

Still Not Safe From the Spread

Even in cities hardest hit by the coronavirus, a vast majority of people remain vulnerable to it. New studies that look for antibodies in people's blood suggest that most places fall far short of the threshold known as herd immunity, the point at which the virus can no longer spread widely.

Herd immunity estimate

At least 60% of population needed

New York City

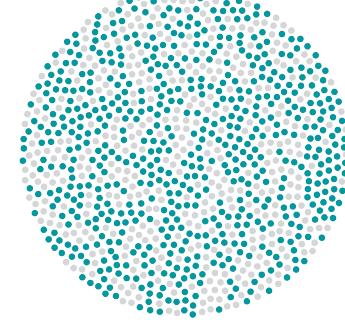
19.9% have antibodies May 2

London

17.5% have antibodies May 21

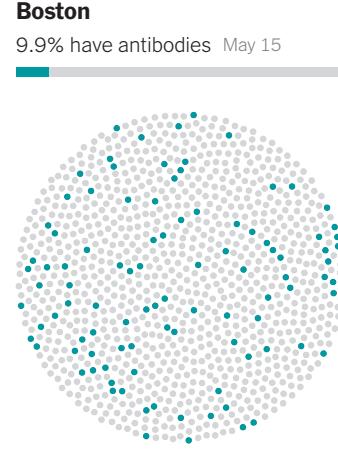
Madrid

11.3% have antibodies May 13



Wuhan (returning workers)

10% have antibodies April 20



Boston

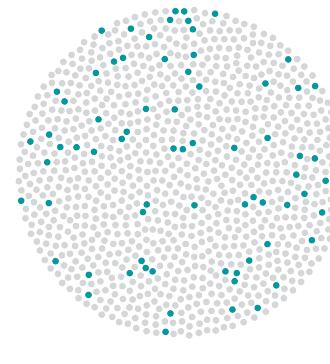
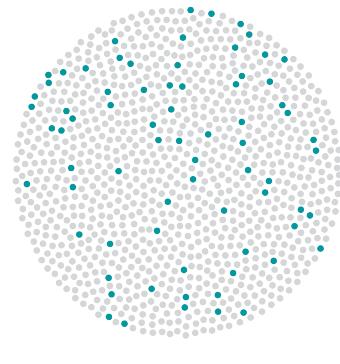
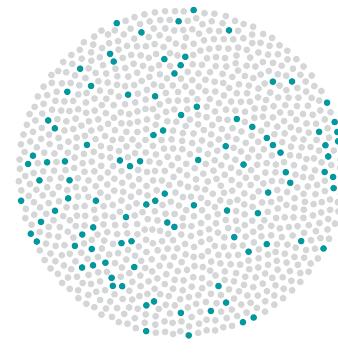
9.9% have antibodies May 15

Stockholm region

7.3% have antibodies May 20

Barcelona

7.1% have antibodies May 13



Note: Studies represent best current estimates, but are inexact and may overestimate immunity where coronavirus infections are low. Reported dates reflect when study results were publicly released. The study from Wuhan, China, evaluated immunity only among people returning to work, not in the general population.

Sources: New York State; Public Health England; Carlos III Health Institute; Wu et al., Journal of Medical Virology; City of Boston; Public Health Agency of Sweden

NADJA POPOVICH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

In Battling Outbreak, Herd Immunity Remains Distant Objective

By NADJA POPOVICH
and MARGOT SANGER-KATZ

The coronavirus still has a long way to go. That's the message from a crop of new studies across the world that are trying to quantify how many people have been infected.

Official case counts often substantially underestimate the number of coronavirus infections. But in new studies that test the population more broadly, the percentage of people who have been infected so far is still in the single digits. The numbers are a

fraction of the threshold known as herd immunity, at which the virus can no longer spread widely. The precise herd immunity threshold for the novel coronavirus is not yet clear; but several experts said they believed it would be higher than 60 percent.

Even in some of the hardest-hit cities in the world, the studies suggest, a vast majority of people still remain vulnerable to the virus.

Some countries — notably Sweden, and briefly Britain — have experimented with limited lockdowns in an effort to build up

Even Infection Rate of Ravaged New York Is Far Below Mark

immunity in their populations. But even in these places, recent studies indicate that no more than 7 to 17 percent of people have been infected so far. In New York City, which has had the largest coronavirus outbreak in the United States, around 20 percent of the city's residents

have been infected by the virus as of early May, according to a survey of people in grocery stores and community centers released by the governor's office.

Similar surveys are underway in China, where the coronavirus first emerged, but results have not yet been reported. A study from a single hospital in the city of Wuhan found that about 10 percent of people seeking to go back to work had been infected with the virus.

Viewed together, the studies show herd immunity protection is unlikely to be reached "any

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As Virus Aid Nears Cutoff, Millions Fear What's Next

New Federal Action May Be Limited Despite Economists' Pleas — Clashes Loom

By BEN CASSELMAN

For millions of Americans left out of work by the coronavirus pandemic, government assistance has been a lifeline preventing a plunge into poverty, hunger and financial ruin.

This summer, that lifeline could snap.

The \$1,200 checks sent to most households are long gone, at least for those who needed them most, with little imminent prospect for a second round. The lending program that helped millions of small businesses keep workers on the payroll will wind down if Congress does not extend it. Eviction moratoriums that are keeping people in their homes are expiring in many cities.

And the \$600 per week in extra unemployment benefits that have allowed tens of millions of laid-off workers to pay rent and buy groceries will expire at the end of July.

The latest sign of the economic strain and the government's role in easing it came Thursday when the Labor Department reported that millions more Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week. More than 40 million have filed for benefits since the crisis began, and some 30 million are receiving them.

The multitrillion-dollar patchwork of federal and state programs hasn't kept bills from piling up or prevented long lines at food banks. But it has mitigated the damage. Now the expiration of those programs represents a cliff they are hurtling toward, for individuals and for the economy.

"The CARES Act was massive, but it was a very short-term offset to what is likely to be a long-term problem," said Aneta Markowska, chief financial economist for the

investment bank Jefferies, referring to the legislative centerpiece of the federal rescue. "This economy is clearly going to need more support."

Even the possibility that the programs will be allowed to expire could have economic consequences, Ms. Markowska said, as consumers and businesses gird for the loss of federal assistance.

President Trump and other Republicans have played down the need for more spending, saying the solution is for states to reopen businesses and allow companies to bring people back to work. So despite pleas from economists across the political spectrum — including Jerome H. Powell,

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Source: Labor Dept.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

China Scorns U.S. Threats (Trade Aside)

By KEITH BRADSHER
and STEVEN LEE MYERS

BEIJING — Ignoring threats from Washington, China stripped another layer of autonomy from Hong Kong on Thursday, plowing ahead with a plan that would ban any form of dissent deemed subversive in the territory reclaimed from

Britain more than two decades ago.

But even as the plan was approved by China's top legislative body, and Chinese officials taunted the United States as an imperious meddler, Premier Li Keqiang struck a conciliatory tone. While offering no concessions to American demands, he called for close trade relations between the two countries.

The clash over Hong Kong and other issues points to the quandary facing China as it grows in power and contends with an increasingly aggressive Trump administration. The Chinese leadership does not want to incinerate the relationship with the United States, given the enormous economic benefits. Nor is it willing to back down, reflecting divisions in Beijing between hawks and more moderating forces.

"Anything the U.S. says or does will do, China will refuse," Shi Yinhong, a professor

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The parking lot of a Target store in Minneapolis on Thursday as protests spread around the area.

CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

National Guard Deployed as Minneapolis Erupts

This article is by Matt Furber,
John Eligon and Audra D. S. Burch.

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota's governor activated the National Guard on Thursday as angry demonstrators took to the streets for a third straight night to protest the death of George Floyd, a black man who was pleading that he could not breathe as a white police officer pressed his knee into Mr. Floyd's neck.

The order by Gov. Tim Walz came as the city asked for help after vandalism and fires erupted during demonstrations and as the Justice Department announced

Outrage Over Death of Black Man in Custody

that a federal investigation into Mr. Floyd's death was a top priority.

At a news conference on Thursday evening, U.S. Attorney Erica MacDonald pledged a "robust and meticulous investigation" into the death but stopped short of announcing criminal charges against the four officers who were at the scene, all of whom were fired after Mr. Floyd's death was

captured in a haunting videotape.

"My heart goes out to George Floyd," said Ms. MacDonald, a former judge. "My heart goes out to his family. My heart goes out to his friends. My heart goes out to the community."

South Minneapolis continued to seethe at the treatment of Mr. Floyd — and demonstrators railed against what they described as a city in which black lives are valued less than those of white residents.

"I want justice. I hope the continued pressure will get us charges, but we have to have some patience," said Jamar Nel.

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