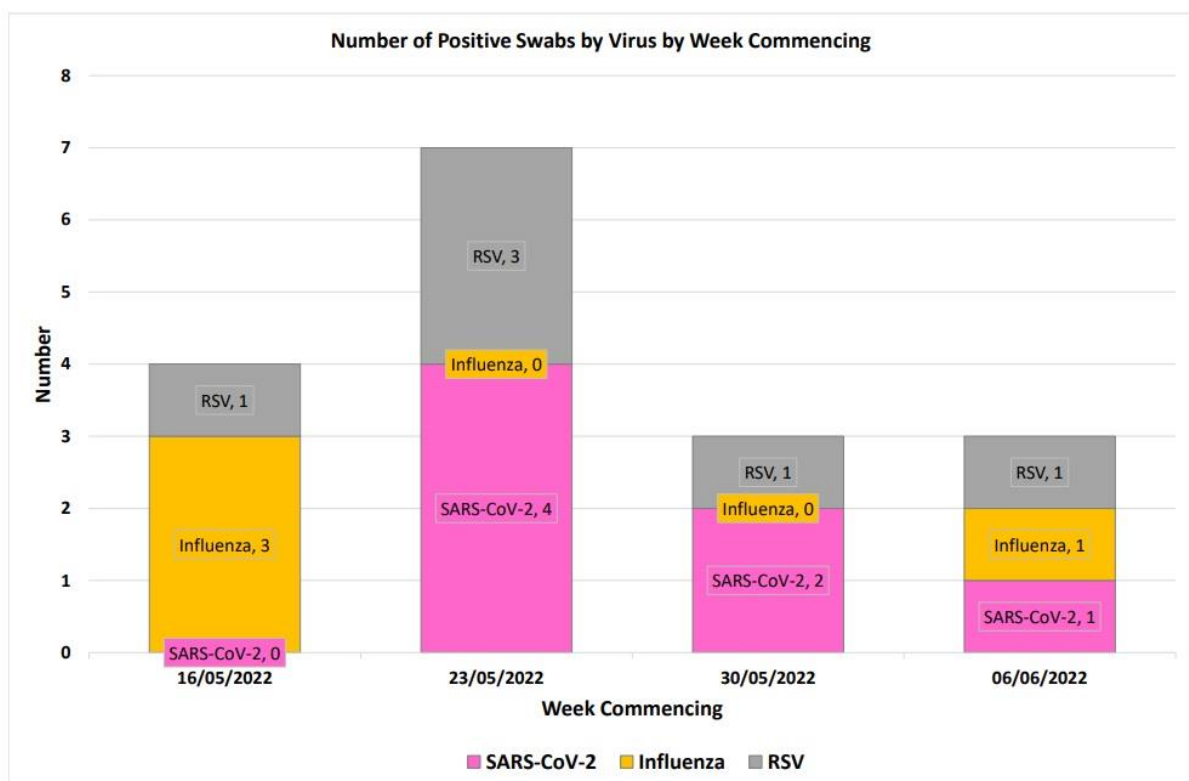


*Your weekly sampling news from our GP colleagues, Dr Debabish Kar,
 Dr Nick Thomas & Dr Will Elson on behalf of the Oxford RCGP RSC*

SAMPLING IS INFORMING

Your Samples How your data contributed recently

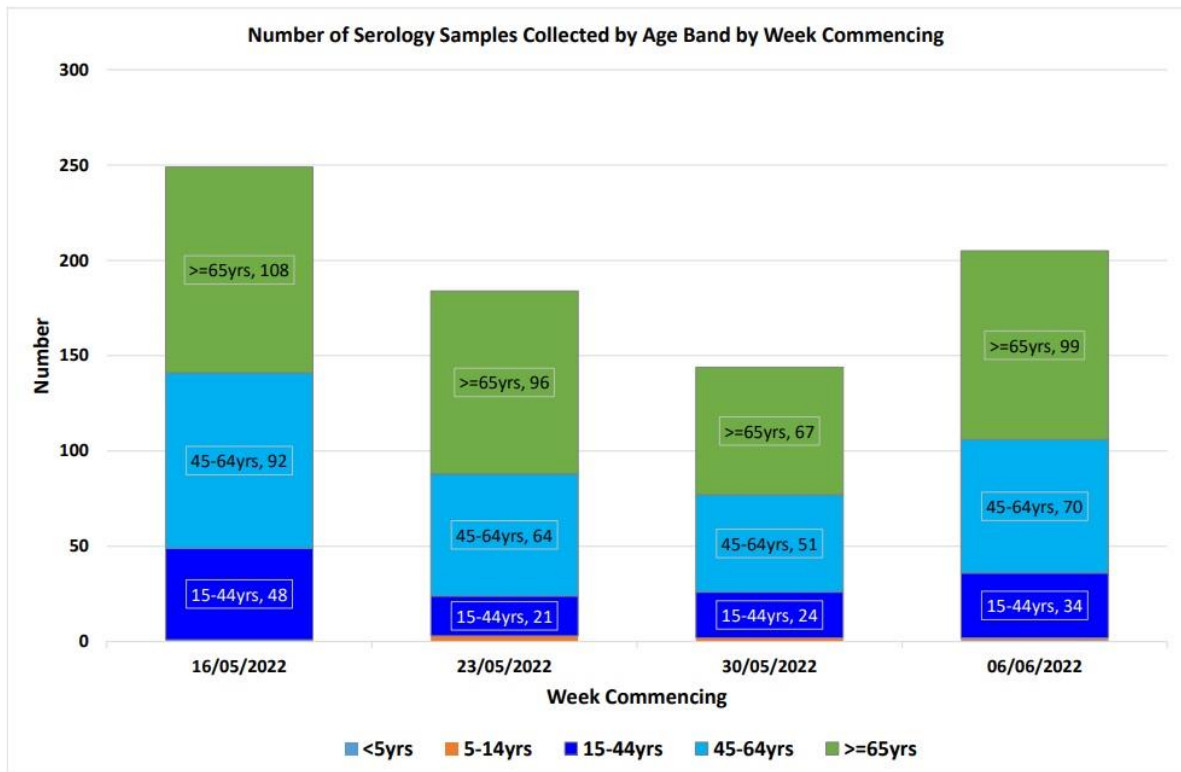
VIROLOGY



Thanks as always for providing the virology samples from your patients. The number of positive swabs collected in the last four weeks of May 2022 and the beginning of June 2022 suggests that the SARS-CoV-2, Influenza and RSV viruses are the major infections prevalent in the community.

In the week commencing on 6th June 2022, out of three positive swabs, one positive swab was obtained for SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and RSV. Please do continue to swab and code appropriately based on the presenting symptoms. This information will guide the UKHSA to decide the Influenza and COVID-19 immunization programme for the coming months.

SEROLOGY



We're also grateful for your serology sampling contribution. The number of samples collected in the last four weeks of May 2022 and the beginning of June 2022 has increased compared to the previous weeks.

In the week commencing on 6th June 2022, out of 205 serology samples, 99 were from people aged ≥ 65 years, 70 were 45-64 years, 34 were 15-44 years and one each were 5-14 years and <5 years.

Serology samples are important to understand population-level immunity against SARS-CoV-2 and will influence the decision of COVID-19 immunization programme in coming months.

Tuesday's Top Tips

"Setting a sample goal for the coming week or even daily can help build momentum."

We've collated a few more tips this week for those taking samples for the network.

- Patients will get swab results back (usually within 3-7 days)
- Remind patients their symptoms may be caused by another respiratory illness and the swabs we use test for more than just COVID-19.

This Week's Sampling Stars!



Pelton & Fellrose Medical Group

This week, we'd like to recognise Pelton & Fellrose Medical Group for their recent contributions to the network.

Over the past four weeks, they've regularly placed at the top of our league of sample practices, due to the high volume of virology swabs they've been taking.

We know swabbing patients will add time to a consultation, but by taking just a few each day, Anita and the team have demonstrated it's possible to integrate the process into their daily workflow. We appreciate all your efforts - thank you!

We'd Love to Visit Your Practice

Meet Lizzy!

Lizzy is now one of our longest serving Practice Liaison Team members and is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to supporting sampling practices and understanding what they need.

We asked what's on her radar at the minute that she'd like to pass on to you.



"We're seeing some indications that flu and RSV are on the rise. We really need more practices to identify cases and code these as 'problems' into the patient's medical record. If you think a patient might have flu, please code 'Influenza-like illness' as a problem.

"If you think a patient might have RSV, please code 'Bronchitis' or 'Bronchiolitis' as a problem. If you are a swabbing practice, please also take a swab wherever possible!

"If you have any questions about how or where to code, please do get in touch."

If you want to get your sampling going, but feel you'd benefit from some in-person support from Lizzy or one of our PLO Team members, we'd love to visit! Just email us at:

practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk