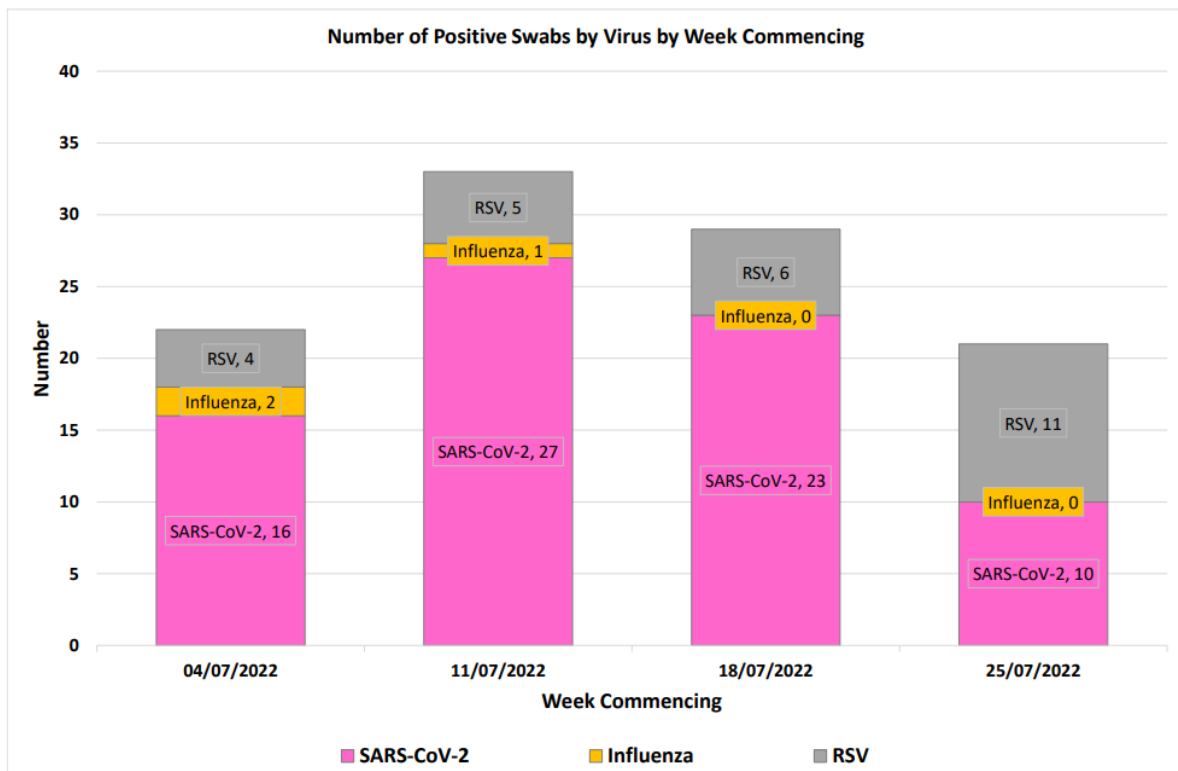


Your weekly sampling news from our GP colleagues, Dr Debabish Kar, Dr Nick Thomas, Dr Will Elson and Dr Gavin Jamie on behalf of the Oxford RCGP RSC.

# SAMPLING IS INFORMING

## Our Network's Samples What your data contributed to recently

### VIROLOGY

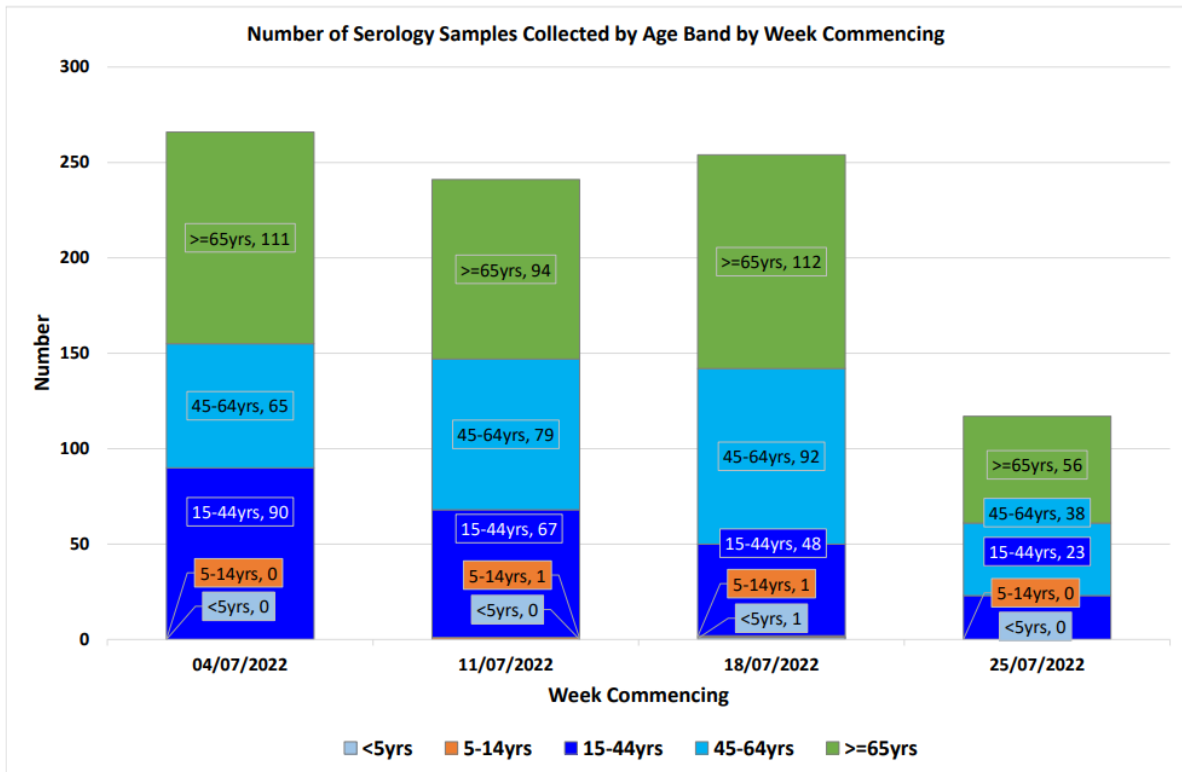


Thank you for continuing to provide virology samples from your patients.

The number of positive swabs collected in the 4 weeks from 4th July 2022 suggests that SARS-CoV-2, and RSV are the major respiratory viral infections prevalent in the community.

In the week commencing on 25th July 2022, out of 21 positive swabs, 10 were positive for SARS-CoV-2, and 11 for RSV. The number of positive swabs has declined in the w/c 25th July 2022 compared to the previous 2 weeks.

## SEROLOGY



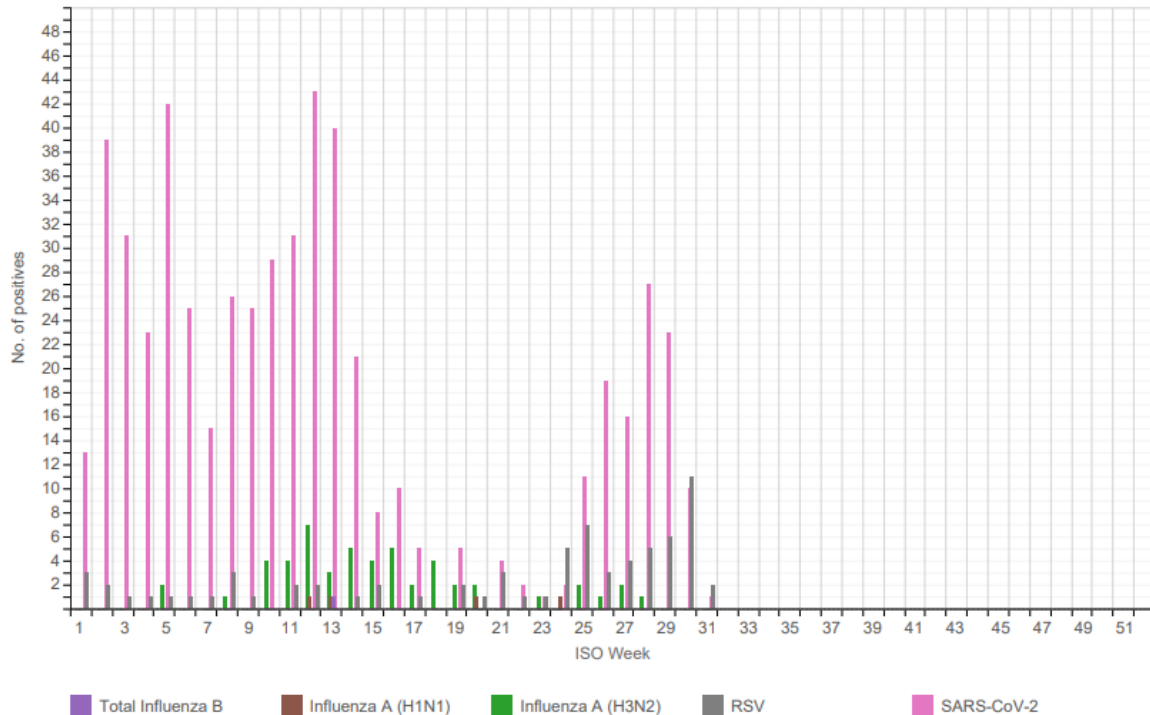
The number of serology samples collected over 4 weeks of July 2022 suggests that the  $\geq 65$ -year, 11-44 year and 45–64-year age bands are the major age bands where serology samples are being collected.

In the week commencing on 25th July 2022, out of 117 serology samples, 56 were for  $\geq 65$ yrs, 38 for 45-64yrs, and 23 for 15-44yrs. Please do continue to collect serology samples from younger age bands.

Our virology and serology information will guide the UKHSA to decide the immunisation programme for the coming months. We appreciate your contribution and would like to encourage you to collect more serology sampling and virology swabbing.

# RSV Dominance in Recent Weeks

(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2022 by viral strain\*



Our swab surveillance is showing that for the last two weeks the predominant circulating virus has become respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) instead of SARS-CoV-2.

This graph is from the latest supplementary report, so our expectation is the next full data report will indicate a further increase in RSV volume for week 31.

Thanks again for continuing to provide virology samples which helps the UKHSA understand leading respiratory viruses circulating in the community. We appreciate your support!

## Tuesday's Top Tips

*"As autumn approaches, now is a good time to start planning your team's strategy for swabbing and sampling before the increase in patients presenting with influenza-like-illness."*

As cases of RSV are on the rise, it's important there's no drop off in virology swabbing. Things to note:

- Setting a weekly or daily sample goal can help build momentum. 20 a week is our preferred target.
- It's good to remind patients that the swabs we use test for more than just COVID-19 and that their symptoms might be caused by another respiratory illness. .

## **Book A Practice Visit!**

Booking a practice visit is one of the easiest ways to iron out any issues you have when trying to get consistent sampling going in the team. We can advise, demonstrate and support!

Too busy for a visit? We also do Teams calls - just let us know! Book your visit or call using the button below.