



Microorganisms

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

CiteScore: 8.2

Indexed in PubMed

Impact Factor: 4.7

Special Issue Reprint

SARS-CoV-2

Edited by: Eduardo Araújo Oliveira and Ana Cristina Simões E Silva

It has been over six years since the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was first declared. Following global mass vaccination efforts, the WHO declared the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in May 2023, citing a decline in deaths and hospitalizations. While the acute phase of the pandemic may be subsiding, its long-term impact on public health remains significant. In this post-pandemic era, understanding the transition of SARS-CoV-2 to endemicity, its continuous circulation, and its interaction with seasonal viruses is crucial for designing effective preventive and control strategies. This reprint of the Special Issue "SARS-CoV-2: Infection, Transmission, and Prevention" brings together eight studies focused on this new scenario, highlighting the long-term consequences of COVID-19, particularly in vulnerable populations. We were able to gather studies that investigated the lasting effects of the virus on physical and mental health, the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare systems, and the development of effective strategies for the long-term prevention of adverse outcomes and the management of post-COVID conditions. We believe that by learning from the past and embracing innovative research approaches, we can better prepare for future public health challenges and ensure a more resilient and equitable healthcare system.



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