



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



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RE: California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Dear Ms. Brehm:

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of the "Convalescent Community" requesting reclassification of those who have been naturally infected with COVID-19 as equivalent to persons who have been vaccinated (presumably for the purposes of vaccine verification or restrictions). At this time, there is insufficient scientific evidence to conclude that immune protection from natural infection in unvaccinated individuals is equivalent to immune protection in vaccinated individuals for these purposes.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to review the epidemiological data and updated science about transmission risk posed. At this juncture, there is some scientific documentation of post-infection immunity for those who have contracted COVID-19, but it appears to be lower than that conferred by vaccines, most markedly in the elderly. Given this current scientific understanding, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for previously infected persons: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s_cid=10482:can%20you%20get%20the%20covid%20vaccine%20if%20you%20had%20covid:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

Sincerely,

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
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