Can we count on immunity?

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One of the most important questions of the COVID-19 debate is: Can people who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 acquire lasting immunity against reinfection?

Some of the strongest evidence of immunity comes from studies of people who were infected with SARS-CoV, the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome. In a 2003 study, researchers experimentally challenged 15 volunteers with the human coronavirus 229E. The participants got infected, and eight had symptoms of a cold. Six of the nine who were infected, but the titers of IgG antibodies drop precipitously at a later point. So, it is not clear if there is long-term immunity against SARS-CoV.

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