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Immunity to COVID-19 is probably higher than tests have shown

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Hans-Gustaf Ljunggren. Photo: Ulf Sirborn

“Our results indicate that public immunity to COVID-19 is probably significantly higher than antibody tests have suggested,” says Professor [Hans-Gustaf Ljunggren](#) at the Center for Infectious Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, and co-senior author. “If this is the case, it is of course very good news from a public health perspective.”

T-cell analyses are more complicated to perform than antibody tests and at present are therefore only done in specialised laboratories, such as that at the Center for Infectious Medicine at Karolinska Institutet.

“Larger and more longitudinal studies must now be done on both T cells and antibodies to understand how long-lasting the immunity is and how these different components of COVID-19 immunity are related,” says Marcus Buggert.

[The results were first published on 29 June 2020 on a preprint server, bioRxiv](#) (see box) and a previous version of this news article was then published. The study has now undergone peer review and been published in the scientific journal *Cell*. In connection with this, [Cell Press issued a press release about the results](#).

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Memorial Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust. The authors report no conflicts of interest or patents associated with the results of the study.

Publication

[“Robust T cell immunity in convalescent individuals with asymptomatic or mild COVID-19”](#)

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