

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

Royal Mail Strike Update: Carry On Sampling!

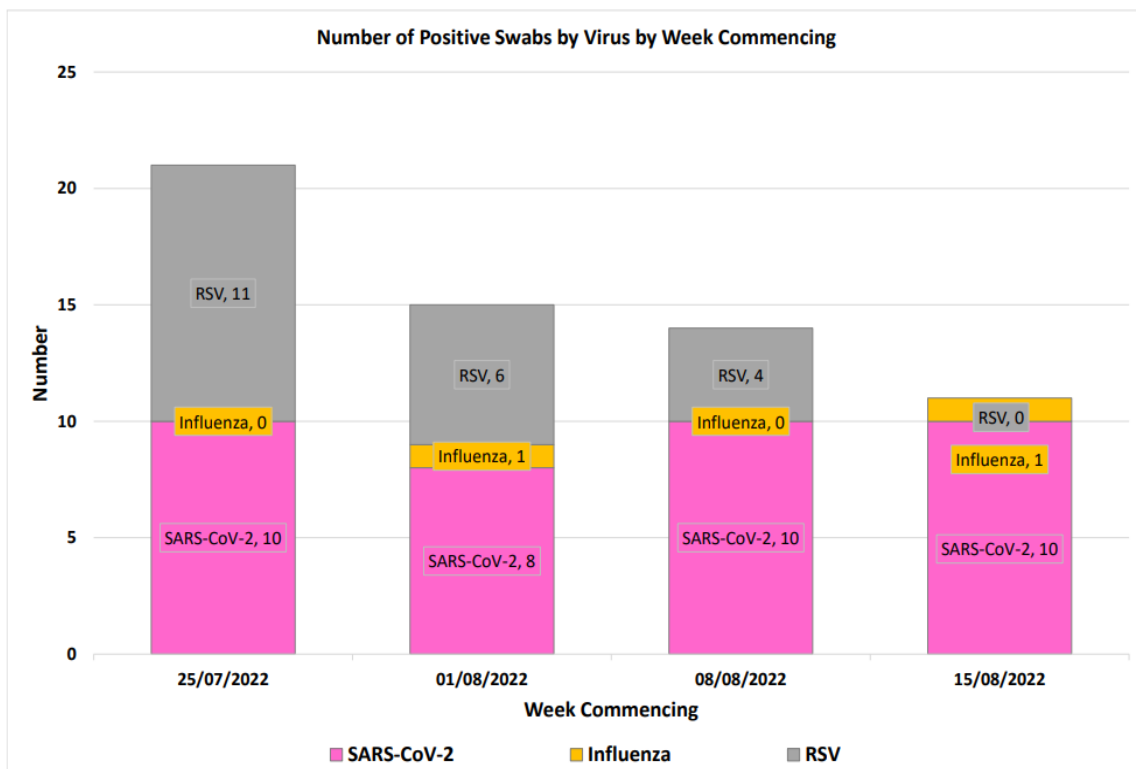
Strike Advice Update: There's a few more Royal Mail strike days coming up, but it's really important we continue to collect samples as usual.

Samples will be okay with occasional delays in transport and across weekends. Please carry on sampling and exploring ways to increase the numbers - any ARI is fine! Thanks!

Our Network's Samples

What your data contributed to recently

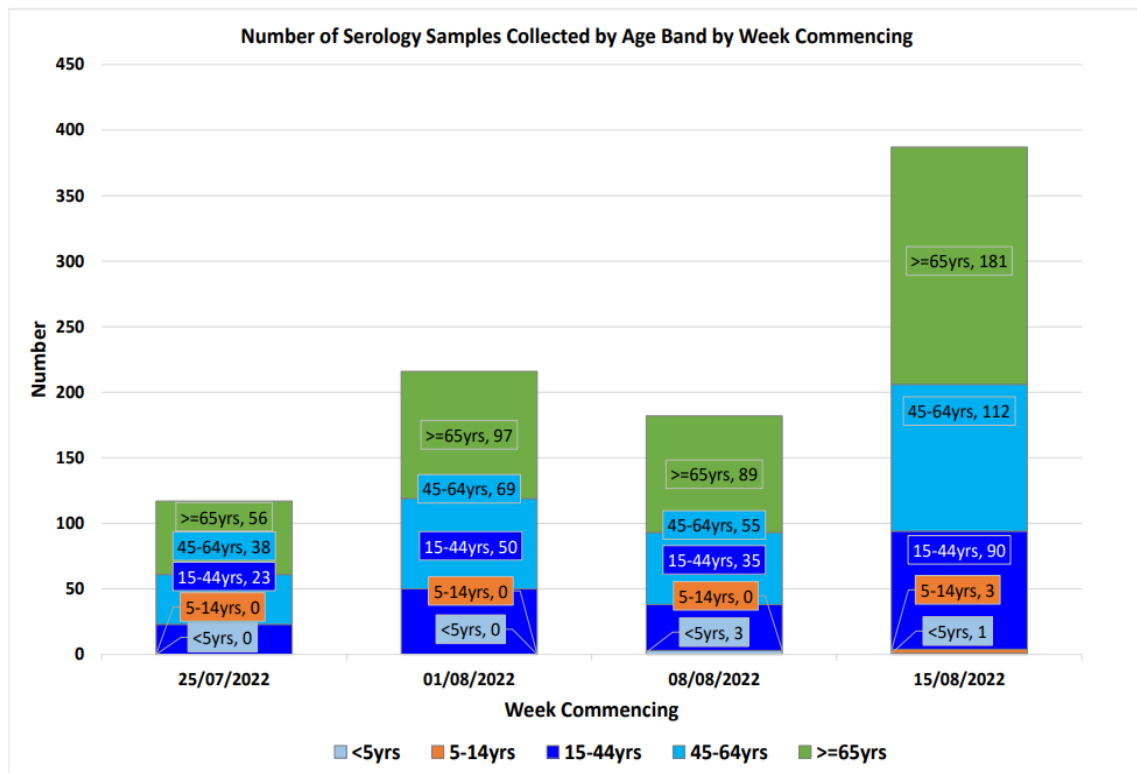
VIROLOGY



SARS-CoV-2 continues to dominate with ten positive samples. The increase in numbers of RSV detected in July has now disappeared completely from our positive samples. This is the first time there have not been any swabs positive for RSV since May.

Please continue swabbing as we move towards the Autumn.

SEROLOGY

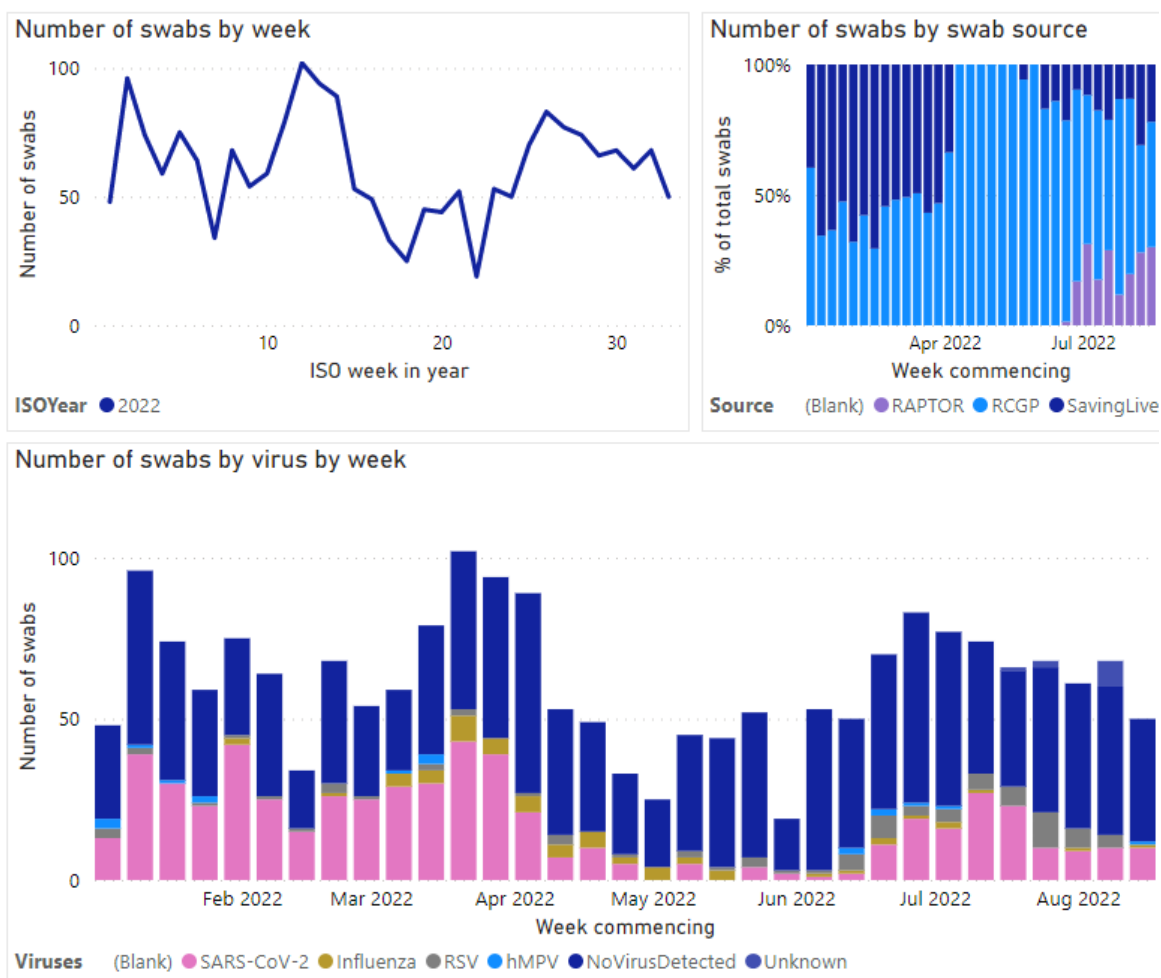


We have seen a big jump in the number of serology samples taken in the week commencing 15th August. The boost has been even larger in younger adults and children with 90 patients between 15 and 44 years old, 112 age 45-64 years old and 181 patients over 65.

Four patients under age 15 also had serology which is especially useful in a group that does not have blood tests particularly often.

We know that this is a time of year when many people are on holiday, and it is great to see the numbers grow. Thank you for all of the samples and please do keep sampling as this will help to inform the winter immunisation programme.

Introducing Our Virology Observatory



We previously introduced you to our Data Team member, Cecilia who's responsible for producing the graphs included in our newsletters. She's created a new, interactive way to view the network virology samples, called the Virology Observatory.

It will be regularly updated with the latest swabbing data. We'll be launching this in September, along with a helpful guide and will also be helping our members utilise it in future practice training events. Watch this space!

Book A Practice Visit!

If you want to get your sampling going, but feel you'd benefit from some in-person support from one of our PLO Team members, we're here to help! Just click on the link below to book your practice visit or Teams call.