

COVID Health Emergency ends: Where do we go from here?

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

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BROADCAST SCRIPT

INTRO:

AFTER MORE THAN THREE YEARS OF SHUT-DOWNS – MASK MANDATES – AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING... COVID-19 IS NO LONGER A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

TAKE VO

THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION WAS FIRST ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES... ON JANUARY 31ST 2020. THE DECLARATION WILL OFFICIALLY EXPIRE AT THE END OF THE DAY... ON MAY 11TH 2023.

THE END OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY MEANS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SCALING BACK ITS APPROACH TO COVID... WHICH MEANS PREVENTION... CARE... AND TREATMENT ARE ABOUT TO BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE. SOME TELEHEALTH OPTIONS WILL ALSO GO AWAY.

THE COVID RESPONSE PLAN CHANGED DRASTICALLY OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS – FOR NEARLY THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC – NO VACCINE WAS READILY AVAILABLE.

DR. DOUGLAS KASPER – THE SECTION HEAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PEORIA... SAYS NEW TREATMENTS FOR COVID HELPED GET US WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

20 SECOND SOT

“Since the emergence of vaccines and therapeutics for COVID, it’s been much different. We are able to protect the population by vaccine. People were also able to achieve natural immunity which works in concert with the vaccine. We’ve seemed to provide long-lasting protection.”

VO TAG

DR. KASPER SAYS THE PAST THREE YEARS WILL HELP HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS COMMUNICATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE MORE EFFICIENTLY. HE HOPES THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOW IN PLACE HELP AVOID ANY DELAY IN TESTING... ACCESS TO CARE... THERAPEUTICS AND VACCINES.

VO/SOT #2

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16 SECOND SOT

“World-wide surveillance and information sharing is something that’s developed very quickly in COVID. Some has been through social media, some has been through rapid development with public health departments and national groups.”

VO TAG

WHILE THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION IS ENDING... MANY TREATMENTS LIKE COVID TESTS AND VACCINES ARE STILL AVAILABLE. DR. KASPER RECOMMENDS SPEAKING WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT WHICH OPTIONS ARE THE BEST FOR YOU.