

## LEADING ARTICLE

# COVID-19 Conversion from Pandemic to Endemic Disease in Iraq

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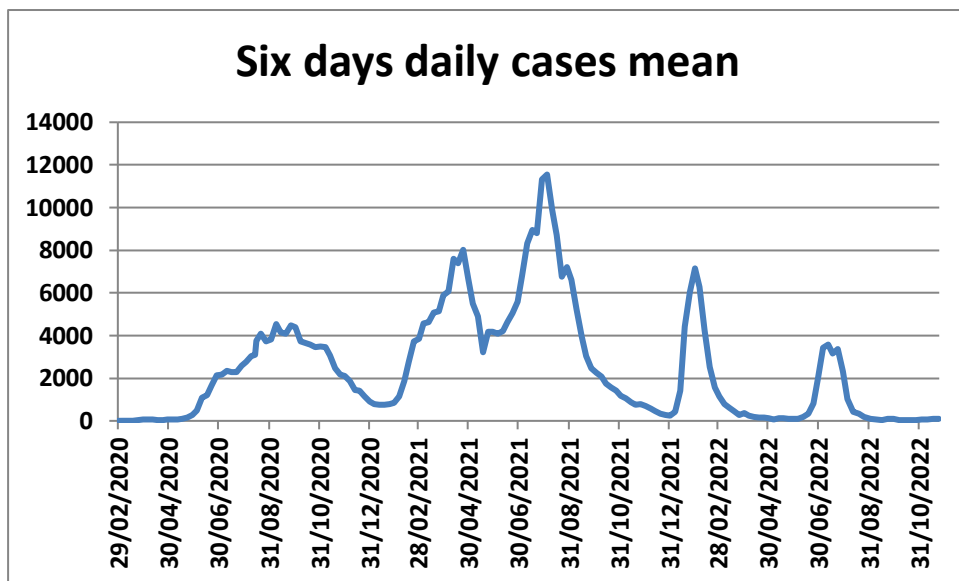
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The zero or index case was first detected in Najaf on February 24, 2020 in a student studying in Alhawza Alelmya in Najaf, who came back from his visit to Iran. Then in about month period (March 26, 2020), the disease transmitted to all Iraqi Provinces. The course of the disease indicated a 5 waves of infection, as shown in Fig 1. One wave in 2020 year, two in each 2021 and 2022 years, reflecting an increase in the incidence of COVID-19 which is attributed to the emergence of new virus variants that are characterised with increased transmission rate. However, their virulence are decreased with low morbidity and mortality [1]. Thus the mutation that leads to emergence of new variants, application of preventive measures and production of effective vaccines [1-4] are contributed to the conversion of COVID-19 from pandemic into epidemic disease in Iraq. The Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment cancel the National COVID -19 Emergency Committee. The healthcare delivery professionals are now able to deal with COVID-19 like common colds and influenza. Unfortunately, the current situation of Iraqi Healthcare Systems need more action to "*prioritize the health information system and leadership/governance as they provide the basis for health policies and regulations for all other health system building blocks*" [5].

## References

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**Fig.1. Six days daily COVID-19 cases mean during the period from 29/2/2020 to 24/11/2022**