

Health workers 83% protected after COVID infection

PARIS: Healthcare workers who have recovered from COVID-19 are largely protected against falling ill again for at least five months, a British study has found, but researchers warned some people could still carry and transmit the virus. Healthcare workers are among those most exposed to the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus, as countries across the world have grappled with waves of infections in the year since it first emerged.

Researchers from Public Health England's SIREN study detected 44 potential reinfections out of 6,614 participants, who had already tested positive for antibodies in a five-month period between June and Nov 2020. In their first pub-

lished report - which has not yet been peer reviewed - the authors said this represents an 83 percent rate of protection from reinfection.

But they warned that although antibodies may confer some protection from becoming ill with COVID-19, early evidence from the next stage of the study suggests that some of these individuals carry high levels of virus and could continue to transmit it to others. "This study has given us the clearest picture to date of the nature of antibody protection against COVID-19 but it is critical people do not misunderstand these early findings," said lead author Susan Hopkins, senior medical advisor at Public Health England and the

SIREN study lead. "We now know that most of those who have had the virus, and developed antibodies, are protected from reinfection, but this is not total and we do not yet know how long protection lasts. Crucially, we believe people may still be able to pass the virus on."

Independent experts welcomed the paper from the SIREN study, which has recruited almost 20,800 healthcare workers - including frontline clinical staff - to undergo regular testing to see if they have the virus or antibodies to show a past infection. Danny Altmann, professor of immunology at Imperial College London and British Society for Immunology spokesperson, said Siren had col-

lected a "really important" dataset of healthcare workers. But he added it could be "disappointing to put hard numbers to the idea that immunity to this virus is seemingly so variable and feeble that there is a greater than one in 10 chance of suffering reinfection even at five months, let alone now, when many UK healthcare workers are more than nine months out from infections in the first wave".

Julian Tang, honorary associate professor/clinical virologist at the University of Leicester, said the study suggests natural infection protection rates "are comparable to the current COVID-19 vaccines" adding that immunization would likely boost natural immunity. — AFP

Ophthalmology Services

Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar

Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid
Consultant

Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist

Cataract Surgery **Glaucoma** **Retina** **General Ophthalmology** **Follow-Up All Treatments**

Follow us on Social Media @hadclinicw

Tel: 1628282
Whatsapp Us
+965-6000 2184

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!

Dr. Kiran Turaka (Ophthalmologist)
Dr. Zareena Zahir (Ophthalmologist)
Dr. Hasan Khan (Senior Cardiologist)
Dr. P. Seshendra Nath (Orthopedic Consultant (AUSTRIA) Specialized in Neck, Shoulder Hip and Knee)

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALTIES CENTER
Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

50721507 / 24551555

Tel: 24568857 / 24568859 | Info@exircenterkw.com | www.exircenterkw.com

WELCOME

Dr. Tammam About Ali
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery

1 888 883
www.qmc-kuwait.com

qmc Kuwait

IC International Clinic

Dr. Hanl Haider
General Surgery Consultant

American Board Certified in General Surgery

Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)

Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation

Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- Day case surgeries
- Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Hernia repair
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Breast surgeries
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

http://www.international-clinic.com **Tel: 1886677**

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368 Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S. BUHAIMEED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

- Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- (IFSO) member .
- Faculty member of (BEST).
- Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- Bariatric surgeries.
- Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimeed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228 Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building