

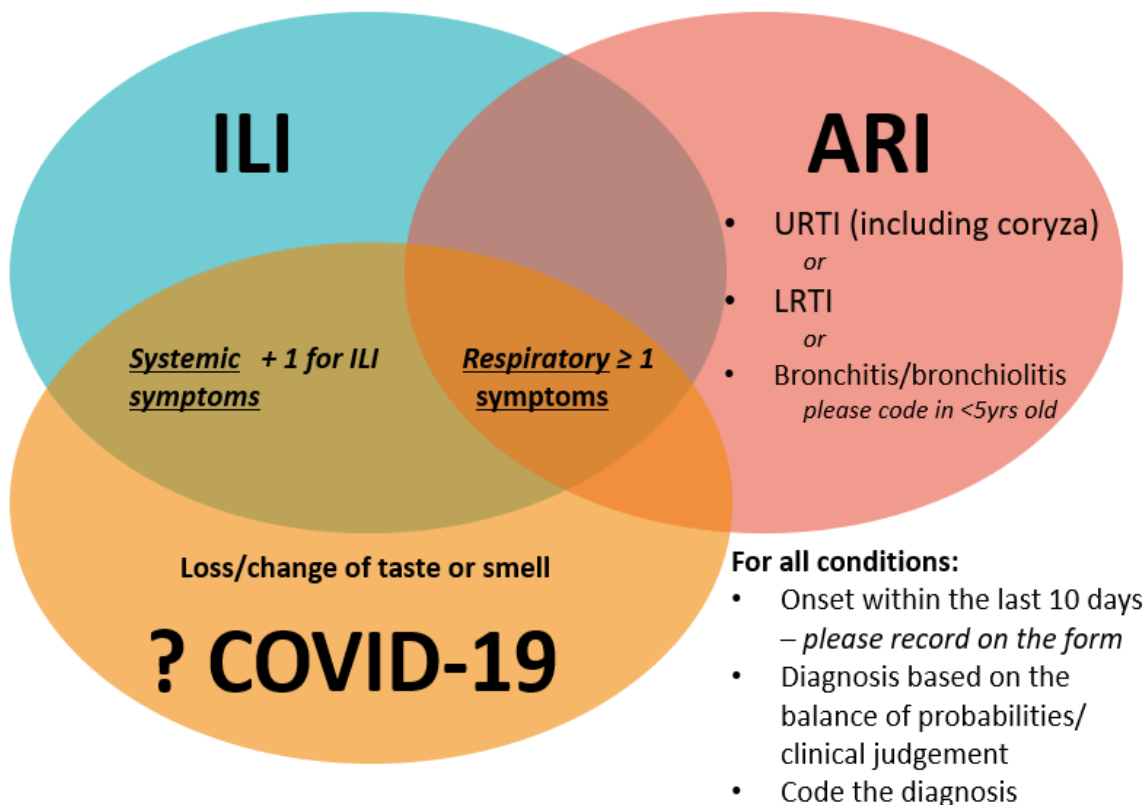


Weekly update from Simon de Lusignan, [@Lusignan_S](#)
Director of Oxford RSC, **7th- 11th Mar 2022**, Issue 56

Our New Swabbing Criteria!

For those of you who might have missed our additional 'Special Director's Message' earlier this week, here's another chance to check out our new swabbing criteria, which now includes upper respiratory tract infection (URTI).

Revised symptom criteria for virology sampling



With the decline in community testing post pandemic, we want to provide more respiratory illness surveillance. We would like to up to 20 swabs a week per practice.

There are three clinical diagnoses for which we would like a swab:

1. Acute respiratory infection (ARI)
2. Influenza like illness (ILI)
3. Suspected COVID

Thank again for your ongoing swabbing work - your efforts are appreciated!

TakeATest kits at practices

Many of you already use the TakeATest voucher system to offer patients UKHSA swabs from home. We're trying out new ways to make it even easier for patients to access these swabs. We are currently working on supplying practices with TakeATest kits so that patients walk out of the practice with the kit ready in their hands. This will save time waiting for delivery and reduce appointment times for swabbing.

If you are interested in having a supply of TakeATest kits at the practice or have any other suggestions to improve the process, please get in contact with Alice Williams (alice.williams@phc.ox.ac.uk) or get in contact with the PLO team inbox.

Profiles - Our Sampling Stars!



This week we'd like to thank the team from Woodbridge Hill Surgery.

Dr Ruth Danson has been a fantastic supporter of the network, along with Amal, William and Vicky. They've been consistently swabbing for our virology surveillance and have their serology sample bottles on monthly reorder.

Brilliant work - Thanks again, Woodbridge Hill Surgery!

ClinT of the Week

Remember: Coding is Caring!



For patients with ongoing symptoms 3 months after acute COVID-19 infection, please use:

Post-COVID-19 syndrome (disorder) SCTID:
1325161000000102

Publication of the Week



[Investigating the uptake, effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 vaccines: protocol for an observational study using linked UK national data - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which emerged in December 2019, has caused millions of deaths and severe illness worldwide. Numerous vaccines are currently under

development of which a few have now been authorised for population-level administration by several countries.

As of 20 September 2021, over 48 million people have received their first vaccine dose and over 44 million people have received their second vaccine dose across the UK. We aim to assess the uptake rates, effectiveness, and safety of all currently approved COVID-19 vaccines in the UK.