Several studies see Evidence of Lasting COVID-19 Immunity

Researchers tracking immune responses to COVID-19 say they're seeing the signs of lasting immunity months after coronavirus infections have resolved. T cells and B cells capable of recognizing the virus and virus-fighting antibodies are present in people exposed to COVID-19, even in people who experienced mild infections. These studies provide hope that the second wave of coronavirus cases will be met with a natural immune response.

> *This is exactly what you would hope for…All the pieces are there to have a totally protective immune response."*
>
> *Marion Pepper, University of Washington*

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Scientists have not yet found definitive proof that individuals who have experienced the virus will have immunity against reinfection. On the other hand, there has been no unambiguous evidence that reinfection is happening. Much of the research and media coverage has focused on the presence of antibodies, but immune responses also include B cells and T cells. In addition to that, low levels of antibodies remain in the blood months after COVID-19 recovery.

> *The antibodies decline, but they settle in what looks like a stable nadir…The response looks perfectly durable."*
>
> *Deepta Bhattacharya, University of Arizona*

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Studies out of Sweden could have the potential to further this research and the public's understanding of COVID-19 and herd

immunity. The country famously did not impose lockdown or mask restrictions, instead asking citizens to voluntarily socially distance. Healthcare officials in the country have indicated that they hope widespread exposure to the virus will lead to herd immunity in the country.