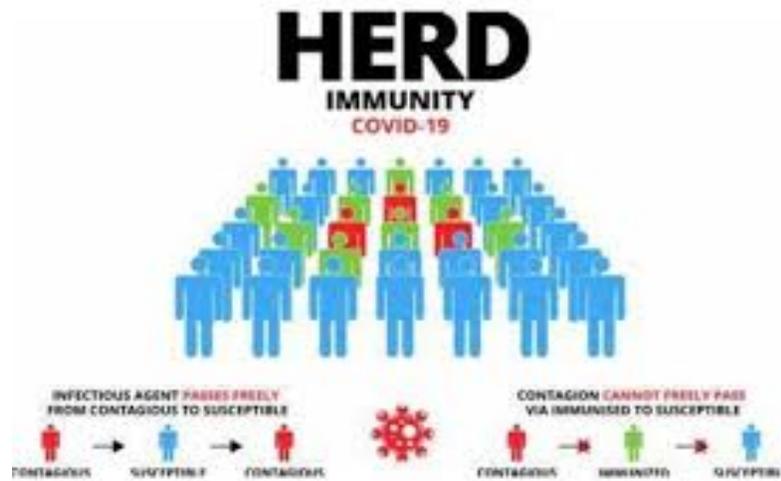


Herd Immunity: Is it a viable option?



Herd Immunity defined by the CDC as “a situation in which a sufficient proportion of a population is immune to an infectious disease (through vaccination and/or prior illness) to make its spread from person to person unlikely.”

Herd Immunity itself:

Public health authorities estimate that somewhere between 60%-70% of the US population would need to contract COVID to have a successful herd immunity response. Based on some calculations UHealth (University of Colorado) constructed, if the United States reached a goal of 60% herd immunity it could cost an additional 234,000 lives and send 935,000 people to ICU's which is maximum capacity for the country. The US would have to endure 3 months of all ICU beds filled to capacity with COVID patients only to reach the desired outcome of eliminating the spread of the disease. In addition, herd immunity can really only be effective if there is a vaccine to assist protecting the most vulnerable

Long Term Effects of COVID

Health professionals and survivors of COVID are finding that once the respiratory symptoms are gone that is not the end of the disease. Some of the long-term effects can include damage to the heart, lungs and brain. It has caused blood clots and blood vessel issues. Some people have experienced problems with their moods and extreme fatigue months after they no longer tested positive for the virus. The complications are occurring in all demographics and is not just confined to older people with pre-existing conditions. It also occurs in people with mild to severe symptoms.

Overall, herd immunity does not appear to be a viable option in containing the virus. This is based on the fact there is not a vaccine available, our medical systems will not be equipped to deal with the amount of people who need to contract the disease in order to reach the number needed, and there appears to be potentially serious long-term effects that are not completely understood.