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Epidemiological peculiarities of COVID-19 in Ukraine

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A pandemic of the novel disease COVID-19, caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus, began in China, which was reported on December 30, 2019.

The purpose of the study was to summarize data based on the analysis of official reports and messages, own research on the COVID-19 epidemic. The first case of COVID-19 in Ukraine was registered on March 1, 2020 in the Chernivtsi region. The epidemic of COVID-19 lasted until July 1st, 2023, when the government of Ukraine announced its termination. According to official data, the incidence of COVID-19 in Ukraine was 128,681 per 1 million population, and the death rate was 2,603 per 1 million population. On average, the mortality rate during the epidemic was 2.1%. Quantitative manifestations of the epidemic process were characterized by five increases in morbidity, each of the next four being more intense than the previous one. Antigenic changes leading to the emergence of the Omicron genetic variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus caused an increase in the contagiousness of COVID-19, so the highest incidence rates were during the circulation of this variant in early 2022. Reproductive number (R_0) of SARS-Cov-2 in 2021 year, it varied depending on the genetic variant from 0.78 to 1.29, and in the following year ones increased to 1.5. Much lower in intensity was thez fifth wave of the rise in morbidity, when milder clinical forms of the disease prevailed. Almost 416,000 children were involved in the epidemic process, the share of which grew during the epidemic. People over the age of 60 were at risk for severe disease and death. In the structure of mortality, patients with concomitant pathology prevailed: cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, diabetes. A difficult challenge during the pandemic was the protection of medical workers, of whom almost 150,000 fell ill, of which 0.8% died. The established epidemiological features of COVID-19 in Ukraine are the basis for further improvement of the system of surveillance and response to biological threats, including those caused by pathogens of infectious diseases new to humans.