

Life after the COVID-19 pandemic

Community insights and priorities

In 2025, we surveyed over **1,500 Australians** to better understand their experiences with COVID-19 in the post-pandemic era.

COVID-19 continues to impact workforce participation and health



1 in 2 people infected with **COVID-19** since early 2024 reported moderate to severe work impacts



2 in 3 people experiencing **long COVID** since early 2024 reported moderate to severe work impacts



1 in 4 people with a lung disease who had COVID-19 since early 2024 reported **major or severe impacts** on their condition

“ Long COVID has completely changed my life.
| [I am] unable to work, [and] unable to look after my kids on my own.

Post-pandemic information has helped some but not all



Useful sources of COVID-19 information in the post-pandemic era:

#1

Internet

#2

General practitioner

#3

Government information and services



However, **1 in 10 people** said their general practitioner was **not** useful, and **1 in 7 people** said government information and services were **not** useful.

Health professionals urgently need more post-pandemic support

Common challenges faced by health professionals managing COVID-19 and long COVID since early 2024:

Patient engagement

- Patients not receptive to COVID-19 advice

Clinical knowledge

- Staying up-to-date with the latest guidance
- Navigating unavailable, inconsistent, or unclear advice

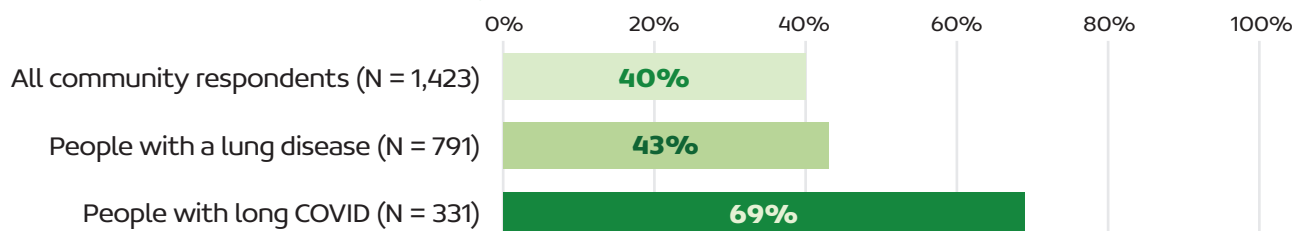
Long COVID care

- Difficulties with diagnosis
- Challenges accessing specialist or multidisciplinary care

Community concern about future COVID-19 infections persists

While there is a perception that people want to move on from COVID-19, many remain deeply concerned about future infections.

Percentage of people 'very concerned' about getting COVID-19 in the future



Top issues identified by the community to improve COVID-19 and long COVID management

- #1** Make it easier to get antiviral treatment when needed
- #2** More people should be eligible for subsidised antiviral treatment
- #3** More research to support prevention and management
- #4** More campaigns to raise public awareness
- #5** More clinics specialising in long COVID treatment
- #6** More information and resources for the public
- #7** More training and support for health professionals

"I have absolutely no idea where and how to get [COVID-19 vaccinations]. I only see ads and signs for normal flu shots ... I assumed they're not really needed anymore."

Turning insights into action: Our recommendations

- 1** Strengthen COVID-19 vaccination coverage and invest in community-driven communication strategies.
- 2** Improve equity of access to COVID-19 treatments and strengthen consumer engagement in medicine review processes.
- 3** Provide the public with more resources and information about COVID-19 and long COVID, focussing on those who are vulnerable.
- 4** Invest in training and information solutions for health professionals.
- 5** Strengthen current state health responses to long COVID by increasing access to specialised health services.
- 6** Consider further actions to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

Scan to view Lung Foundation Australia's advocacy strategies and campaigns.

For more information, contact:
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