

‘Politics of natural immunity vs vaccines’: British Medical Journal reports US stands alone in ‘not counting’ immunity impact of people who have had COVID in recommendations

When the vaccine rollout began in mid-December 2020, more than one quarter of Americans—91 million—had been infected with SARS-CoV-2, according to a [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) estimate](#).

As of this May, that proportion had risen to more than a third of the population, including 44% of adults aged 18-59

The substantial number of infections, coupled with the increasing scientific evidence that natural immunity was durable, led some medical observers to ask why natural immunity didn’t seem to be [factored into decisions about prioritising vaccination](#).

“The CDC could say [to people who had recovered], very well grounded in excellent data, that you should wait 8 months,” [said infectious disease expert] Monica Gandhi... She suggested authorities ask people to [“please wait your turn.”](#)

...

Still, the CDC instructed everyone, regardless of previous infection, to get fully vaccinated as soon as they were eligible.

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As more US employers, local governments, and educational institutions issue vaccine mandates that [make no exception for those who have had covid-19](#), questions remain about the science and ethics of treating this group of people as equally vulnerable to the virus—or as equally threatening to those vulnerable to covid-19—and to what extent politics has played a role.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)