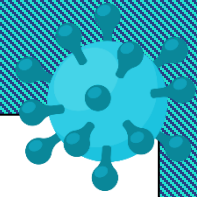


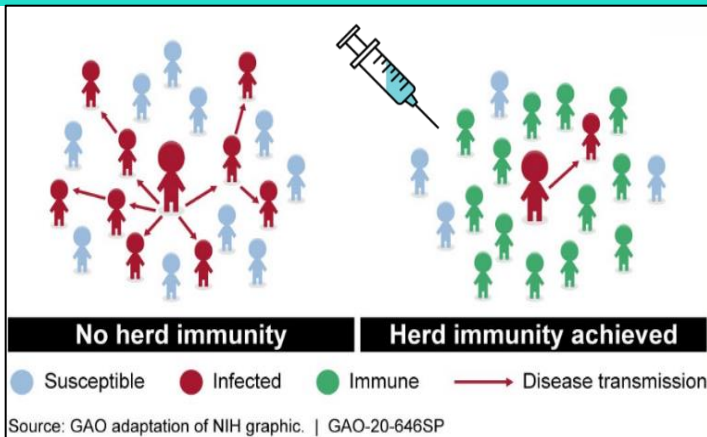
HERD IMMUNITY & COVID-19



WHAT IS HERD IMMUNITY?

Herd immunity is a term used to describe when a large amount of the population has become immune to a virus, lessening the spread of the sickness between those who have been exposed to it, and those who have not. When the majority of a population has become immune to a virus, herd immunity is said to be reached. The percentage of people required to become immune to reach herd immunity depends on the size of the population and the severity of the virus itself.

The image below shows how herd immunity works and how transmission of the virus is lessened.



WHY IS HERD IMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE?

When the majority of a population becomes immune to a virus, it lessens the spread of the sickness, protecting those who have not yet been exposed to it.

The percent of the population who have not yet been exposed are called the **threshold portion**. They are the ones who are susceptible to the illness still. Herd immunity allows for a greater percentage of the population to be immune, putting those who have not had the virus at lesser risk of contracting it.

Herd immunity will also allow for people to be able to return to their normal routines such as spending time with loved ones, the elderly, or children. We can also start going to large gatherings like concerts, movies, and return to college campuses again! Many people will also not need to wear a mask! A population that is largely immune also creates a safer environment for all, lessening people's worry of contracting and spreading the virus.

HOW CAN HERD IMMUNITY BE ACHIEVED IN KENOSHA COUNTY?

Herd immunity for COVID-19 can be achieved in two ways. By getting **vaccinated** against the virus, or by being **infected** by it, allowing the body to create its own antibodies for immunity naturally.

Vaccination is largely preferred. If you have previously been infected by COVID-19, it is highly recommended that you still get vaccinated. It lessens the chance for those who are at high risk of the virus affecting them more severely from getting life threatening symptoms or the chance of other underlying complications.

According to state and county guidelines, Kenosha County will reach herd immunity once **75%** of county's population has been vaccinated. In attempts to achieve this more quickly, citizens who are eligible for the vaccine, or deemed essential workers, are encouraged to get vaccinated at local centers where the vaccine is readily available to them. Until the next group of people able to get the vaccine is released, citizens should still be taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves, and their family and friends, from spreading the COVID-19 virus.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 UNTIL HERD IMMUNITY IS REACHED:

- If able, get vaccinated at your nearest provider
- Wear masks when in public and around others who may be higher risk than yourself
- Social distance, stay six feet apart when able
- Avoid large gatherings
- Enjoy other's company outdoors if possible
- Practice good hygiene: wash hands with soap and hot water, wipe down surfaces that are touched, use hand sanitizer, and cover your cough or sneeze
- Know the symptoms. Fever, dry cough, trouble breathing, loss of taste and smell, and fatigue are most common.
- Minimize contact with others if you feel sick or have any COVID-19 related symptoms
- Know where your nearest testing centers are to get tested if you have COVID-19 related symptoms, or feel you have been exposed to someone else who has tested positive
- If you test positive for COVID-19, quarantine for the proper two-week period and advise others to do the same or be tested if they were exposed to you.

The sooner we achieve **HERD IMMUNITY**, the sooner we can go back to doing the things we **LOVE!**

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