

# HB 819/ SB 943: Public Health - *COVID-19 and Other Influenza-Like Illnesses – Antibody Tests*

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HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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# Problem:

- Vaccination requirements are burdensome and a violation of people's rights
- Unvaccinated people are currently unable to fully participate in society. Due to COVID-19 vaccine requirements, they may be barred from:
  - Employment
  - Continuing their education at educational institutions
  - Receiving proper medical care
  - Frequenting businesses
  - Attending events

# About COVID-19 Antibody Tests:

- These tests have come into popular use as tools to determine a prior infection
- If the antibody test is positive, it indicates that antibodies have been produced in response to COVID-19
  - This indicates an immune response to the disease



# What this bill does:

For COVID-19 and other influenza-like illnesses:

- An individual may show proof of a positive antibody test to satisfy any vaccination requirement established by:
  - State or Local Government
  - Employers
  - Educational Institutions
  - Medical Facilities
  - Business Establishments
  - Non-profit Organizations
  - Events

# Natural Immunity:

- Antibodies created naturally to COVID–19 are better, more dependable, and equal to or more powerful than any industrially manufactured vaccine
  - A 2021 Denmark Study of unvaccinated individuals demonstrated that 99% of individuals that contracted COVID-19 had SARS-CoV-2 specific antibodies and had robust adaptive immune responses afterwards, regardless of disease severity
  - An 8 month study in Georgia determined that broad and effective immunity persists long-term following COVID-19 infection

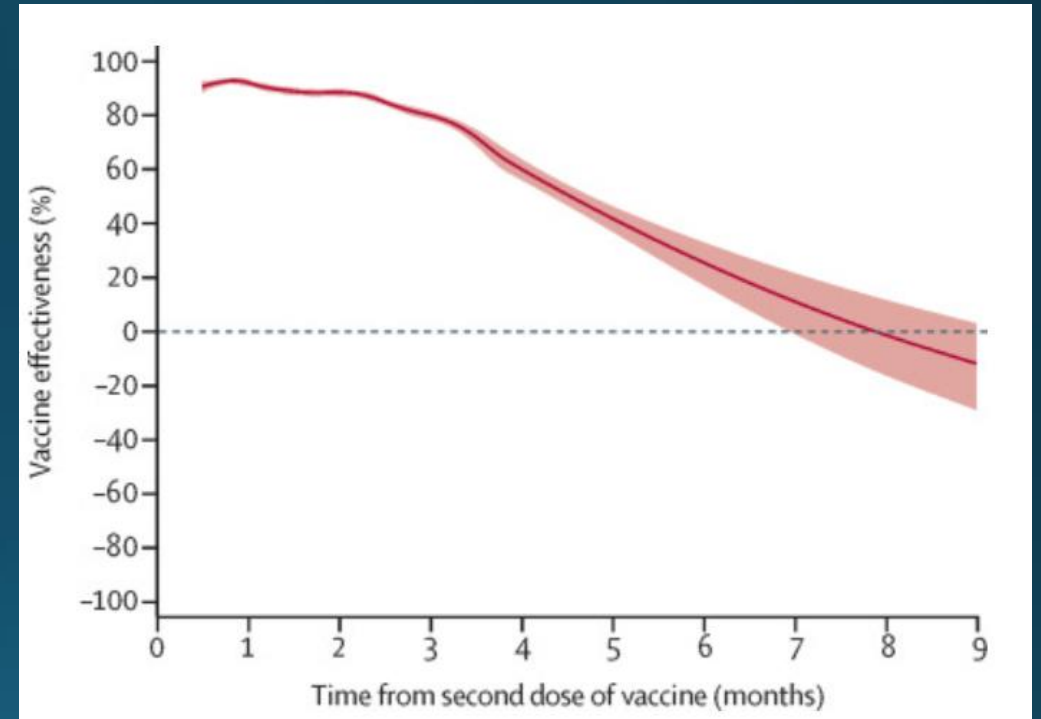
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# Natural Immunity vs Vaccination Immunity

- A 2022 study in Sweden showed waning immunity from all vaccines considered
  - “The findings from this study show there was a progressive waning vaccine effectiveness of BNT162b2 against SARS-CoV-2 infection of any severity, with no vaccine effectiveness detected from 7 months onwards”



# Natural Immunity vs Vaccination Immunity

- A 2020 Primate study showed Moderna's Vaccine was missing a CD8 T cell response, which is critical for a complete immune response
- A 2021 Israeli study of the Pfizer vaccine determined that "natural immunity confers longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalization caused by the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, compared to the BNT1 62b2 two-dose vaccine-induced immunity."
  - "The advantageous protection afforded by natural immunity that this analysis demonstrates could be explained by the more extensive immune response to the SARS-CoV-2 proteins than that generated by the anti-spike protein immune activation conferred by the vaccine"

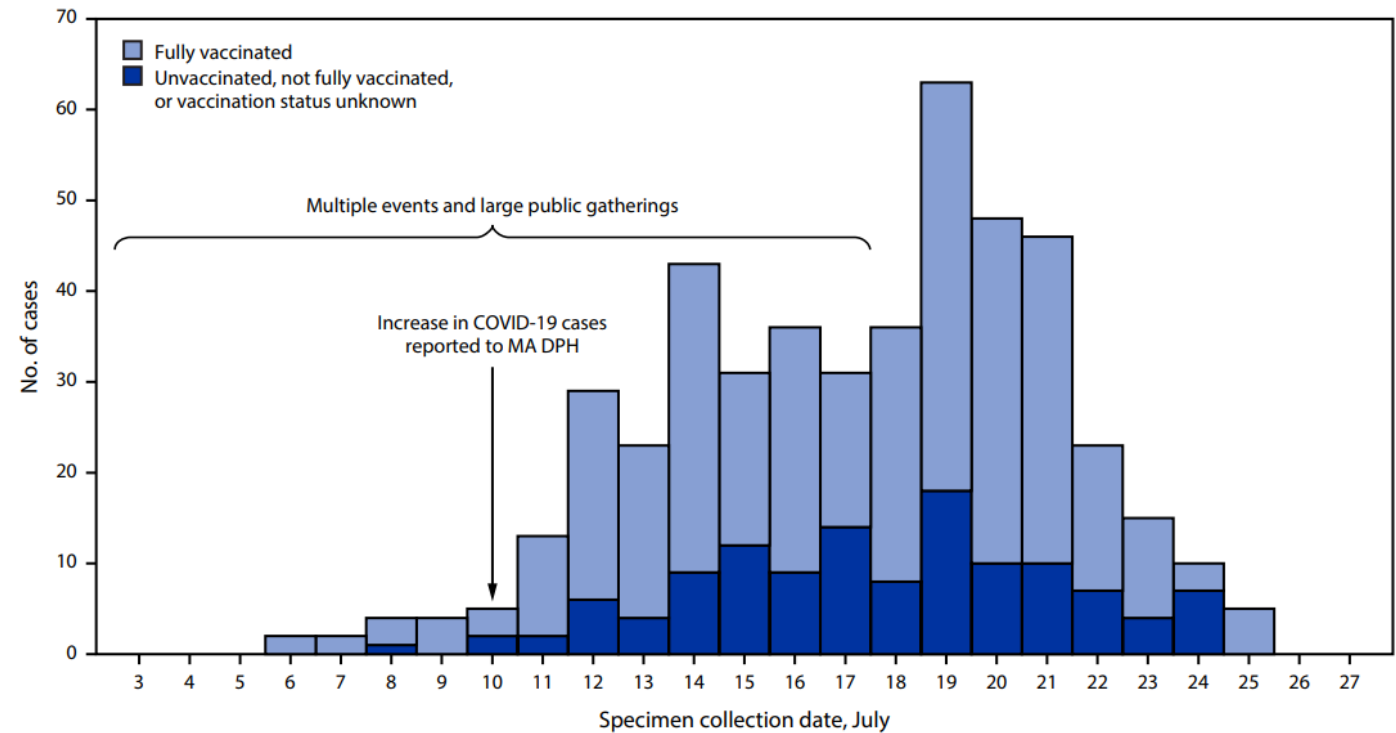
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMoa2024671>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1>

# Natural Immunity vs Vaccination Immunity

- A 2021 MMWR Report by the CDC showed a Delta variant outbreak in Massachusetts
  - 74% of cases occurred in previously vaccinated individuals
  - 79% of previously vaccinated individuals were symptomatic

FIGURE 1. SARS-CoV-2 infections (N = 469) associated with large public gatherings, by date of specimen collection and vaccination status\* — Barnstable County, Massachusetts, July 2021





# Benefits of the Bill

- More individuals would be able to live and work without undue restrictions
- Natural immunity would be given the credit that it is due
- If vaccine requirements are implemented, the entity imposing the requirements should follow the science and allow for positive antibody tests to count as part of any requirement

Please vote yes on HB 819

Questions?