

**- Cold (Disease) / Virus****Prior cold 'could protect' vs COVID-study**

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LONDON—High levels of T-cells created by the body to fight off common cold coronaviruses can protect against COVID-19, an Imperial College London study published on Monday has found. The study looked at 52 household contacts of COVID-19-positive cases and found that 26 did not get infected. This group was found to have significantly higher levels of T-cells from a previous bout with the common cold. Imperial did not say how long protection from the T-cells would last. “We found that high levels of preexisting T-cells, created by the body when infected with other human coronaviruses like the common cold, can protect against COVID-19 infection,” study author Dr. Rhia Kundu said. The authors of the study, published in Nature Communications, said that the internal proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which are targeted by the T-cells, could offer an alternative target for vaccine makers, who currently focus on the spike protein.