What Is Herd Immunity?

A valid definition

Valid definitions describe the effect: “A certain amount of people becoming immune to a certain virus”. Several way of achieving immunity may be mentioned.

An invalid definition

An invalid definition focuses on the means of reaching immunity (vaccination) and disregards practical limitations thereof. These definitions are clearly politically and/or financially motivated and disrespect public interests.

Valid definitions

WebMD

https://www.webmd.com/lung/what-is-herd-immunity#1

With the rising number of cases of COVID-19 around the world, health officials continue to work to find the best way to protect the public from the disease. You may have heard health officials mention herd immunity as a possible way to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Here’s what you need to know about herd immunity and how it may help slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Herd Immunity

Herd immunity, or community immunity, is when a large part of the population of an area is immune to a specific disease. If enough people are resistant to the cause of a disease, such as a virus or bacteria, it has nowhere to go.

While not every single individual may be immune, the group as a whole has protection. This is because there are fewer high-risk people overall. The infection rates drop, and the disease peters out.

Herd immunity protects at-risk populations. These include babies and those whose immune systems are weak and can’t get resistance on their own.

How Do You Achieve Herd Immunity?

There are two ways this can happen.

You can develop resistance naturally. When your body is exposed to a virus or bacteria, it makes antibodies to fight off the infection. When you recover, your body keeps these antibodies. Your body will defend against another infection. This is what stopped the Zika virus outbreak in Brazil. Two years after the outbreak began, 63% of the population had had exposure to the virus. Researchers think the community reached the right level for herd immunity.

Vaccines can also build resistance. They make your body think a virus or bacteria has infected it. You don't get sick, but your immune system still makes protective antibodies. The next time your body meets that bacteria or virus, it's ready to fight it off…

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https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/achieving-herd-immunity-with-covid19.html

What is herd immunity?

When most of a population is immune to an infectious disease, this provides indirect protection—or herd immunity (also called herd protection)—to those who are not immune to the disease.

For example, if 80% of a population is immune to a virus, four out of every five people who encounter someone with the disease won't get sick (and won't spread the disease any further). In this way, the spread of infectious diseases is kept under control. Depending how contagious an infection is, usually 50% to 90% of a population needs immunity to achieve herd immunity.

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https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/herd-immunity-and-coronavirus/art-20486808

Why is herd immunity important?

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune.

Often, a percentage of the population must be capable of getting a disease in order for it to spread. This is called a threshold proportion. If the proportion of the population that is immune to the disease is greater than this threshold, the spread of the disease will decline. This is known as the herd immunity threshold.

What percentage of a community needs to be immune in order to achieve herd immunity? It varies from disease to disease. The more contagious a disease is, the greater the proportion of the population that needs to be immune to the disease to stop its spread. For example, the measles is a highly contagious illness. It's estimated that 94% of the population must be immune to interrupt the chain of transmission.

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/herd%20immunity

Definition of *herd immunity*

: a reduction in the risk of infection with a specific communicable disease (such as measles or influenza) that occurs when a significant proportion of the population has become immune to infection (as because of previous exposure or vaccination) so that susceptible individuals are much less likely to come in contact with infected individuals

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https://www.britannica.com/science/herd-immunity

Herd immunity, also called **community immunity**, state in which a large proportion of a population is able to repel an infectious disease, thereby limiting the extent to which the disease can spread from person to person. Herd immunity can be conferred through natural immunity, previous exposure to the disease, or vaccination. An entire population does not need to be immune to attain herd immunity. Rather, herd immunity can occur when the population density of persons who are susceptible to infection is sufficiently low so as to minimize the likelihood of an infected individual coming in contact with a susceptible individual. Herd immunity can prevent sustained disease spread in populations, thereby protecting susceptible individuals from infection. It is applicable, however, only to infectious diseases that can be spread by human contact.

The percentage of the population that must be immune to produce herd immunity differs for each infectious disease. A disease that is highly contagious, such as measles, requires a higher proportion of immune persons to achieve herd immunity than a disease that is less contagious, such as tuberculosis. In addition, individual- and population-level characteristics that influence disease spread—such as susceptibility, demographics, and social habits—affect herd immunity.

The definition of the vaccine lobby / Pharma

In the definition of the vaccine lobby, the natural immunity is left out of the equation. The word immunity is replaced with the word vaccination and only vaccinated people are counted.

Also, the limited effectiveness of vaccines is conveniently “forgotten”. Some vaccines have an effectiveness of less then 10%. Meaning, less then 10% have actually become immune to the virus through vaccination.

Further more, most vaccines do not prevent virus shedding, but they do sometimes, suppress symptoms, which actually hides the people who are shedding the virus.

And the immunity through vaccination, if it is achieved, often only stays a limited time. (often a few years or less)

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https://www.vaccinestoday.eu/stories/what-is-herd-immunity/

Herd immunity is a form of immunity that occurs when the vaccination of a significant portion of a population (or herd) provides a measure of protection for individuals who have not developed immunity.’

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https://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/news/herd-immunity-how-does-it-work

Q: What is herd immunity?

Manish Sadarangani: Herd immunity describes how a population is protected from a disease after vaccination by stopping the germ responsible for the infection being transmitted between people. In this way even people who cannot be vaccinated can be protected.

WHO

https://jonsnewplace.wordpress.com/2020/12/23/who-changes-its-definition-of-herd-immunity-making-widespread-vaccination-essential/

It was recently discovered that the WHO changed this definition, suppressing the fact that immunity happens as a natural process in populations as individuals are infected and develop immunity to a particular virus. Such "herd immunity" can, potentially, be assisted by a vaccine but is not dependent upon it.

The WHO definition prior to the change stated: Herd immunity is the indirect protection from an infectious disease that happens when a population is immune either through vaccination ***or immunity developed through previous infection***. This means that even people who haven't been infected, or in whom an infection hasn't triggered an immune response, they are protected because people around them who are immune can act as buffers between them and an infected person [emphasis added].

The new definition
'Herd immunity', also known as 'population immunity', **is a concept used for vaccination**, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached.

Herd immunity is achieved by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it…

With herd immunity, the vast majority of a population are vaccinated, lowering the overall amount of virus able to spread in the whole population.

So, not only is natural immunity disregarded, it is ridiculed.

It advocates an unlimited trust in vaccinations and a big distrust in our natural immune-system.

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https://newspunch.com/who-changes-definition-of-herd-immunity-immunity-comes-solely-from-vaccines/

The World Health Organization has changed the definition of "herd immunity," eradicating the pre-COVID consensus that it could be achieved by allowing the virus to spread through a population, and declaring that herd immunity solely comes from vaccines.

> The change happened on the WHO's website, in a section entitled 'Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Serology, antibodies and immunity'.

The original WHO definition (archived here) states that herd immunity *"happens when a population is immune either through vaccination or immunity developed through previous infection. This means that even people who haven't been infected, or in whom an infection hasn't triggered an immune response, they are protected because people around them who are immune can act as buffers between them and an infected person."*

Summit.news reports: The original definition fails to identify the pre-COVID consensus on what is meant by “herd immunity,” which is when a population becomes protected against a virus because enough people have been infected with it to create community immunity.

However, the WHO’s updated version is even more extreme, insisting that herd immunity can only be achieved by mass vaccination programs.

> “‘Herd immunity’, also known as ‘population immunity’, is a concept used for vaccination, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached,” states the WHO website, adding, “Herd immunity is achieved by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it.”

“‘Herd immunity’ exists when a high percentage of the population is vaccinated,” states the website, completely omitting the original meaning of “herd immunity,” which is when a population becomes immune to a virus by being exposed to it.

By changing the definition of “herd immunity,” the WHO is literally re-writing hundreds of years of scientific understanding as to what the term truly means in an apparent effort to silence any argument that herd immunity would have been a better approach to fighting COVID-19 than lockdowns and social distancing.

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https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/herd-immunity-lockdowns-and-covid-19

What is ‘herd immunity’?

‘Herd immunity’, also known as ‘population immunity’, is a concept used for vaccination, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached.

Herd immunity is achieved by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it.

Vaccines train our immune systems to create proteins that fight disease, known as ‘antibodies’, just as would happen when we are exposed to a disease but – crucially – vaccines work without making us sick. Vaccinated people are protected from getting the disease in question and passing it on, breaking any chains of transmission. *Visit our webpage on COVID-19 and vaccines for more detail.*

With herd immunity, the vast majority of a population are vaccinated, lowering the overall amount of virus able to spread in the whole population. As a result, not every single person needs to be vaccinated to be protected, which helps ensure vulnerable groups who cannot get vaccinated are kept safe.

The percentage of people who need to have antibodies in order to achieve herd immunity against a particular disease varies with each disease. For example, herd immunity against measles requires about 95% of a population to be vaccinated. The remaining 5% will be protected by the fact that measles will not spread among those who are vaccinated. For polio, the threshold is about 80%.

Achieving herd immunity with safe and effective vaccines makes diseases rarer and saves lives.

Find out more about the science behind herd immunity by watching or reading this interview *with WHO's Chief Scientist, Dr Soumya Swaminathan.*

What is WHO's position on 'herd immunity' as a way of fighting COVID-19?

Attempts to reach 'herd immunity' through exposing people to a virus are scientifically problematic and unethical. Letting COVID-19 spread through populations, of any age or health status will lead to unnecessary infections, suffering and death.