



**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN**

Health, Safety and Environment Team
c/o Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Road, Port of Spain

World Health Organisation Declares End to COVID-19 Pandemic

BULLETIN # 30

Issued May 11, 2023

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On May 5, 2023, the Ministry of Health in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago published a Media Release in which it announced that the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a declaration that the COVID-19 disease was no longer a global pandemic. Instead, because COVID-19 now circulates at a relatively low level, its transmission is now classified as 'community in nature'.

The Archdiocesan HSE Team fully supports the advice issued by the Ministry of Health, particularly with respect to:

- a. Those considered to be vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 (because they have chronic diseases, they are pregnant or unvaccinated) should continue to practise good hygiene.
- b. The unvaccinated should get vaccinated and those who have not yet received their booster vaccines should do so. (The present stock of vaccines expires in June 2023).

We take this opportunity to reiterate a position that we took in recent HSE Bulletins whereby we stated that although some of the COVID-19 guidelines have been either removed or relaxed, that readers should use their judgement and act in their own best interest if they consider it beneficial to continue observing such guidelines. A good example of this position is that pertaining to the wearing of face masks in certain environments or locations.

A copy of the Health Ministry's May 5, 2023 Media Release is attached for easy reference.

The End



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Ground Floor Park Plaza, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain

M E D I A R E L E A S E

May 5, 2023

WHO Declares End to COVID-19 Pandemic

Port-of-Spain, May 5, 2023: The Ministry of Health notes the declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which signals the end of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

At the fifteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee, held on May 4, 2023, regarding the COVID-19 disease, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO, concurred with the advice of the Committee and therefore determined that COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue, which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

In Trinidad and Tobago COVID-19 continues to circulate at a very low level. The transmission continues to be classified as community in nature. Morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 has been on a downward trend, in keeping with the global epidemiology picture over the last few months.

As such, the Ministry of Health takes the opportunity to remind the public, particularly the vulnerable amongst us (those with chronic diseases, pregnant patients and the unvaccinated) to continue to maintain the principles and practice of good hygiene, such as hand washing, social distancing and wearing of masks where appropriate. The Ministry also encourages the unvaccinated to get vaccinated and those who are vaccinated to get boosted.

The public is reminded that our current vaccine stock expires in June 2023. As such every effort should be made to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The public is reminded that vaccines are available at all health centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

These measures will certainly assist in the maintenance of our low levels of transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



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