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# OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE FROM PROF. SIMON DE LUSIGNAN,  
DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD-RCGP RSC



## The Road to Better Care



Summer offers a quieter period to prepare for the busier cold and flu season ahead. **Careful planning** and preparation now can help support a **smoother transition** into the autumn and winter months.

Our **Practice Liaison Team** is here to train and support your practice with surveillance sampling, helping you establish efficient sampling processes, check stock levels, refresh staff knowledge, and ensure equipment is ready. Additionally, we provide access to a **Practice Hub**, a one-stop shop and digital resources for you to access essential materials and encourage your team to be confident samplers. When workflows are clear and teams are confident, **sampling becomes part of routine practice** rather than an additional challenge during periods of increased demand.

Preparing early also **benefits patients**. Clear guidance and promotional materials about sampling, whether at home or in practice, can help patients understand the services available to them and what to expect. This can **reduce delays** and help ensure samples are collected correctly the first time.

A little preparation during the summer can make all the difference. By putting the right processes, resources, and support in place now, practices can head into the autumn and winter months **with confidence**. If you're interested in integrating surveillance sampling into your workflows ahead of winter, please get in touch with our [Practice Liaison Team](#).

## We are hosting our second-ever Oxford-RCGP RSC Roadshow

**Join us for a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and gain insight into the work that drives our network forward.**

We are hosting two events in **July**. The first took place in **Oxford** on the **3rd** and the second will take place, in **London** on the **21st**.

These exclusive events bring together both current and prospective practices for valuable face-to-face engagement with the team behind the scenes. Attendees hear directly from key voices shaping our programme, including:

- **Prof. Simon de Lusignan**, Medical Director
- Our dedicated **Practice Liaison Officers**
- Representatives from **UKHSA** and the **Royal College of General Practitioners**
- Researchers, Clinicians and practice representatives sharing real-world experience

The remaining event is open to the entire network. For anyone willing to travel, you are more than welcome.

Please feel free to forward the link on to your colleagues outside of the network too, the more the merrier!

Our expert speakers will explore a range of important and timely topics, including:

- How our **national surveillance programme** operates—and why it matters
- The power of **collaboration across organisations**
- The critical role of **high-quality clinical coding**
- The **lifecycle of a network practice**, from onboarding to engagement
- **Patient and public involvement & engagement (PPIE)** in research
- And much more



*There are limited spaces, so please register as early as possible. For fairness, we ask that you only register for one of the dates. Lunch will be provided.*

***It's not too late to sign up for the Roadshows. Follow this [link](#), for more information.***

# Sampling Is Informing

Welcome to the newest segment of our weekly newsletter

## Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

There have been fewer cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) during these Spring and Summer months, as expected with the change in seasons.

But we can still see flu swab positivity even during warmer weather, as our sampling practices continue surveillance efforts for us all-year round.

It's incredibly important for us to continue to track these viruses as these surveillance programmes help to inform the flu vaccine composition for next year's campaign, and additionally it improves our ability to spot potential epidemics and pandemics early.

Opportunities to sample may be reduced due to fewer attendances during these months, as patient health behaviours do change in the summer (more free time, better health, summer holidays etc).

But this graph highlights the persistence of viruses throughout the year, and the valuable work done by our sampling practices in the network.

