**Study Suggests People Who Got COVID-19 Protected for Months**

**研究表明患过新冠肺炎的人数月内不会再被感染**

People who have had COVID-19 are unlikely to get the disease again for at least six months after their first infection, new research suggests.

一项新的研究表明，患过新冠肺炎的人在首次感染后至少6个月内不太可能再次感染该疾病。

Researchers studied 12,219 British healthcare workers involved in treating people infected with the new coronavirus. COVID-19 is the disease caused by that virus.

研究人员研究了12219名参与治疗新冠状病毒感染者的英国医护人员。新冠肺炎是由这种病毒引起的疾病。

The findings could be important for tens of millions of people worldwide who have been infected, researchers at the University of Oxford said.

牛津大学的研究人员表示，这一发现对全世界数以千万计的感染者来说或许非常重要。

“This is really good news, because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get COVID-19 won’t get it again,” said David Eyre. He was one of the leaders of the study.

大卫·艾尔表示：“这真是个好消息，因为我们可以确信至少短期内大多数感染过新冠肺炎的人不会再得这种病了。”他是这项研究的其中一位领导者。

Rare cases of re-infection had caused concern that immunity from the virus might not last and that recovered patients might get sick again.

极少数再次感染的病例引发了人们的担忧——对病毒的免疫力或许并不持久，康复的患者可能还会再次被感染。

But the results of the study suggest cases of reinfection are likely to remain extremely rare. The study was carried out on healthcare workers who are among those at highest risk of getting COVID-19.

但研究结果表明，愈后再次感染的病例或许仍是极为罕见的。这项研究主要是针对那些最容易感染新冠肺炎的医护人员进行的。

“Being infected with COVID-19 does offer protection against re-infection for most people for at least six months,” Eyre said. “We found no new symptomatic infections” in any of the workers who had tested positive for antibodies.

艾尔表示：“患过新冠肺炎确实能在至少6个月内保护大多数患者免受再次感染。”在抗体检测呈阳性的工作人员中“我们没有发现新的有症状感染”。

The study is part of a major employee testing program. It covered a 30-week period between April and November 2020. The results have not yet been studied and confirmed by other scientists but were published early on the website MedRxiv.

该研究是一项重大的员工测试计划的一部分。这一研究的研究周期跨越2020年4月到11月长达30周的时间。研究结果尚未得到其他科学家的研究和证实，但已在MedRxiv网站上发布。

During the study, 89 of 11,052 healthcare workers without antibodies got a new infection with symptoms. However, none of the 1,246 workers with antibodies got a symptomatic infection.

在这项研究中，11052名没有抗体的医护人员中有89人出现了新的感染症状。然而，1246名有抗体的工作人员中没有一人出现有症状感染。

The workers with antibodies were also less likely to test positive for COVID-19 without symptoms, the researchers said. Seventy-six of them without antibodies tested positive, compared to three with antibodies. Those three are all well and did not get COVID-19 symptoms, they added.

研究人员表示，有抗体的工作人员在没有症状的情况下也不太可能检测出新冠肺炎阳性。无抗体人群中有76人检测呈阳性，而有抗体的则有3人。他们补充道，这三个人状态都很好，没有出现新冠肺炎症状。

Eyre told Reuters news agency that the researchers would keep watching the workers carefully “to see how long protection lasts.” And they will watch to see whether an earlier infection affects the severity of a new infection.

艾尔告诉路透社记者，研究人员将继续仔细观察这些工作人员“看这种保护能持续多久”，并观察早期感染是否会影响新的感染的严重程度。

I’m Alice Bryant.

爱丽丝·布莱恩特报道。

**Study Suggests People Who Got COVID-19 Protected for Months**

People who have had COVID-19 are unlikely to get the disease again for at least six months after their first infection, new research suggests.

Researchers studied 12,219 British healthcare workers involved in treating people infected with the new coronavirus. COVID-19 is the disease caused by that virus.

The findings could be important for tens of millions of people worldwide who have been infected, researchers at the University of Oxford said.

“This is really good news, because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get COVID-19 won’t get it again,” said David Eyre. He was one of the leaders of the study.

Rare cases of re-infection had caused concern that immunity from the virus might not last and that recovered patients might get sick again.

But the results of the study suggest cases of reinfection are likely to remain extremely rare. The study was carried out on healthcare workers who are among those at highest risk of getting COVID-19.

“Being infected with COVID-19 does offer protection against re-infection for most people for at least six months,” Eyre said. “We found no new symptomatic infections” in any of the workers who had tested positive for antibodies.

The study is part of a major employee testing program. It covered a 30-week period between April and November 2020. The results have not yet been studied and confirmed by other scientists but were published early on the website MedRxiv.

During the study, 89 of 11,052 healthcare workers without antibodies got a new infection with symptoms. However, none of the 1,246 workers with antibodies got a symptomatic infection.

The workers with antibodies were also less likely to test positive for COVID-19 without symptoms, the researchers said. Seventy-six of them without antibodies tested positive, compared to three with antibodies. Those three are all well and did not get COVID-19 symptoms, they added.

Eyre told Reuters news agency that the researchers would keep watching the workers carefully “to see how long protection lasts.” And they will watch to see whether an earlier infection affects the severity of a new infection.

I’m Alice Bryant.