



SUBSCRIBE

healthline

Search Healthline



REVIEWED

By Chris at 3:30 pm, Sep 18, 2020

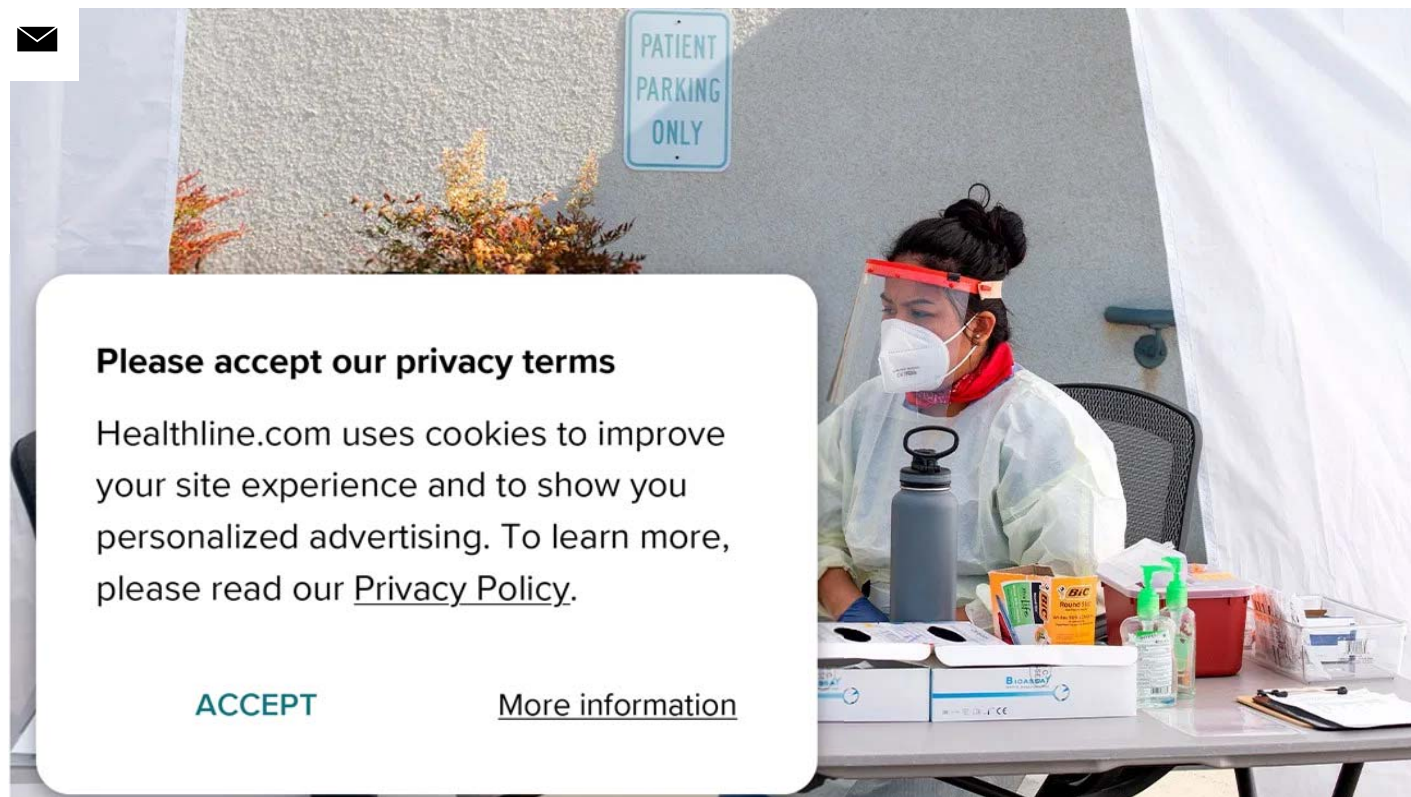
HEALTH NEWS

Fact Checked

People Who Test Positive for COVID-19 After Recovering Aren't Infectious



Written by [Julia Ries](#) on May 26, 2020 — [Fact checked](#) by Dana K. Cassell



Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).


ACCEPT



[More information](#)



While the findings are promising, infectious disease experts say we still need to practice caution. Getty Images

- **New [research](#) published by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that recovered COVID-19 patients who test positive again aren't infectious.**
- **Viral material was found to be dead virus.**
- **This research may help health experts figure out who's at risk for transmitting the virus to others.**

All data and statistics are based on publicly available data at the time of publication. Some information may be out of date. Visit our [coronavirus hub](#) and follow our [live updates page](#) for the most recent information on the COVID-19 outbreak.

Around the world, there have been several cases of people recovering from COVID-19  to later test positive again and appear to have [another infection](#).

 1 cases have had doctors and researchers puzzling over whether recovered people  inue to be contagious, and if they could get a second infection.

 , new [research](#) published by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  found that recovered COVID-19 patients who test positive again aren't infectious.

The study also found that most patients who recover have neutralizing antibodies — the type of antibody that confers immunity and protects people from getting sick again.

“This study addresses the question of whether patients who have recovered from COVID-19 are still contagious, a question that has been troubling us for some time,” says infectious disease doctor. “This study suggests that recovered patients are no longer contagious.”

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)

The viral material in re-positive cases isn't infectious

The Korean study examined 285 patients who tested positive again for the new coronavirus after they recovered from COVID-19, which had been confirmed via a negative test result.

The researchers swabbed the patients and examined the viral material to determine whether it was still actively infectious.

The team was unable to isolate live viral material, indicating that the positive diagnostic tests were picking up dead virus particles.

This may speak for the fact that the virus may be dead or not be fit enough to grow — before the virus may not be fit enough to infect a new host,” said [Dr. Andres Romero](#), infectious disease specialist at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, California.

The researchers also tested 790 people who’d been in close contact with the “re-positive” patients. Of the 27 who tested positive, no cases appeared to be caused from re-infection.

The recovered patients (96 percent) had developed immunity. The response remains to be proven. If the re-positive response can get back to work,” Zapata

In addition, the study indicated a policy requiring discharged

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)

patients to isolate for 2 weeks.

HEALTHLINE RESOURCES

Until you get through this, count on our support

In difficult times, you need to be able to turn to experts who understand and can help strengthen your mental well-being. We're here for you.

READ MORE

Conducting and interpreting PCR tests

Facebook tests widely used to diagnose COVID-19 are called polymerase chain reaction (PCR)



Facebook tests swab a person's nose or throat and try to pick up the virus's genetic material, or

Pinterest According to [guidance](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

Envelope a positive result on a PCR test doesn't "necessarily mean infectious virus is present or that the patient is contagious."

Infectious disease experts have suspected that the test kits aren't picking up actively infectious viral material in recovered patients who test positive again, but rather dead

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).


ACCEPT [More information](#)

metapneumovirus, or RSV [respiratory syncytial virus], and that does not represent the same."


CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Stay on top of the COVID-19 pandemic

We'll email you the latest developments about the novel coronavirus and Healthline's top health news stories, daily.

 Enter your email

SIGN UP NOW

 [privacy](#) is important to us



We still need to practice caution

While the findings are promising, infectious disease experts say we still need to practice caution.

More research is needed to validate these findings and determine whether they apply to di... are immunocompromised.

It's Healthline.com uses cookies to improve such as those with cancer — to continue
te your site experience and to show you their immune system more time to
cl personalized advertising. To learn more,
please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

“I whether each recovered person is no
lo ct population groups,” Zapata said.

Physicians are seeing some hospitalized patients testing positive for a month after they

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

ACCEPT

[More information](#)

were first swabbed for COVID-19. It's unclear whether these patients still shed infectious virus, according to Zapata.

Everyone's body mounts a distinct immune response based on their age and overall health. Different individuals will clear the virus out at different speeds, according to Zapata.

Until we have more data and a preventive vaccine, it's crucial to continue adhering to the [safety precautions](#) laid out by the CDC.

"The reality is that moving forward, the best approach will be keeping social/physical distancing, wearing a mask, and frequent hand hygiene in order to control the spread of the virus," Romero said.

the bottom line

- Doctors and researchers have been unsure whether people who recover from COVID-19 test positive again continue to be contagious, or if they could get a second infection.
- Research published by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that recovered COVID-19 patients who test positive again aren't infectious.

The study also found that most patients who recover have neutralizing antibodies that protect them from getting sick again.

They still need more data to validate the findings in different patient populations.

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

ACCEPT

[More information](#)

accurate results

Buy for an at-home COVID-19 test. Free shipping test.



FEEDBACK:

READ THIS NEXT

Not Sure You Have COVID-19? Here Are the Symptoms for Coronavirus, Flu, and Allergies

Fatigue and body aches are symptoms of both the flu and the new coronavirus, but the flu usually doesn't cause shortness of breath.

[READ MORE →](#)



CDC Gives New Recommendations to Safely Reopen Amid COVID-19

guidelines on how to safely reopen the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)

o for the s at Home

The United States may soon see widespread COVID-19 activity. COVID-19 is relatively mild in the vast majority of cases, but there are things you can...

[READ MORE →](#)

How to Make a Cloth Face Mask with a Filter

Medically reviewed by [Debra Sullivan, Ph.D., MSN, R.N., CNE, COI](#)

Here are simple methods you can use at home to make your own cloth face mask with a filter to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

[READ MORE →](#)



Physical Distancing Was Just Supposed to Buy Us Time. Was It Enough?

...ill limited on the impact of physical
...ly data suggests that it didn't
...of infections...

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)

...oping with 'Cabin

Fever' During a Shelter-in-Place

Self-quarantine can be challenging, but coping with it isn't impossible.

[READ MORE →](#)

I Have OCD. These 5 Tips Are Helping Me Survive My Coronavirus Anxiety

Medically reviewed by [Timothy J. Legg, Ph.D., CRNP](#)

There's a difference between being cautious and being compulsive.

[READ MORE →](#)

What Is a Pandemic?

Medically reviewed by [Meredith Goodwin, MD, FAAFP](#)

...emic that reaches worldwide. The
...ation has specific criteria for when an
...pandemic.

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)

Health Apps to Help

Manage Coronavirus Anxiety

Your smartphone doesn't have to be a source of endless anxiety.

[READ MORE →](#)

Remember Zika? We Now Know How Bad the Virus Was for Infants

Almost one-third of children with Zika had developmental delays and other problems, a new study finds.

[READ MORE →](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

[ACCEPT](#)

[More information](#)



ewsletter

ix with health and wellness

advice that's inclusive and rooted in medical expertise.

Enter your email	SIGN UP
------------------	----------------

Your [privacy](#) is important to us

[About Us](#)

[Advertising Policy](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Health Topics](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[License Our Content](#)

[Do Not Sell My Info](#)

[Find an Online Doctor](#)

[Privacy Settings](#)

[Contact Us](#)

© 2005-2020 Healthline Media a Red Ventures Company.
All rights reserved. Our website services, content, and products are for informational purposes only. Healthline Media does not provide medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. [See additional information.](#)



Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

ACCEPT

[More information](#)

[About](#) | [Careers](#) | [Advertise with us](#)

OUR BRANDS

[Healthline](#)

[Medical News Today](#)

[Greatist](#)



Please accept our privacy terms

Healthline.com uses cookies to improve your site experience and to show you personalized advertising. To learn more, please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

ACCEPT

[More information](#)