

## About EpiCore

EpiCore is a robust global network of human, animal, and environmental health professionals committed to faster verification of disease outbreaks by providing ground truths related to early disease signals from a variety of sources. Information provided by network members contribute to timely risk assessment. Currently EpiCore members span 161 countries across the globe.

## How EpiCore Works

- EpiCore recruits volunteer-professionals in human, animal, and environmental health trained in the basic principles of epidemiology and infectious diseases.
- Reports of potential outbreaks from disparate sources are reviewed and sent to EpiCore volunteers for additional information so that early warning signals can be quickly verified.
- EpiCore members combine their expertise, knowledge of realities 'on the ground', and other resources to verify or discard early indications of an outbreak. The members report back to the EpiCore moderators, who assimilate responses and share their findings with the global disease surveillance community on [www.epicore.org](http://www.epicore.org).



Location of EpiCore Members

## Obtaining Global Examples of Long COVID Definitions

Several definitions are emerging from various organizations on Long COVID. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is undertaking a multi-stakeholder engagement process for refining the U.S. Government's current interim working definition of Long COVID and related technical terms. Robust definition(s) and related technical terms are needed, including but not limited to, for clinical care, research, surveillance, and health communication. The goal of this undertaking is to help patients' access care and services for Long COVID-related conditions, aid clinicians in the diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID, and to begin to harmonize research and surveillance efforts, taking into consideration the international context.

EpiCore members across the globe were requested in March of 2023 to 1) share the definition(s) that they are using; and (2) provide the source for these working definitions.

This dataset summarizes the responses received from this global network as of March 28th, 2023. Several countries noted they are using the WHO case definition for Long COVID. The EpiCore dataset can also be found on the EpiCore public dashboard along with other verified events. [https://epicore.org/#/events\\_public](https://epicore.org/#/events_public)

| Source/link  | Definition   | Comments from EpiCore members  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>ARGENTINA</b>, Argentinian Society for Medicine (SAM, 2021 - could be revised at the same link):<br/> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p-caniUdNIUSAX3Q0J7KKbURuC5lqoWoe/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p-caniUdNIUSAX3Q0J7KKbURuC5lqoWoe/view</a></p>  | <p><b>Multiorgan symptom complex that affects patients that have had suspected or confirmed COVID-19, no matter severity of illness, in which symptomatology persists after the acute period of the disease after 4 or even 12 weeks. Symptoms can be permanent or in flares.</b></p>  | <p>The Argentinian Society for Medicine has also a guide for post-COVID.</p>   |
| <p><b>AUSTRALIA</b>, Australian National Clinical Evidence Taskforce 2023 Care of people after COVID-19:<br/> <a href="https://clinicalevidence.net.au/wp-content/uploads/FLOWCHART-CARE-AFTER-COVID-19.pdf">https://clinicalevidence.net.au/wp-content/uploads/FLOWCHART-CARE-AFTER-COVID-19.pdf</a></p>  | <p><b>Signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection consistent with COVID-19, continue for more than 12 weeks, and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. It usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which can fluctuate and change over time and can affect any system in the body. Post COVID-19 condition may be considered before 12 weeks while the possibility of an alternative underlying disease is also being assessed.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>AUSTRALIA</b>, Department of Health and Wellbeing, South Australia:<br/> <a href="https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/health+professionals/covid-19+information+for+general+practice+and+primary+care/long+covid">https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/health+professionals/covid-19+information+for+general+practice+and+primary+care/long+covid</a></p> | <p><b>A condition that occurs in individuals with a history of probable or confirmed SARS CoV-2 infection, usually 3 months from the onset of COVID-19, with symptoms lasting for at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis. Common symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction but also others and generally have an impact on everyday functioning.</b></p>  | <p>Severity of initial COVID-19 infection does not predict development of Post COVID-19 Syndrome. Symptoms may be new onset following initial recovery from an acute COVID-19 episode of persist from the initial illness. Symptoms may also fluctuate or relapse over time. This definition is applicable for adults from 18 years of age. A clinical case definition for Post COVID-19 Syndrome in children and young people continues to be researched globally. 'Long COVID' is the patient preferred term for Post COVID-19 Syndrome. Also may be referred to as Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC). Additional symptoms can be found in the provided link.</p> |
| <p><b>AUSTRALIA</b>, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (2022) Caring for patients with post-COVID-19 conditions:<br/> <a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/covid-19-resources/clinical-care/caring-for-patients-with-post-covid-19-conditions/introduction">https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/covid-19-resources/clinical-care/caring-for-patients-with-post-covid-19-conditions/introduction</a></p>  | <p><b>Illness extending beyond 12 weeks from initial symptoms. The term 'long COVID' has been commonly used to describe COVID-19 symptoms following acute illness, irrespective of how long the symptoms take to resolve.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>BRAZIL</b>, ENSP/FIOCRUZ:<br/> <a href="https://radis.ensp.fiocruz.br/index.php/home/reportagem/o-que-vem-depois">https://radis.ensp.fiocruz.br/index.php/home/reportagem/o-que-vem-depois</a></p>   | <p><b>“Covid longa é um termo cunhado por pacientes para se referir a uma gama de sintomas experimentados por aqueles que tiveram covid-19 depois de se recuperarem dos estágios iniciais da infecção. São manifestações múltiplas, sistêmicas, que afetam diferentes órgãos, algumas muito graves, sobre as quais ainda não se tem conhecimento suficiente.”</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: Long Covid is a term coined by patients to refer to a range of symptoms experienced by those who have had Covid-19 after recovering from the early stages of the infection. They are multiple, systemic manifestations that affect different organs, some very serious, about which there is still not enough knowledge.</b></p> | <p>The definition provided is of a researcher from the National School of Public Health Sergio Arouca (Ensp/Fiocruz) part of the Observatório Covid-19 Fiocruz team.</p>   |

| Source/link   | Definition  | Comments from EpiCore members  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>BRAZIL</b>, SBCM (Brazilian Medical Society):<br/> <a href="https://www.sbcm.org.br/v2/index.php/not%C3%ADcias/4196-s%C3%ADndrome-da-covid-longa">https://www.sbcm.org.br/v2/index.php/not%C3%ADcias/4196-s%C3%ADndrome-da-covid-longa</a></p>  | <p><b>"Condição pelo qual os indivíduos com histórico de infecção pelo SARS CoV-2 não se recuperam por completo e apresentam sintomas e sequelas após a chamada fase aguda d doença (os primeiros 30 dias). Podem ser manifestações pulmonares ou extrapulmonares e duram semanas a, geralmente, alguns meses."</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: "Condition by which individuals with a history of SARS CoV-2 infection do not fully recover and present symptoms and sequelae after the so-called acute phase of the disease (the first 30 days). They can be pulmonary or extrapulmonary manifestations and last for weeks to usually a few months."</b></p>             | <p>Definition provided by SBCM member.</p>   |
| <p><b>BRAZIL</b>, SBCM (Brazilian Medical Society):<br/> <a href="https://www.sbcm.org.br/v2/index.php/not%C3%ADcias/4196-s%C3%ADndrome-da-covid-longa">https://www.sbcm.org.br/v2/index.php/not%C3%ADcias/4196-s%C3%ADndrome-da-covid-longa</a></p>  | <p><b>"Covid crônica com sintomas que se estendem acima de 12 semanas e podem persistir por meses. A identificação para esse tipo de patologia, bastante recente, sendo que não conhecíamos nenhum quadro similar, é identificado exatamente por essas características."</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: "Chronic Covid with symptoms that last for more than 12 weeks and can persist for months. The identification for this type of pathology, quite recent, since we did not know of any similar condition, is identified exactly by these characteristics."</b></p>  | <p>Definition provided by SBCM member.</p>   |
| <p><b>CANADA</b>, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC):<br/> <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/post-covid-19-condition.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/post-covid-19-condition.html</a></p> | <p><b>Post COVID-19 condition is associated with a wide variety of symptoms across multiple organ systems. They can impact or limit everyday activities, such as school, work and caregiving. Symptoms can fluctuate in intensity, and on occasion may disappear and later reappear. Notably, some patients report that mental and physical over-exertion can exacerbate the condition. The most commonly reported symptoms in adults include: fatigue; sleep disturbances; shortness of breath; general pain and discomfort; cognitive problems such as memory loss, difficulty thinking or concentrating; mental health symptoms, such as: anxiety, depression.</b></p> | <p>Published on the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) webpage. To be noted that a survey on frequency and impact of longer-term symptoms following COVID-19 in Canadian adults is available at: <a href="https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/post-covid-condition/">https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/post-covid-condition/</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>CANADA</b>. No link provided</p>  | <p><b>"A Chronic COVID-19 Syndrome presenting with continuation or development of new COVID, COVID-like, or atypical symptoms that are not explainable by an alternative diagnosis. Preliminary Inclusion criteria: (a) May present with both typical and atypical symptoms; (b) May occur 30 days after remaining PCR-negative following the first acute (symptomatic) infection; (c) May or may not be associated with positive COVID-19 antibody test; (d) The primary infection episode may have been symptomatic or asymptomatic. May also occur after COVID-19 vaccination, especially the 3rd booster."</b></p>  | <p>This is at the primary care, individual practice level. This is not an official or national classification.</p>   |
| <p><b>EGYPT</b>. No link provided</p>   | <p><b>"Persistent Symptoms (fatigue, memory problems, inattention, chest pain, dyspnoea, cough, anosmia, GIT symptoms like diarrhoea and vomiting, and mental health symptoms like depression, anxiety, insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder) after 6 weeks of the initial symptoms of COVID-19 with negative PCR for COVID-19"</b></p>  | <p>Department of Family Medicine, Al Shams University, Egypt</p>   |

| Source/link  | Definition  | Comments from EpiCore members   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>FRANCE</b>, Santé publique France:<br/> <a href="https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/presse/2022/publication-des-premiers-resultats-sur-la-prevalence-des-affections-post-covid-19-ou-covid-long-et-les-recours-aux-soins-associes-apres-les">https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/presse/2022/publication-des-premiers-resultats-sur-la-prevalence-des-affections-post-covid-19-ou-covid-long-et-les-recours-aux-soins-associes-apres-les</a></p>        | <p><b>Three criteria: Having presented with a symptomatic form of Covid-19; presenting with one or more initial symptoms 4 weeks after the start of the disease; and none of these symptoms can be explained by another diagnosis.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>   |
| <p><b>GERMANY</b>, Standardized basic care for Children and adolescents with Long COVID - Statement of a multidisciplinary working group of the DGKJ-Convent Societies (as of February 2022). Recommendation for standardized medical care for children and adolescents with long COVID:<br/> <a href="https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00112-021-01408-1.pdf">https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00112-021-01408-1.pdf</a></p>    | <p><b>1) Nachweis einer vorangegangenen SARS-CoV-2 Infektion mittels (a: pos. SARS-CoV-2-PCR-Test und/oder b: pos. SARS-CoV-2-Ankörper-Nachweis und eindeutigen Kontakt zu einer Person mit nachgewiesener SARS-CoV-2-Infektion) UND 2) Vorliegen von zwei oder mehreren nicht vor akuter SARS-CoV-2-Infektion bestehenden, mit Long-COVID vereinbaren Symptomen (z.B. Fatigue, Kopfschmerzen, Husten, Belastungsdyspnoe, Palpitationen, Exanthem, Konzentrationschwierigkeiten, Schlafstörungen, muköse oder seröse Rhinitis, Geruchs- und/oder Geschmackstörungen, Myalgie und/oder Arthralgie, Appetit- und/oder Gewichtsverlust, Bauchschmerzen, Brustschmerzen und/oder Brustenge), die später als 4 Wochen nach SARS-CoV-2-Infektion persistieren und/oder neu dazukommen UND 3) Zu einer maßgeblichen Beeinträchtigung der Aktivitäten des täglichen Lebens führen UND 4) kein Anhalt für andere Krankheitsursache.</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: 1) Proof of a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection by means of (a: positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test and/or b: positive SARS-CoV-2 body proof and direct contact with a person with proven SARS-CoV-2 infection) AND 2) Presence of two or more symptoms that do not exist prior to an acute SARS-CoV-2 infection and are compatible with long-COVID (e.g. fatigue, headache, cough, dyspnea on exertion, palpitations, exanthema, difficulty concentrating, sleep disorders, mucous or serous rhinitis, odor - and/or taste disorders, myalgia and/or arthralgia, loss of appetite and/or weight, abdominal pain, chest pain and/or chest tightness) that persists and/or is new later than 4 weeks after SARS-CoV-2 infection AND 3) Leads to a significant impairment of activities of daily living AND 4) No evidence of another cause of the disease.</b></p> | <p>German consensus paper in German is available online based on a statement of a multidisciplinary pediatric expert group of the DGKJ convent societies.</p> |
| <p><b>HUNGARY</b>, Hungarian Institute of Pulmonology, Gottstein Gyorgy Institute of Cardiovascular Medicine and Hungarian National Institute of Neurology (2021): Protocol for caring for patients suffering from post-covid syndrome written by the members of the National Institute of Pulmonology, Gottstein Gyorgy Institute of Cardiovascular Medicine and the Hungarian National Institute of Neurology (2021).<br/>           No link available</p> | <p><b>"After the patient is considered to be past the acute phase the following conditions are recognised: (1) continuous, symptomatic covid: patient suffering from symptoms of covid infection after the first 4 weeks (from the occurrence of the first symptoms); (2) post-acute hyper-inflammation syndrome: patient suffering from complications related to the inflammation of multiple organs occurring after the first two weeks of the acute infection; (3) post-covid syndrome: patient suffering from covid-like symptoms, possibly related to damage suffered during the acute phase (after the first 4 weeks of the occurrence of the symptoms); 4) long-covid: patients suffering from symptoms of post-covid syndrome, or continuous covid 12 weeks after the occurrence of first symptoms. The most common symptoms are considered to be breathlessness, severe fatigue and weakness, heart palpitations, cognitive dysfunctions, difficulty concentrating, sleep disturbances, dizziness, and persistent loss of taste or smell".</b></p>   | <p>This is not an official translation of the protocol.</p>   |

| Source/link   | Definition  | Comments from EpiCore members  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>ITALY</b>, Humanitas Hospital, Research, University IRCCS, in Italian:<br/> <a href="https://www.humanitas.it/news/long-covid-che-cose-e-quali-sono-i-sintomi/#:~:text=Il%20long%20COVID%20%C3%A8%20una%20sindrome%20clinica%20che%20interessa%20una,e%20sintomi%20legati%20all'infezione">https://www.humanitas.it/news/long-covid-che-cose-e-quali-sono-i-sintomi/#:~:text=Il%20long%20COVID%20%C3%A8%20una%20sindrome%20clinica%20che%20interessa%20una,e%20sintomi%20legati%20all'infezione</a></p> | <p><b>Sindrome clinica che dopo più di 4 settimane da un'infezione acuta da SARS-CoV-2 vede la persistenza o l'insorgenza di segni e sintomi legati all'infezione. I sintomi di long COVID possono variare da persona a persona, in generale includono: Fatica persistente; Stanchezza; Debolezza; Dolori muscolari e articolari; Mancanza di appetito. I sintomi specifici si manifestano in particolare a livello respiratorio, cardiovascolare, neurologico, gastrointestinale e psicologico, ad esempio: a) Fame d'aria (dispnea), tosse persistente; b) Dolore al petto e senso di oppressione, tachicardia e palpitazioni, aritmie, variazioni della pressione arteriosa, ma anche pericarditi e miocarditi; c) Mal di testa, difficoltà di concentrazione e memoria (la cosiddetta nebbia mentale o "brain fog"); d) Disturbi dell'olfatto, del gusto, dell'udito; e) Nausea, vomito, perdita di appetito, dolori addominali, diarrea, reflusso gastroesofageo; f) Disturbi del sonno, depressione del tono dell'umore (tristezza, irritabilità, insofferenza, mancanza di interesse nei confronti di attività che prima piacevano), ansia, stress, psicosi. La diagnosi di long COVID è clinica e si basa su una storia di COVID-19 e una mancanza di pieno benessere, anche per via dei sintomi citati</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: Clinical syndrome more than 4 weeks after an acute SARS-CoV-2 infection sees the persistence or onset of signs and symptoms related to the infection. Symptoms of long COVID can vary from person to person, in general they include: Persistent fatigue; Tiredness; Weakness; Muscle and joint pains; Lack of appetite. The specific symptoms manifest themselves in particular at a respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological, gastrointestinal and psychological level, for example: a) Air hunger (dyspnoea), persistent cough; b) Chest pain and tightness, tachycardia and palpitations, arrhythmias, changes in blood pressure, but also pericarditis and myocarditis; c) Headache, concentration and memory difficulties (the so-called mental fog or "brain fog"); d) Smell, taste, hearing disorders; e) Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhea, gastroesophageal reflux; f) Sleep disturbances, depressed mood (sadness, irritability, impatience, lack of interest in previously enjoyed activities), anxiety, stress, psychosis. The diagnosis of long COVID is clinical and is based on a history of COVID-19 and a lack of full well-being, including due to the symptoms mentioned.</b></p> | <p>Definition provided by the Humanitas Research Center.</p>   |
| <p><b>ITALY</b>, Italian Public Health Institute (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS):<br/>           Indicazioni ad interim sui principi di gestione del Long-COVID:<br/> <a href="https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Rapporto+ISS+COVID-19+15_2021.pdf/a97f5be0-983b-efaa-2638-3cafc8380296?t=1625124323201">https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Rapporto+ISS+COVID-19+15_2021.pdf/a97f5be0-983b-efaa-2638-3cafc8380296?t=1625124323201</a></p>   | <p><b>La terminologia più frequentemente usata (5) per definire le fasi che seguono la malattia acuta da SARS-CoV-2 è: a) Malattia COVID-19 sintomatica persistente: segni e sintomi attribuibili al COVID-19 di durata compresa tra 4 e 12 settimane dopo l'evento acuto; b) Sindrome post-COVID-19: segni e sintomi che si sono sviluppati durante o dopo un'infezione compatibile con il COVID-19, presenti per più di 12 settimane dopo l'evento acuto e non spiegabili con diagnosi alternative. Il Long-COVID comprende sia la forma sintomatica persistente che la sindrome post-COVID. Questa condizione è quindi caratterizzata da segni e sintomi causati dall'infezione da SARS-CoV-2 che continuano o si sviluppano dopo 4 settimane da una infezione acuta. L'utilizzo di terminologie condivise fornisce le basi per la programmazione dei servizi, facilita l'assistenza e permette di definire un set di dati clinici necessari al monitoraggio e alla ricerca.</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: The terminology most frequently used to define the phases following acute SARS-CoV-2 disease is: a) Persistent symptomatic COVID-19 disease: signs and symptoms attributable to COVID-19 lasting between 4 and 12 weeks after the acute event; b) Post-COVID-19 syndrome: signs and symptoms that developed during or after an infection compatible with COVID-19, present for more than 12 weeks after the acute event and not explained by alternative diagnoses. Long-COVID includes both the persistent symptomatic form and the post-COVID syndrome. This condition is therefore characterized by signs and symptoms caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection that continue or develop 4 weeks after an acute infection. The use of shared terminologies provides the basis for planning services, facilitates assistance and allows the definition of a set of clinical data necessary for monitoring and research.</b></p>   | <p>The Italian Public Health Institute has created a specific webpage on the topic available here: <a href="https://www.iss.it/long-covid-cover">https://www.iss.it/long-covid-cover</a> (in Italian). This follows the definition of a national LONG COVID project started in December 2021 by the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (CCM) of the Ministry of Health. The project is involving several national and regional research and medical centers and will last 2 years. The main objectives are to monitor the LONG COVID epidemiology in the country, to survey the medical centers that are treating LONG COVID patients, to provide these centers with medical care advice and recommendations, and to define an informative network on the topic at national level. It has now become clear that, for a relevant proportion of individuals affected by COVID-19, significant clinical manifestations can persist after the first weeks of the acute symptomatic phase, with a heterogeneous complex of subacute and chronic symptoms that preclude a full return to the previous state of health. This persistence of symptoms, which can affect subjects of any age and with varying severity of the acute disease, has been recognized as a specific clinical entity, called Long-COVID.</p> |

| Source/link   | Definition  | Comments from EpiCore members   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>PAKISTAN</b>, no link provided.</p>   | <p><b>"Long COVID, also known as post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC), refers to a range of persistent symptoms that persist for weeks or months after the acute phase of COVID-19 illness has resolved. Long COVID can affect anyone, regardless of the severity of their initial illness, age, or pre-existing medical conditions. The symptoms of Long COVID can vary widely and may include fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain, joint pain, brain fog, and a range of other symptoms"</b></p>   | <p>Individual definition provided from Khyber Medical University, Peshawar.</p>   |
| <p><b>Republic of South Africa</b>, "Post-COVID-19 condition 3 months after hospitalisation with SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa: a prospective cohort study, 2022": <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2214-109X%2822%2900286-8">https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2214-109X%2822%2900286-8</a>; A cohort study of post-COVID-19 condition across the Beta, Delta, and Omicron waves in South Africa: 6-month follow-up of hospitalized and nonhospitalized participants, 2023: <a href="https://www.ijidonline.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1201-9712%2822%2900676-2">https://www.ijidonline.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1201-9712%2822%2900676-2</a></p> | <p><b>Post-COVID-19 condition (PCC) "occurs in individuals with a history of probable or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, usually 3 months from the onset of COVID-19 with symptoms that last for at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis"</b></p>   | <p>In response to the request from EpiCore, we would like to share some information from the Long COVID research undertaken. We conducted a longitudinal cohort study following up participants with COVID for a year. We used the WHO definition for Post COVID Condition. Details of our study can be found in the links to the publications.</p>   |
| <p><b>SPAIN</b>, Informe del GTM (Grupo de Trabajo Multidisciplinar - Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación de España: <a href="https://www.ciencia.gob.es/dam/jcr:11919126-1134-48da-b30e-d340b51e98ec/Informe_de_GMT_sobre_COVID_persistente.pdf">https://www.ciencia.gob.es/dam/jcr:11919126-1134-48da-b30e-d340b51e98ec/Informe_de_GMT_sobre_COVID_persistente.pdf</a></p>   | <p><b>Complejo sintomático multiorgánico que afecta a aquellos pacientes que han padecido la COVID-19 (con diagnóstico confirmado por pruebas de laboratorio o sin él) y que permanecen con sintomatología tras la considerada fase aguda de la enfermedad pasadas 4 e incluso 12 semanas, persistiendo los síntomas en el tiempo.</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE TRANSLATE: Multi-organ symptomatic complex that affects those patients who have suffered from COVID-19 (with or without a diagnosis confirmed by laboratory tests) and who remain symptomatic after the so-called acute phase of the disease after 4 and even 12 weeks, with symptoms persisting in the time.</b></p> | <p>Official reference from MoH Spain.</p>   |
| <p><b>SPAIN</b>, Societat Catalana de Medicina Familiar i Comunitària (CAMFIC, 2020) - "Manifestaciones persistentes de la covid-19 guía de práctica clínica" (in Spanish): <a href="https://www.semfy.com/download_file=68268&amp;key=aaa72d43c9f3dbb321de7d6a2f4de882&amp;free=1-">https://www.semfy.com/download_file=68268&amp;key=aaa72d43c9f3dbb321de7d6a2f4de882&amp;free=1-</a>; Guía de práctica clínica CAMFIC, "Manifestacions persistents de la covid-19" (in Catalan): <a href="http://gestor.camfic.cat/uploads/ITEM_13380_EBLOG_4143.pdf">http://gestor.camfic.cat/uploads/ITEM_13380_EBLOG_4143.pdf</a></p>   | <p><b>Post Covid 19 condition is a very broad expression with different consequences for the physical and mental health, that can show up after the acute period of SARS CoV-2 infection and which you can't explain otherwise.</b></p>   | <p>The definition used refers to a Catalonian guide (MANIFESTACIONES PERSISTENTES DE LA COVID-19 GUÍA DE PRÁCTICA CLÍNICA. Societat Catalana de Medicina Familiar i Comunitària). An EpiCore member from Argentina shared this reference that they are using towards the definition in their country.</p>   |
| <p><b>UK</b>, The Royal Society: <a href="https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/projects/set-c/set-c-long-covid.pdf">https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/projects/set-c/set-c-long-covid.pdf</a></p>  | <p><b>The onset of persistent or recurrent episodes of one or more of the following symptoms, within x* weeks of infection with SARS-CoV-2 and continuing for y* weeks or more.</b></p>   | <p>A working definition is needed to enable systematic investigation of the incidence, duration and pathogenesis of Long Covid, and to develop effective treatments. This working definition may change as understanding develops, and more than one phenotypic subgroup may be identified. Definition of the syndrome is complicated by the diverse number and type of symptoms reported</p> |

| Source/link  | Definition   | Comments from EpiCore members  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>UK</b>, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence<br/>Guidance on long-term effects of COVID-19:<br/><a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng188/resources/covid19-rapid-guideline-managing-the-longterm-effects-of-covid19-pdf-51035515742">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng188/resources/covid19-rapid-guideline-managing-the-longterm-effects-of-covid19-pdf-51035515742</a></p> | <p><b>Signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection consistent with COVID-19, continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. It usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which can fluctuate and change over time and can affect any system in the body. Post-COVID-19 syndrome may be considered before 12 weeks while the possibility of an alternative underlying disease is also being assessed. In addition to the clinical case definitions, the term 'long COVID' is commonly used to describe signs and symptoms that continue or develop after acute COVID-19.</b></p> | <p>This definition was one of the references used by the COVID Surveillance and Investigation Section of the Department of Health and Wellbeing, South Australia for their survey.</p> |
| <p><b>UK</b>, Wellcome Open Research:<br/><a href="https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/articles/5-224">https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/articles/5-224</a></p>  | <p><b>Symptoms persisting beyond four weeks after symptom onset suggestive of COVID-19.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>US CDC</b>:<br/><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html</a></p>  | <p><b>A wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems that people experience after being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Most people with COVID-19 get better within a few days to a few weeks after infection, so at least four weeks after infection is the start of when Post-COVID Conditions could first be identified. Anyone who was infected can experience Post-COVID Conditions.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>US Department of Health and Human Services</b>:<br/><a href="https://www.covid.gov/longcovid/definitions">https://www.covid.gov/longcovid/definitions</a></p>  | <p><b>Broadly defined as signs, symptoms, and conditions that continue or develop after initial COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 infection. The signs, symptoms, and conditions are present four weeks or more after the initial phase of infection; may be multisystemic; and may present with a relapsing–remitting pattern and progression or worsening over time, with the possibility of severe and life-threatening events even months or years after infection. Long COVID is not one condition. It represents many potentially overlapping entities, likely with different biological causes and different sets of risk factors and outcomes.</b></p>      | <p>Interim federal working definition, cf. National Research Action Plan on Long COVID and the Services and Supports for the Longer-term Impacts of COVID-19.</p>                      |
| <p><b>US</b>, American Medical Association (AMA):<br/><a href="https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/what-long-covid">https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/what-long-covid</a></p>  | <p><b>1) Patients with COVID-19 who do not recover completely and have ongoing symptoms because of direct cell damage from the virus; 2) Patients with symptoms related to chronic hospitalization such as when someone is in the hospital, ICU or is bed bound for weeks; 3) Patients with symptoms that appear after recovery.</b></p>   | <p>None</p>  |

| Source/link   | Definition  | Comments from EpiCore members   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>US</b>, Department of Public Health, California:<br/> <a href="https://covid19.ca.gov/long-covid/#:~:text=with%20long%20COVID-,Long%20COVID%20disability%20benefits,can%20be%20considered%20a%20disability">https://covid19.ca.gov/long-covid/#:~:text=with%20long%20COVID-,Long%20COVID%20disability%20benefits,can%20be%20considered%20a%20disability</a></p> | <p><b>Many people with COVID-19 get better within weeks, but some people have symptoms that last for months. This can happen to anyone who has had COVID-19, even if the initial illness was mild. This is known as a post-COVID condition, or simply as long COVID.</b></p>  | <p>Since July 2021, long COVID has been recognized as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act ADA.</p> |
| <p><b>US</b>, Wisconsin Department of Health Services:<br/> <a href="https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/long-covid.htm#How%20we%20are%20learning%20more">https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/long-covid.htm#How%20we%20are%20learning%20more</a></p>   | <p><b>Symptoms of post-COVID conditions are likely to begin about four weeks after initial infection with SARS-CoV-2. People who experience ongoing symptoms likely have a post-COVID condition if they are still experiencing symptoms four or more weeks after the initial infection. We are still learning about post-COVID conditions, but the most common symptoms include: Shortness of breath; Chest pain; Trouble sleeping; Difficulty thinking, concentrating, or remembering things (sometimes referred to as "brain fog"); Depression or anxiety; Joint or muscle pain; Fever; Cough; Tiredness or fatigue; Headache; Loss or change of smell or taste; Dizziness on standing; Fast-beating or pounding heart (also known as heart palpitations); Symptoms that get worse after physical or mental work.</b></p> | <p>None</p>   |
| <p><b>WHO EURO</b>, 2021 Post COVID-19 condition (Long COVID) factsheet:<br/> <a href="https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/fact-sheets/item/post-covid-19-condition">https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/fact-sheets/item/post-covid-19-condition</a></p>   | <p><b>The continuation or development of new symptoms 3 months after the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection, with these symptoms lasting for at least 2 months with no other explanation. While common symptoms of long COVID can include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction over 200 different symptoms have been reported that can have an impact on everyday functioning.</b></p>  | <p>None</p>   |
| <p><b>WHO</b>, A clinical case definition of post COVID-19 condition by a Delphi consensus, 2021:<br/> <a href="https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345824">https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345824</a></p>  | <p><b>Post COVID-19 condition occurs in individuals with a history of probable or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, usually 3 months from the onset of COVID-19 with symptoms that last for at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis. Common symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, cognitive dysfunction but also others (see Table 3 and Annex 2) which generally have an impact on everyday functioning. Symptoms may be new onset, following initial recovery from an acute COVID-19 episode, or persist from the initial illness. Symptoms may also fluctuate or relapse over time. A separate definition may be applicable for children.</b></p>   | <p>None</p>   |



| Source/link  | Definition   | Comments from EpiCore members  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Wikipedia:</b><br/> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_COVID#:~:text=Long%20COVID%20or%20long%20haul,recovery%20period%20of%20COVID%20D19.">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_COVID#:~:text=Long%20COVID%20or%20long%20haul,recovery%20period%20of%20COVID%20D19.</a></p>  | <p><b>Condition characterized by long-term sequelae—persisting after the typical convalescence period—of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).</b></p>  | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>The Lancet:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32662-3/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32662-3/fulltext</a></p>   | <p><b>Multiorgan symptoms after COVID-19 are being reported by increasing numbers of patients. They range from cough and shortness of breath, to fatigue, headache, palpitations, chest pain, joint pain, physical limitations, depression, and insomnia, and affect people of varying ages.</b></p> | <p>At the Lancet–Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences conference on Nov 23, Bin Cao presented data (The Lancet) on the longterm consequences of COVID-19 for patients in Wuhan, and warned that dysfunctions and complications could persist in some discharged patients for at least 6 months. So-called long COVID is a burgeoning health concern and action is needed now to address it.</p> |
| <p><b>Nature Medicine:</b> Nalbandian, A., Sehgal, K., Gupta, A. et al. Post-acute COVID-19 syndrome. Nat Med 27, 601–615 (2021).<br/> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01283-z">https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01283-z:</a><br/> <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-021-01283-z.pdf">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-021-01283-z.pdf</a></p> | <p><b>Post-acute COVID-19 as persistent symptoms and/or delayed or longterm complications of SARS-CoV-2 infection beyond 4 weeks from the onset of symptoms.</b></p>   | <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>Scientific American:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-problem-of-long-haul-covid/">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-problem-of-long-haul-covid/</a></p>  | <p><b>Individuals whose symptoms persist or develop outside the initial viral infection, but the duration and pathogenesis are unknown</b></p>   | <p>None</p>  |