

**Question for written answer E-002303/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID), Sylvia Limmer (ID)**

**Subject:** Need for COVID-19 vaccinations for sufferers who have recovered

Studies<sup>1</sup> suggest that people who have already had the SARS-CoV-2 virus have a similar level of protection from becoming infected (again) to people who have been vaccinated. The recommendations of the Standing Committee on Vaccination of the Robert Koch Institute (STIKO) for the Biontech/Pfizer und Moderna mRNA vaccines in January state that people who have been infected should 'initially not be vaccinated'<sup>2</sup>. If the recovery takes place too close to the vaccination date, there might even be complications due to over-stimulation of the immune system.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of this recommendation? In Germany almost 3 million people have so far been officially registered as suffering from COVID-19. It can be assumed that the actual number of sufferers is much higher, as the unrecorded cases are either free of symptoms or have recovered without an illness having been identified. The Robert Koch Institute assumes a figure of 4-6% of unrecorded cases. This means that up to 18 million people in Germany might be protected against the SARS-CoV-2 virus after recovering from an infection. This group would therefore not need to be vaccinated any time soon.
2. Does the Commission take such considerations into account in its assessments – particularly given the limited number of vaccine doses and appointments?
3. Antibody tests, which could be administered by every general practitioner, who would then be able to make a recommendation on vaccination, would ease the pressure on the healthcare system, free up appointment space and economise on vaccine use, thereby saving a lot of money. Has the Commission taken the immunisation of sufferers who have recovered into consideration in its strategy?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.13.21249642v1.full>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rnd.de/gesundheit/nach-corona-infektion-noch-impfen-das-sollten-sie-wissen-IWRHSYBLTRAQBM3QPVDM2AGA7Y.html>