Then to now: the COVID-19 pandemic

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DECEMBER 2020

- World Health Organization notifies of pneumonia cluster from “unknown cause” in Wuhan
- Chinese authorities isolate the novel coronavirus, share genetic sequence on Jan. 12

JANUARY 2021

- Jan. 21, 2020: First U.S. coronavirus case confirmed by CDC in Washington man
- Jan. 23, 2020: University of Kentucky sends first campus message about the novel coronavirus
- Jan. 31, 2020: WHO declares public health emergency as world surpasses 200 deaths

FEBRUARY 2021

- Feb. 3, 2020: United States declares public health emergency
- Feb. 6, 2020: First U.S. death from COVID-19 occurs, but is not confirmed until April through postmortem testing
- Feb. 11, 2020: WHO announces official name of new disease as COVID-19

MARCH 2021

- March 2, 2020: UK expands travel restrictions, begins to exempt students studying abroad
- March 6, 2020: First case of COVID-19 confirmed in Kentucky, in isolation at UK Chandler Hospital
- March 11, 2020: WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic

APRIL 2021

- April 3, 2020: UK announces plans for field hospital on campus
- April 8, 2020: 76-day lockdown ends in Wuhan, city of virus’s origin, with worst yet to come for other countries
- April 10, 2020: Refunds for spring costs transfer into student accounts
- April 28, 2020: U.S. surpasses 1 million cases of COVID-19
- May 1, 2020: UK announces it will reopen for fall semester
- May 2, 2020: Restaurants allowed to reopen in Kentucky

MAY 2021

- May 7, 2020: U.S. surpasses 100,000 deaths from COVID-19
- June 8, 2020: New Zealand lifts most COVID-19 restrictions after eliminating virus
- July 9, 2020: Gov. Andy Beshear signs executive order mandating masks in public spaces, businesses

JULY 2021

- July 17, 2021: Two weeks after the Fourth of July, the U.S. records its highest-yet daily new cases at 75,119
- Aug. 2, 2021: First day of fall semester as UK resumes in-person classes for first time since pandemic began
- Sept. 9, 2021: Kentucky surpasses 1,000 deaths from COVID-19
- Sept. 23, 2021: UK surpasses 1,000 student cases of COVID-19 since fall semester began
- Sept. 27, 2021: First hospitalization of UK student reported
- Oct. 2, 2021: President Donald Trump is announced to have COVID-19 and is hospitalized
- Nov. 9, 2021: U.S. records more than 10 million cases of COVID-19
- Nov. 24, 2021: In-person aspect of fall semester, first reopened semester, ends
- Dec. 11, 2021: First vaccine against COVID-19 approved for emergency use by FDA

2021

- Dec. 15, 2020: UK HealthCare begins first COVID-19 vaccinations for medical staff
- Dec. 18, 2020: Second COVID-19 vaccine, from Moderna, approved by FDA
- Dec. 17, 2020: President Trump signs second COVID relief bill into law, releasing $900 billion in aid
- Jan. 8, 2021: New daily cases in the U.S. peak at 315,179, according to CDC following family gatherings for holidays
- Jan. 11, 2021: UK opens mass vaccination clinic at Kroger Field
- Jan. 20, 2021: President Joe Biden signs national mandate requiring masks to be worn on federal property
- Jan. 23, 2021: Classes begin for third semester since pandemic began
- Jan. 26, 2021: Kentucky confirms first cases of COVID-19 variants
- Feb. 9, 2021: UK commits to vaccinating all employees
- Feb. 22, 2021: U.S. surpasses 500,000 deaths from COVID-19 in 11 months
- Feb. 26, 2021: Third COVID-19 vaccine, which had trials in Lexington through UK, is approved by FDA