

# Herd Immunity, Deathmaking and the Limits to Growth

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**ABSTRACT:** I was reading the comments after an article about Dominic Cummings, the adviser to British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. One of the comments that caught my attention was an attack on Cummings for promoting ‘herd immunity.’ This came after I had had a disagreement with someone yesterday, in which I was more or less accused of flirting with fascist ideas by seeing value in the concept of herd immunity.

**KEY WORDS:** herd immunity, Covid-19, coronavirus, capitalism

For the record, here are two descriptions of ‘herd immunity,’ one from Wikipedia and another from an article by Anthony Barnett. I know Wikipedia is not always reliable, but for this purpose it will do. I invite readers to compare the two descriptions of what is supposed to be the same idea.

## **The Medical concept (as described in Wikipedia):**

*Herd immunity (also called herd effect, community immunity, population immunity, or social immunity) is a form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a large percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through vaccination or previous infections, thereby providing a measure of protection for individuals who are not immune. In a population in which a large proportion of individuals possess immunity, such people being unlikely to contribute to disease transmission, chains of infection are more likely to be disrupted, which either stops*