



Please find the monthly update from the Oxford RCGP RSC Practice Liaison Team below.

RCGP RSC Monthly Newsletter: March 2022

1. Practice Visits
2. Virology and Serology Payments
3. Practice Top Tip
4. FOR-T Webinars: A look back at what we've covered so far
5. Webinar Series
6. How to engage your team - Virology swabbing
7. Active Research Projects

Practice Visits

Spring is in the air... why not kick it off with a practice visit from one of our dedicated Practice Liaison Officers?

We would be happy to attend your practice to provide assistance, training sessions or even just to meet your teams.

If you would like to arrange a visit then please email practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk



Virology and Serology Payments

We will shortly be processing payments for swabs and samples received from 1st December 2021 to 28th February 2022.

Please keep a look out for an email from our PLO team member, Jack Macartney.

Practice Top Tip - Serology Sampling

Our first practice top tip comes from Lizzie Ambler, a Research Nurse Tyntesfield Medical Group.

Lizzie is currently trialling a new method for streamlining serology sampling by placing our serology kits in the waiting room and displaying a poster asking for anyone who has attended the surgery that day for a blood test, and is interested in taking part, to grab a kit to take into the phlebotomy room when called in. Patient Information sheets will also be displayed for patients to familiarise themselves with the process.

The hope is that this option will cut down the time used during the appointment for the patient to read the information and make a decision.

We'd love to hear more tips from our practices. Please send any suggestions to practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk

Focus on Research-Tuesday **FOR-T**

A look back at what we've covered so far

February: The value of serology sampling: the insights gained from serosurveillance

With guest speaker Dr Heather Whitaker, Senior statistician, UKHSA

January: Monitoring Contagious Disease and Immunity - How can you help?

With guest speakers Dr Gayatri Amirthalingham, Consultant Epidemiologist, UKHSA and Dr James Kennard, Oxfordshire GP

December: Importance of Virology in a Year of Respiratory Illness Reset

With guest speakers Jojanneke van Summeren, Research Coordinator for RSV ComNet Study, NIVEL and John Paget, PI for RSV ComNet Study, NIVEL

November: Supporting the 55th year of Primary Care Surveillance

With guest speakers Sarah Davies, Midlands Practice Manager, Conall Watson, UKHSA and Dr Nick Thomas, Oxfordshire GP and RCGP Clinical Lead for Research

To view any of these webinars, please click the following link [Webinars](#)

Remember to join us ***Focus on Research-Tuesday*** **FOR-T**

Keep swabbing!

The RCGP Research and surveillance Centre (RSC) network is working tirelessly on ongoing surveillance work and projects, despite the challenges of the year.

This webinar is a must for practices who are already part of the network and involved in surveillance activity, or practices not yet part of the Oxford-RCGP RSC and would like to understand some of the activity we undertake in terms of our monitoring of community disease and vaccine effectiveness.

This webinar is taking place on the **29th March 2022 at 1pm**

Register [here](#)

We are running a series of 'bite sized' webinars over the next few months for 30 mins on a Tuesday at 1pm.

How to engage your team in Virology swabbing

Suggested email content below from Dr Ruth Danson at one of our star practices:

Please can you help with daily swabbing?

The criteria for who is eligible has been relaxed:

1. Any age group
2. Symptoms started within the last 10 days

3. Any acute respiratory infection symptom (ARI) eg URTI, runny nose, cough, fever, achy all over
4. Any covid suspect or influenza like illness (ILI)
5. Anyone with chest infection or LRTI
6. or any 5yr old and under with possible RSV bronchiolitis

What to say to patients:

"Could you do a swab for us and then we can see if a virus or covid (/or flu virus) is causing your symptoms".

"We can send you a text message and you can follow the steps to order a PCR swab that will be posted to you and you then need to pop in a post box. No stamp or charge needed".

"This is a swab for research to monitor the types of respiratory viruses and covid in the population. It can take up to a week to get the result. The covid part of the result is often much quicker though".

"You can pick up a kit from the GP surgery today. Test at home and pop in the post for free"

PLAN:

Triage nurse:

Send Take-a-test AccuRX message

Offer swab over phone via 'take-a-test' AccuRX named "covid/ flu/ RSV take-a-test" which says

To order a postal kit for your respiratory virus symptoms please go to <https://takeatestuk.com/>

The voucher code is

Your NHS number is

Further information can be found at <https://takeatestuk.com/phe-home/>.

Tel Duty Dr:

Offer 'take-a-test' method or patient/ relative to pick up white box kit from reception

You will need to fill in the RCGP respiratory virus surveillance form and put it in the kit box

Either use the paper copy of form or within EMIS documents

Kit boxes - (location)

Put patients name on box and leave at reception desk

Care nav team can help with printing off form etc if you are working from home

F2F Dr:

Do in person swab using the kit (nasal and tonsils) and fill in RCGP form. Give to patient to put in post box or put in a post box on your way home.

We need to aim for 2 per session triage plus Dr, so 40 per week!

What to add to computer:

Code: "swab from nasopharynx taken for virology" (even if patient doing their own home swab)

Code: the type of illness you suspect in problem heading eg "Influenza like illness" "URTI" "LRTI"

Active Research Projects

[UKHSA General Serology and Virology Surveillance](#)

[RSV ComNet II](#)

[RAPTOR](#)

[GP Teams](#)