



Chisago County
Health and Human Services
Public Health Division



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Herd Immunity, Explained

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Simply put, herd immunity means that after a certain proportion of a population has become immune to a virus, an outbreak will stop growing exponentially. There may continue to be new cases, but each new case will be less likely to start a big chain of infections. There is a certain threshold in which herd immunity can be reached. For COVID-19, the exact figure for the threshold depends on whom you ask or what website you Google. The herd immunity threshold for COVID-19 could be lower, or higher, than 60 percent. It depends on the makeup of a community, and its social dynamics. Once you hit the herd immunity threshold, it doesn't mean the pandemic is over. After the threshold is reached, the pandemic slows down.

Infectious-disease experts adamantly warn against the notion of trying to reach herd immunity to the coronavirus without a vaccine, as the costs on human life would be staggering and it likely wouldn't happen soon, if at all. "With a combination of a good vaccine together with good public-health measures, we may be able to put this coronavirus outbreak behind us," Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Chisago County, visit @ChisagoCountyPublicHealth on Facebook or the [Chisago County COVID-19 Information Page](#).