

Dr. Anthony Fauci: Americans could eventually carry certificates of immunity to coronavirus



Photo by: Jens Meyer

A scientist presents an antibody test for coronavirus in a laboratory of the Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology (Leibniz IPHT) at the InfectoGnostics research campus in Jena, Germany, Friday, April 3, 2020. An international team of researchers with the participation of the Jena Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology (Leibniz IPHT) has developed a rapid antibody test for the new coronavirus. By means of a blood sample, the test shows within 10 minutes whether a person is acutely infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus (IgM antibody) or already immune to it (IgG antibody). (AP Photo/Jens Meyer)

Dr. Anthony Fauci on Friday said it's possible that Americans could eventually carry around certificates of immunity to the coronavirus once proper testing is widespread enough.

"That's possible," Dr. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases, said on CNN's "New Day."

"It's one of those things that we talk about when we want to make sure that we know who the vulnerable people are and not," he said. "This is something that's being discussed. I think it might actually have some merit."

Sen. Bill Cassidy, Louisiana Republican, has pitched the idea of an immunity registry to document people no longer believed to be at risk of infection.

Federal and state officials have said that antibody testing to try to determine whether someone had the coronavirus is one of the next major fronts in the battle against COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Dr. Fauci said that within about a week, there will be a "rather large number" of tests that are available but that validating them is key.

"Other countries have gotten burned by this," he said. "They need to be validated. You need to make sure that they're consistent and that they're accurate."

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