

 COVID-19 global data

Confirmed cases: **199,913,080**

Recoveries: **130,825,676**

Deaths: **4,254,253**

JHU CSSE



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'Not Realistic': Denmark, Iceland Say Vaccination Has Not Led to Herd Immunity

EUROPE 05:12 GMT 09.08.2021 (updated 05:24 GMT 09.08.2021)

by *Igor Kuznetsov*

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<https://sputniknews.com/europe/202108091083560293-denmark-iceland-say-vaccination-has-not-led-to-herd-immunity/>

Before the emergence of more contagious coronavirus variants, estimates placed the threshold for herd immunity at between 60 to 70 percent of the population. Yet, the growing dominance of the Delta strain, which is also more adept at dodging vaccines, has challenged this calculation based on high vaccination rates.

With the onslaught of the more contagious Delta strain, the State Serum Institute, Denmark's infectious diseases agency, has said it no longer believes it will be possible to achieve herd immunity through vaccination, implying that COVID-19 could circulate for years to come.

"It is not realistic to achieve herd immunity, understood as meaning that we will not see any spread of infection at all", SSI's acting academic director Tyra Grove Krause [told](#) the newspaper BT.

Herd immunity means that enough people are immune to infection from an illness that its reproduction number or R-rate (the number of people each infected person infects) falls below one, without any other anti-infection measures in place.

Before the emergence of more contagious variants such as the Alpha and Delta strains, estimates placed the threshold for herd immunity at between 60 to 70 percent of the population. However, the growing dominance of the Delta strain, which is also [more apt at infecting people](#) who are vaccinated, has challenged this calculus.

"If the vaccines were 100 percent effective against the variants that are in play now, and we had 100 percent vaccination coverage among those who are 12 years and older, then we could talk about achieving actual herd immunity against the Delta variant", Krause said. "But unfortunately this is not the reality, we cannot achieve that".

Krause admitted further COVID-19 outbreaks, but ventured that the new waves will look different from those witnessed in the past.

"We will still see infections with COVID-19, but we will not see serious complications to the extent that we have seen in the past, because the vaccine will protect us so well against serious disease", she said, assuring that the new waves per se will not be a cause for alarm. "We are going into a period where we will be able to tolerate much higher infection rates than we did previously because those who get infected will not become seriously ill. Our threshold for when an infection rate counts as 'high' has been shifted upwards".

Krause mused that the Delta strain also does not seriously threaten the vaccination programme, because there is "still a high level of protection against the disease left". According to her, this is in line with the [purpose of the vaccines](#): "to prevent serious disease, not to eliminate viruses". Per Krause, the big question is how long the vaccines will remain effective.

Earlier, Iceland's chief epidemiologist Thórólfur Gudnason reached the same conclusion that vaccination hasn't led to the herd immunity experts had hoped for. In the past several weeks, the Delta variant has exceeded all others in Iceland, one of the most vaccinated nations in Europe, breaking previous infection records and making it clear that vaccinated people may easily contract and spread it as well.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but Iceland (93% of the population 16 years of age or older vaccinated) is experiencing its largest wave of Covid-19 yet. At this point, I think it is unreasonable to assume that increased vaccine coverage will result in herd immunity

pic.twitter.com/k8mUZAtlGO

— Elías Eypórssson (@eliaseythorsson) [August 7, 2021](#)

According to Thórólfur Gudnason, half of those hospitalised have been vaccinated. He warned that the COVID-19 pandemic is not close to being over and won't be over until it's over everywhere, calling for a readiness to deal with upcoming challenges. To address the growing issue, Iceland has already [reintroduced social restrictions](#), after abolishing them earlier this summer and being hailed by the media as the poster child that beat the pandemic.

Thórólfur Gudnason mused that there are only two ways to develop herd immunity: the spread of the infection itself and vaccination. "The question is whether we want to test herd immunity by opening and relaxing", he [mused](#) in an interview with the newspaper *Visir*.

One thing the world might learn from Iceland is that breakthrough infections are NOT rare. We have a robust track&trace system with mandatory quarantine and double testing of quarantined persons. In this setting, most infections are diagnosed in vaccinated persons

pic.twitter.com/jGOB0Ce5AQ

— Elías Eypórssson (@eliaseythorsson) [August 7, 2021](#)

Iceland, a nation of 330,000 has seen over 8,700 cases and 30 deaths. Denmark, a nation of 5.8 million, has seen 323,000 cases and 2,500 deaths.

COMMENT**All comments****keyboardcosmetics**

09:07 GMT 09.08.2021 | 4

Never forget: It is always 'Covid CASES'. Thousands of Press Covid stories yet not a single one mentions the 99.6% survival rate, similar to flu, with virtually all those dying being of advanced years and suffering other age-related illnesses.

Nevi'im

09:10 GMT 09.08.2021 | 1

The Chinese calculated it to 83.3% for herd immunity with Delta! Ref: Sinovac CEO video

feketehollo in reply to **keyboardcosmetics** ([Show comment](#))

09:23 GMT 09.08.2021

keyboardcosmetics, i am sorry but that is simply untrue, i personally know younger people who have been severely affected by what was attributed to Covid 19 and its complications. If you look at the stats from India for example, your assertion is difficult to maintain. Given the tendency for the authorities to overstate the stats for political and other nefarious reasons, as we have actually witnessed (ascribing to Covid any odd fatality among the aged that was flu like, shunning the investigation of Covid ascribed deaths et.), i am skeptical as well. But your assertion is still incorrect. Its a more fatal form of flu from the point of view of the nonexpert, with sometimes severe complication and affecting the middle aged and even younger as well.

TruePatriot

09:44 GMT 09.08.2021 | 4

PEOPLE will achieve herd immunity, if they aren't there already, with their own immune systems. These jabs are worthless except to cause variants and sicken otherwise healthy individuals.

Jonathan Au

10:14 GMT 09.08.2021 | 1

Of course Covid "vaccines" don't create herd immunity. The manufacturers never said they would. They said they would lessen the severity of symptoms of those who got infected. That's not a vaccine, that's a therapy. It was politicians and their lackeys that said otherwise.

ThomasT in reply to **TruePatriot** ([Show comment](#))

10:30 GMT 09.08.2021 | 1

TruePatriot, Yes.. "Brighteon. Pathologist Dr.Ryan Cole: Vax-11k Deaths, 1st Autopsy ? Hmmm..." ..

vigilante

14:32 GMT 09.08.2021 | 1

Contradictory information about the level of severity of the infection with vaccinated people circulating. In Denmark "half of hospitalized are vaccinated". In France it is around 10%.. where is the truth?

BUY HUAWAI in reply to **feketehollo** ([Show comment](#))

14:54 GMT 09.08.2021 | 2

feketehollo, are you stupid or do you really think we should believe your comments? So India, which has thousands of kilometers of border with China and the world 2 largest nations, covid19 goes past India for 1.5 years ?? Aa covid19 went around flr to come last to India or is it a punishment for India buying Russia's S400 ??? You who are

so smart explain to us how it comes about that everyone and then I mean absolutely all old that current power holders survive ??? STFU NOOB and stop spreading misinformation !!!

Krasnal

19:14 GMT 10.08.2021

After all, it's not about curing. But just to heal all the time ... of course at best and ignore all conspiracy theories In a moment there will be another virus, another mutation, another vaccine. Big Pharma will earn billions more.

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