

## Has the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 made Herd Immunity Impossible?



- Scientists hoped that, following vaccination, populations would develop herd immunity to [SARS-CoV-2](#), reducing the risk of infection, even for people without antibodies against the virus.
- However, the head of the Oxford Vaccine Group, Prof. Andrew Pollard, says herd immunity is “not a possibility” given how transmissible the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 is.
- Other health experts remain optimistic despite the challenges this rapidly spreading variant poses.

Prof. Andrew Pollard, head of the Oxford Vaccine Group, says that herd immunity is “not a possibility” in light of the spread of the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2.

Prof. Pollard, who is also the chair of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which advises the United Kingdom government, was giving evidence to Members of the House of Commons of the U.K. Parliament.

His comments follow the preprint publication of the latest data from the Real-time Assessment of Community Transmission 1 (REACT 1) study, which suggest that the COVID-19 vaccines are only 49% effective against the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2.