

‘Bombshell’ Study Finds Natural Immunity Superior to Vaccination

If the findings are confirmed, the implications for Covid policy will be profound

By [UnHerd](#)

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A [major study](#) conducted by Israeli researchers into natural immunity has found that immunity acquired via infection from Covid-19 is superior to immunity from the Pfizer vaccine.

Researchers at Maccabi Healthcare and Tel Aviv University compared the outcomes of over 76,000 Israelis in three groups: the doubly vaccinated (with the Pfizer vaccine), the previously infected but unvaccinated, and the previously infected with only a single vaccine dose.

They found that fully vaccinated but uninfected people were significantly more likely to have a “breakthrough” Covid infection than people who had previously been infected and recovered from the disease.

Superiority of natural immunity over immunity from vaccination

UnHerd

Findings from Maccabitech Institute and Tel Aviv University

Without time constraints

Likelihood of infection among double vaccinated (Pfizer) versus previously infected	5.96 times higher
Likelihood of <i>symptomatic</i> infection among double vaccinated (Pfizer) versus previously infected	7.13 times higher

After 3+ months

Likelihood of infection among double vaccinated (Pfizer) versus previously infected	13.06 times higher
Likelihood of <i>symptomatic</i> infection among double vaccinated (Pfizer) versus previously infected	27.02 times higher

"This study demonstrated that natural immunity confers longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalisation caused by the Delta variant," the authors conclude.

The study is only published as a preprint at this stage and has not been peer reviewed. Critics including British immunologist Andrew Croxford have [pointed out](#) potential limitations, but it has been described by infectious diseases expert Professor Francois Balloux as a "[bombshell](#)" development.

If the findings are confirmed, the implications for global Covid policy will be profound.

It would not undermine the importance of vaccination for more vulnerable groups in society. However it would weaken the case for vaccinating children, despite the programme being [confirmed in the UK today](#), as they (and the people around them) would get superior future protection from contracting the disease. And it would pose a fundamental challenge to the singular emphasis on vaccine passports for travel and large events, if unvaccinated people who have already had Covid actually pose less of a risk.

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