

March 2020 through February 2021

Remembering the Milestones of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Across the Globe

- WHO declares a pandemic.
- National emergency is declared in the U.S. as all 50 states report cases of COVID-19.
- Illinois initiates stay-at-home order.

- The CDC recommends face coverings in public.
- The U.S. accounts for more than one-third of 3 million COVID-19 cases worldwide.

- U.S. announces Operation Warp Speed to accelerate COVID-19 medical countermeasures.

- U.S. reports 2 million cases.

- U.S. reports 4 million cases, averaging over 50,000 new cases every day.
- WHO declares COVID-19 could be airborne.
- The city of Chicago requires 14-day quarantine for those arriving from certain states.

- COVID-19 is 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S.
- U.S. reports over 2 million people have recovered from COVID-19.

- U.S. reports over 7 million people have recovered from COVID-19.
- Global deaths reach 1 million.

- The FDA issues Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for remdesivir as the 1st approved COVID-19 treatment.

- U.S. reports over 10 million people have recovered from COVID-19.
- The FDA issues EUA for COVID-19 antibody therapy options from Eli Lilly and Regeneron.

- The FDA issues EUA for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech.
- 1st COVID-19 vaccines are given to people in the U.S.
- Illinois authorizes vaccine distribution for Phase 1A.

- New variants of SARS-CoV-2 are reported in the U.S.
- Illinois authorizes vaccine distribution for Phase 1B.
- COVID-19 cases surpass 100 million worldwide, with over 2 million deaths.

- In the U.S., more people have received at least 1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine than have tested positive for the virus.
- Daily cases drop below 100,000 for the 1st time since November 2020.
- FDA issues EUA for a single-dose vaccine from Johnson & Johnson.
- The U.S. surpasses 500K deaths.

At Northwestern Medicine

- Cardiovascular units are quickly converted into COVID-19 units, and a COVID-19 testing lab is established in less than 10 days.
- With unprecedented speed, a Northwestern University scientist leads the team that maps the atomic structure of 7 different proteins in SARS-CoV-2.
- Among the 1st in the U.S. to participate in global clinical trial of Gilead's remdesivir to treat COVID-19.
- Rapid implementation of outpatient COVID-19 monitoring program, which has served over 17,000 patients at-home in one year.

- Leads the Chicago leg of a global clinical trial of Sanofi's sarilumab to treat COVID-19.
- Over 130 COVID-19 research projects and ideas are underway.
- Donates PPE to community organizations in need.
- Testing sites are launched across the health system.

- At-home monitoring program is enhanced by novel wireless wearable device, developed by researchers at Northwestern University, that tracks COVID-19 symptoms.
- e-Check-In is introduced to allow for touchless registration.
- Food vouchers are donated to local organizations serving families facing economic hardship.

- The 1st successful double-lung transplant saves a patient following COVID-19 infection.
- The workforce takes a knee on the downtown campus to promote the health, well-being and self-determination of people of color and to take a stand against racism in health care. At this point in the pandemic, Black people were dying from COVID-19 at a rate 2.4 times higher than white people.

- 2nd successful double-lung transplant sets stage for additional life-saving procedures.

- In response to shortages caused by community blood drive cancellations, workforce donates blood in special hospital drives.
- Physician-scientists publish research that finds a higher risk of death from COVID-19 for those who are older, male, obese, or have coronary artery disease or active cancer.

- A virtual support program and educational forum is launched for patients recovering from COVID-19

- Study highlights neurological effects of COVID-19.

- Community health video series, "Clergy & Clinicians," debuts to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the Black community.
- Joins the national #MaskUp campaign, launched by the American Medical Association.

- The 1st COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are administered to the workforce.
- Comprehensive COVID-19 Center launches.

- The 1st COVID-19 vaccines are administered to established patients ages 65 and older.

- Established patients ages 65 and older continue to be invited to be vaccinated.
- Immediate Care Centers surpass 250,000 COVID-19 tests.

Sources:
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