

## New findings raise doubts about corona immunity

Researchers in Shanghai found surprisingly little antibodies in patients with coronary disease. At the same time, at least 74 well-reported in South Korea have been re-detected.



CORONA TEST: Blood tests are ready for testing for coronavirus at a laboratory in Berlin.

PHOTO: AXEL SCHMIDT / REUTERS

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At least 74 people who have been freshly reported following a coronary infection in South Korea have been re-detected, the country's health authorities said.

However, these may not be completely fresh from the virus, and then re-infected. There may be talk of reactivating an already existing infection.

South Korean authorities have been reluctant to discuss the possibility of people being re-infected with the virus after being reported well.

But on Thursday, Jeong Eun-kyeong, head of the Korean Infection Protection Agency (KCDC), said they have started testing virus and serum tests to determine if patients who have tested positive may be able to transmit the virus to others , and whether they have developed antibodies.

## **Surprise the scientists**

In Shanghai, researchers have found a surprisingly low level of antibodies in patients who are discharged after being infected with covid-19, writes the [South China Morning Post](#) .

With other coronaviruses, you become immune, but the recent findings mean that scientists are unsure whether they can be infected multiple times.

**- The question of immunity is still very uncertain. It is primarily about how long you are immune, and about which virus variant you are immune to, says Assistant Director of Health Espen Rostrup Nakstad to NRK.**

## **Young people had little antibodies**

Researchers at Fudan University analyzed the blood samples of 175 patients discharged from the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center. They found that close to a third had a low level of antibodies.

In some cases, they did not find antibodies at all. Whether patients are at risk of relapse or re-infection needs to be investigated in further studies, the researchers write.

The study from Fudan University is not peer reviewed, but is to be the first systematic study of antibodies from covid-19 patients.

All patients examined had mild symptoms.

**The researchers found that the older patients had higher levels of antibodies than the younger ones.**

## **Limited documentation**

In a report released Tuesday, [FHI reviews](#) 16 research articles on this topic.

The conclusion is that much is uncertain.

**"We found very limited evidence of immunity after infection with SARS-CoV-2," writes FHI.**

Doctor Trine Hessevik Paulsen at FHI says that the findings from Fudan University are not included in the FHI report, but that they have now looked at the study after inquiries from NRK. She says the FHI needs to look more closely at the study, but that there is a correlation between their report and the findings from Fundan, including the proportion who develop antibodies after undergoing infection.



- We still do not know if you become fully (or partially) immune after infection, and how long you can. will be protected. You probably get some protection against re-infection, but there is uncertainty about the duration of the protection, says Hessevik Paulsen.

## **The findings will be of great importance**

Last week, FHI researcher Petter Elstrøm told [NRK](#) that they assumed that they would become immune after the disease, but that they were waiting for more results.

**The findings will have a lot to say for the work with a vaccine and with regard to herd immunity.**

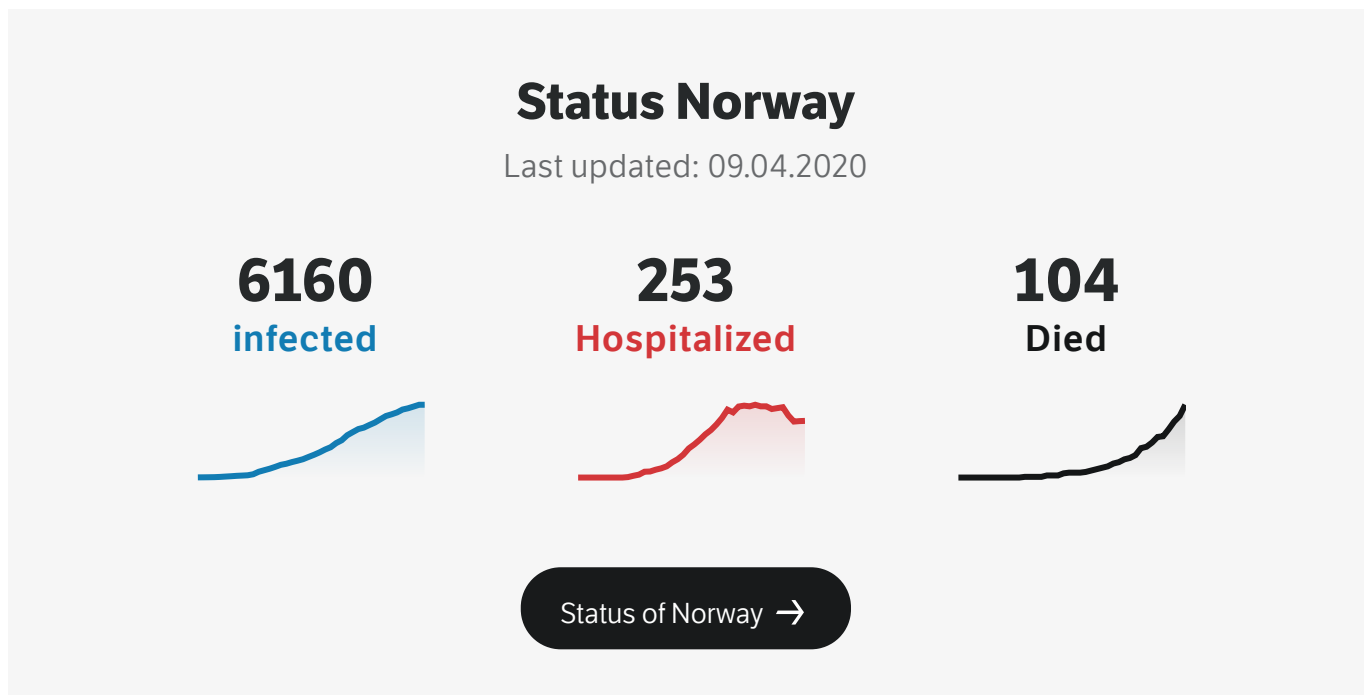
The United Kingdom was one of the countries that, at an early stage, was aiming for a spread of infection to create herd immunity. On March 16, [the government introduced stricter measures](#) .

Sweden has also been talking about herd immunity, and by Wednesday morning state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell stated that the disease will spread until they have reached

an immunity in the people. ["There is no other way to stop it"](#), Tegnell said.

Britain's Health Minister Matt Hancock has said the government is [looking into the possibility of issuing immunity certificates](#) so that those who have had the disease can work normally.

If one does not become immune, or if the immunity is very short-lived, this solution also falls.



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