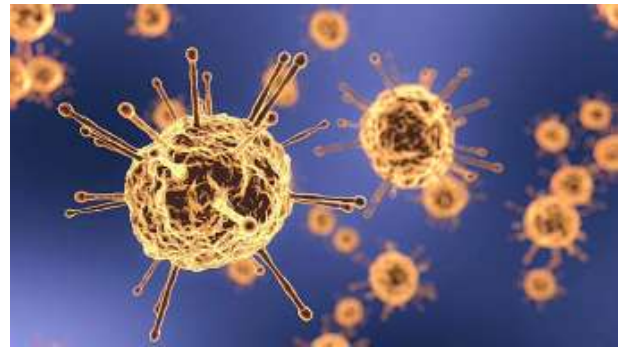
WHO's 75th anniversary year is an opportunity for the world to look back at the public health successes of WHO and its partners, that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle current health challenges.

The WHO theme for its 75th anniversary is *Health for All*. The WHO state that the right to health is a basic human right. Everyone must have access to the health services they need when and where they need them without financial hardship. COVID-19 and other health emergencies, overlapping humanitarian and climate crises, economic constraints, and war, have made every country's journey to Health For All more urgent. Now, WHO say, is the time for leaders to take action to meet their universal health coverage commitments and for civil society to hold leaders accountable.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/75-years-of-improving-public-health>

WHO PANDEMIC DECLARATION

5 May 2023



The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a public health emergency on 30 January 2020 in response to an increasing number of COVID-19 infections across the world. Over three years later, on 5 May 2023, the WHO declared the public health emergency over, pointing out however that COVID-19 is still a global health threat with COVID-19 causing the death of one person every three minutes in the week prior to the declaration.

The declaration means countries can transition from an emergency response to COVID-19 to managing the disease in the same manner as other infectious diseases. In making the declaration, the WHO Director-General warned that the COVID-19 virus is here to stay and that the risk remains of new variants emerging that cause new surges in cases and deaths.

The Director-General said being able to make the declaration was a time of celebration but also of reflection. Celebration due to the skill and selfless dedication of health and care workers; the innovation of vaccine researchers and developers; the difficult decisions governments have had to make; and the sacrifices that people across the world have made as individuals, families and communities to keep each other safe. And reflection, because COVID-19 has left, and continues to leave deep scars on our world, where a lack of coordination, equity and solidarity led to unnecessary deaths and suffering.

Another pandemic seems inevitable. Whether the world has learned anything from COVID-19 remains to be seen.

<https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing---5-may-2023>

COVID-19 ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

11 March 2023

Johns Hopkins University

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Country	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Ratio %
Tuvulu	2,805	0	0.00
Nauru	5,393	1	0.02
Singapore	2,235,294	1,722	0.08
Tonga	16,810	13	0.08
Brunei Darussalam	279,661	225	0.08
New Zealand	2,236,114	2,550	0.11
Vanuatu	12,014	14	0.12
Maldives	185,738	311	0.17
Australia	11,401,996	19,578	0.17
Samoa	16,607	29	0.17
Cyprus	650,685	1,330	0.20
Seychelles	50,665	172	0.34
Mauritius	296,042	1,044	0.35
Kiribati	5,014	18	0.36
Dominica	15,760	74	0.47
Barbados	106,798	579	0.54
Solomon Islands	24,575	153	0.62
Gabon	48,981	306	0.62
Malta	117,610	828	0.7
St Kitts and Nevis	6,597	47	0.71
Malaysia	5,044,718	36,967	0.73
Botswana	329,758	2,801	0.85
Togo	39,396	290	0.74
Ghana	177,229	1,462	0.85
United Kingdom	24,658,705	220,721	0.90
Mozambique	233,214	2,242	0.96
Belize	70,757	688	0.97
Rwanda	133,194	1,468	1.1

Country	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Ratio %
Canada	4,617,095	51,720	1.12
Zambia	343,135	4,057	1.18
Nigeria	266,598	3,155	1.18
India	44,690,738	530,779	1.19
Grenada	19,680	238	1.21
Fiji	68,898	883	1.28
St Vincent & Grenadines	9,589	123	1.28
St Lucia	30,004	409	1.36
Papua New Guinea	46,825	670	1.43
Bangladesh	2,037,871	29,445	1.44
Cameroon	124,392	1,965	1.58
Antigua and Barbuda	9,106	146	1.6
Sierra Leone	7,760	126	1.62
Kenya	342,937	5,688	1.66
Guyana	171,229	1,298	1.78
eSwatini	74,267	1,425	1.92
Pakistan	1,577,411	30,644	1.94
Tanzania	42,906	846	1.97
Lesotho	34,796	723	2.08
Uganda	170,544	3,630	2.13
Bahamas	37,491	833	2.22
Jamaica	154,416	3,514	2.28
Trinidad & Tobago	189,918	4,355	2.29
Namibia	171,156	4,090	2.39
Sri Lanka	672,039	16,830	2.50
South Africa	4,067,067	102,595	2.52
Gambia	12,598	372	2.95
Malawi	88,707	2,686	3.03

The table above, from Johns Hopkins University, orders the countries of the Commonwealth by case fatality rate. Johns Hopkins stopped collecting and reporting on data 11 March 2023. According to the data, Malawi had the highest case fatality rate across the Commonwealth, with Tuvalu having the lowest. Case fatality can be influenced by many factors, such as: geographic spread and age of population; availability, spread and sophistication of health services; number of health personnel; and general health of the population. Another important factor is the accuracy of the data. The WHO Director General in his statement declaring the pandemic no longer a global emergency, said that while almost 7 million deaths had been reported, the real toll is likely to be at least 20 million. So, a lot of unreported data which might tell a very different story.