

Herd Immunity and the Dangers Posed by Embracing this Concept in Order to Control the Spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 Infections

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Quotation: "The acquisition of herd immunity to control the spread of COVID-19 via naturally acquired Coronavirus COVID-19 infections involves a very heavy and unacceptable price to pay".

The Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary has defined the term herd immunity as being "a reductions in the probability of infection that is held to susceptible numbers of a population in which a significant proportion of the individuals are immune because the chance of coming in contact with an infected individual is less" [1].

In an article written by DD Steipan for the Mayo Clinic News Network of 4 May 2020, he reported that Dr Gregory Poland of the Mayo Vaccine Research Group had stated that "We know with influenza we need somewhere around 60% of the population to be immune to have herd protection, with measles it's about 95%" [2].

Dr Poland cites the need of an infection rate of percentage 70% in to achieve herd immunity [2].

The second way of achieving herd immunity as per Dr Poland, is via development of a vaccine [2]. Dr Poland also notes that an important part of the vaccine route necessary to achieve herd immunity involves the application social distancing policies [2].

Dr Poland states that natural herd immunity involves a willingness to have to deal with many cases of deadly illness and death in order to arrive at herd immunity via this route [2].

The final and defining point that Dr Poland has put forth in his overview of the topic of herd immunity as relates to COVID-19, is that at the present time there isn't sufficient knowledge concerning the exact amount of herd immunity necessary to bring about the required control of the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 infection [2].

Recently Roos, cited that fact that investigators in China had reported that antibodies which were obtained from both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients convalescing from Coronavirus COVID-19 Infections "quickly faded" [3]. Roos further noted that Chinese research studies revealed that in more than 90% of these asymptomatic and symptomatic patients, there also occurred a corresponding steep decline a steep decline in the level of their IgG antibodies after a period of two to three months from the onset of the initial COVID-19 infection [3,4].

In an article from Statnews of 28 August 2020, Joseph cited the fact that there were reports coming from different parts of the world that re-infections with COVID-19 have been reported [5].

The Swedish Government did not use mandatory social distancing or forced “lockdown” back in March of 2020 [6]. The Swedish experiment was based upon the notion of having the individual take personal responsibility as a means to halt the spread of COVID-19 [6]. The ultimate aim was to achieve Herd Immunity by this approach [6]. Sadly, this concept of free spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 failed, and did not bring about Herd Immunity in Sweden [6].

The current statistics for the numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths due to this virus in the USA circa Sept 20, 2020 as cited by CNN News are: a) Cases of COVID-19, 6,765,786, b) Deaths due to COVID-19 199,265. Thus, the death rate in the USA is: 2.95 % circa Sept 20,2020 [7].

Dr Poland of the Mayo Vaccine Research Group had previously stated that in order Herd Immunity one needs to have an infection rate of 70% of the population. The current US population circa 20 Sept 2020 is 331,002,651 [8].

Thus, if we use Dr Poland’s information, 70% of the US population circa 20 Sept 2020 or 231,701,855 million Americans would have to be infected with Coronavirus COVID-19 virus to achieve herd immunity via the natural route [2,8].

The current death rate from Coronavirus COVID-19 in the USA is 2.95%. The natural process needed to achieve the necessary 70% infection level for herd immunity, to COVID-19 viral infection, could potentially cause the death of 6,835,205 Americans.

Thus, the acquisition of herd immunity to control the spread of COVID-19 via naturally acquired Coronavirus COVID-19 infections involves a very heavy and unacceptable price to pay especially since:

- a) There isn’t sufficient knowledge concerning how much herd immunity necessary to bring about the required control of the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 infection [2].
- b) Natural immunity acquired from an infection from Coronavirus COVID-19 fades rapidly [3,4].
- c) Re-infections with COVID have been reported [5].

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