

From: DOECAST <doecast@hq.doe.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:19 PM

Subject: End to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

DOE colleagues,

On April 10, 2023, President Biden signed a Congressional Resolution ending the COVID-19 national emergency. The public health emergency, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act will therefore sunset on May 11, 2023.

With the official end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, I want to thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to accomplishing DOE's mission amidst a global pandemic. Your flexibility, resourcefulness, and perseverance in tackling the enormous challenges presented by the pandemic and your dedication to public service make me incredibly proud to serve with you. I also want to take a moment to reflect on the colleagues, friends and family who we lost to COVID over the last three years.

As we move forward, we remain committed to the safety of our employees, contractors, and visitors to our sites. At this time, Executive Order 13991 remains in effect and, as such, workplace safety protocols for Federal buildings and Federally-controlled facilities still applies in all locations. DOE's COVID-19 Framework will remain in place and sites will continue to follow their COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plans.

Please keep in mind, while the SARS-Co-V2 virus (the virus which causes COVID) is under control, it has not gone away so we will continue to be vigilant in assuring a workplace consistent with best public health practices. It is important for employees to continue to maintain good public health practices including getting vaccinated, staying home if you are sick, washing your hands frequently with soap and water, and covering your cough. Mask wearing is always appropriate if you are recovering from an illness, or if you have a persistent cough, and is required if you have been exposed to COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you test positive for COVID-19.

Since the Occupational Safety and Health Administration considers COVID-19 to be a recordable illness, employees are to follow normal site protocols for reporting injuries and illnesses that may be work-related. Questions regarding COVID-19 reporting and safety protocols should be directed to your local occupational safety and health office. For Headquarters employees, please contact Cherylynn Williams, Director, Office of Industrial Hygiene and Safety. Please contact the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer for questions regarding issues such as leave policies.

Thank you again for all that you do!

Dave Turk
Deputy Secretary