



# European Respiratory Society statement on long COVID follow-up

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Shareable abstract (@ERSpublications)

**Follow-up care of patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 is crucial and may improve their quality of life. More evidence and research is emerging to understand the causes, mechanisms and risks of long COVID consequences.** <https://bit.ly/3J1WMWY>

**Cite this article as:** Antoniou KM, Vasarmidi E, Russell A-M, *et al.* European Respiratory Society statement on long COVID follow-up. *Eur Respir J* 2022; 60: 2102174 [DOI: 10.1183/13993003.02174-2021].

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## Abstract

Patients diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection frequently experience symptom burden post-acute infection or post-hospitalisation. We aimed to identify optimal strategies for follow-up care that may positively impact the patient's quality of life (QoL). A European Respiratory Society (ERS) Task Force convened and prioritised eight clinical questions. A targeted search of the literature defined the timeline of "long COVID" as 1–6 months post-infection and identified clinical evidence in the follow-up of patients. Studies meeting the inclusion criteria report an association of characteristics of acute infection with persistent symptoms, thromboembolic events in the follow-up period, and evaluations of pulmonary physiology and imaging. Importantly, this statement reviews QoL consequences, symptom burden, disability and home care follow-up. Overall, the evidence for follow-up care for patients with long COVID is limited.

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Received: 9 Aug 2021  
Accepted: 28 Dec 2021

