

RSV ComNet: Data collection progress winter 2021/22

The aim of the RSV ComNet study is to measure the clinical burden and socio-economic impact of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection in young children (<5 years old) in primary care.^{1,2}

In this bi-weekly update, we provide an update on developments regarding data collection during the 2021/22 winter. This update includes detailed information on the total number of swabs collected, the total number of RSV+ cases identified and the response rate on the parental Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires. Be mindful that data for all earlier weeks can slightly change when data is received.

The purpose of this update is to allow for the inter-country comparison of progress towards data collection objectives and to discover trends in data collection across countries. In later stages, these trends will be elaborated upon, keeping in mind differences in recruitment between countries.

Key points:

- In all countries together:
 - **230 swabs** have been collected,
 - **64 tested RSV positive**
 - The UK has the largest share with 138 swabs, Spain second with 87 swabs and NL third with 5 swabs.
- In Belgium the study is approved by the ethical committee at the 13th of January 2022.
- Due to the new COVID-19 strain (Omicron) RSV circulation is hampered and primary care facilities are more hesitant to have patients visit clinics. This results in difficulty with recruiting new patients in the study. To discuss this an **interim-meeting is planned on the 25th of January at 4:30pm CET.**

References

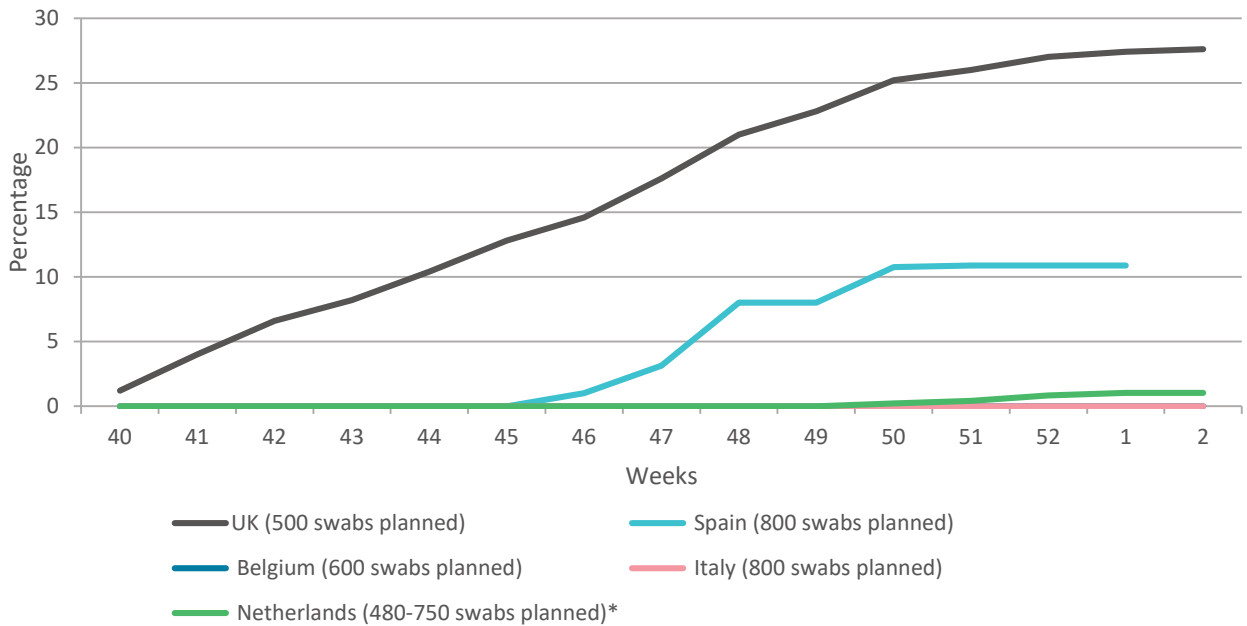
- 1 van Summeren et al. BMC Infect Dis. 2021 Jul 26;21(1):705
- 2 <https://www.nivel.nl/en/RSVComNet>

More information?

Go to www.nivel.nl/en/RSVComNet
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Cumulative percentage of swabs collected as a fraction of the planned number of swabs

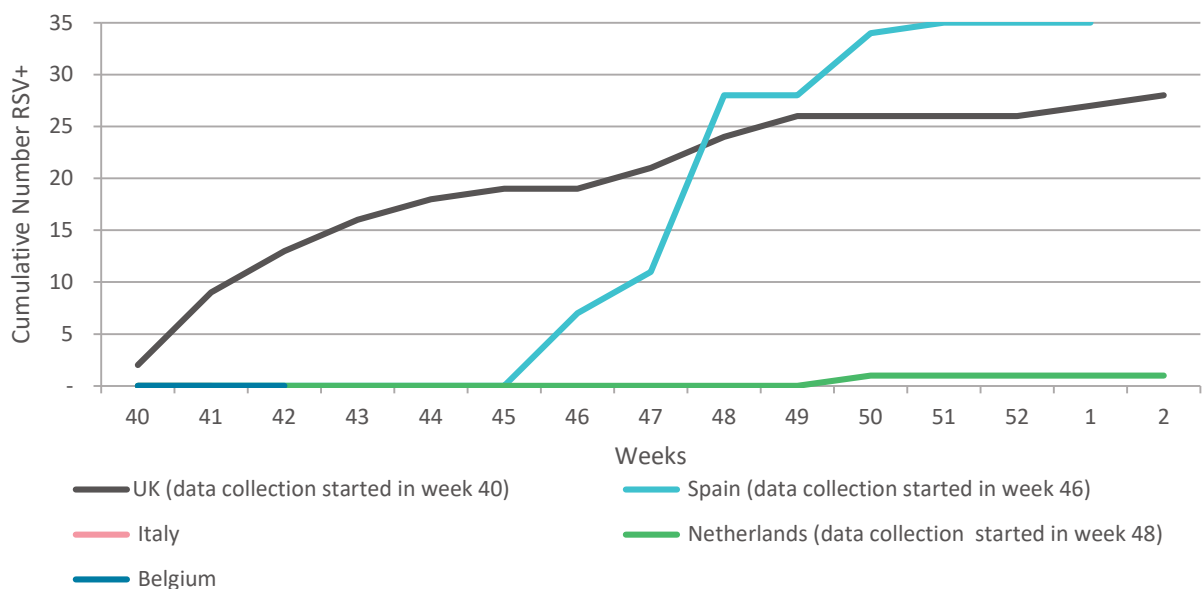
This figure shows the percentage of swabs as a fraction of the planned number of swabs for the season per country. The planned number of swabs that will be collected varied between countries.



* For the Netherlands data collection is slightly different compared to the other countries: 1) data collection is stretched out over 2 years, 2) only children under the age of 2 years are included, 3) data collection ends when 150 RSV positive cases are included, instead of aiming for a specific number of swabs.

Cumulative number of RSV+ children

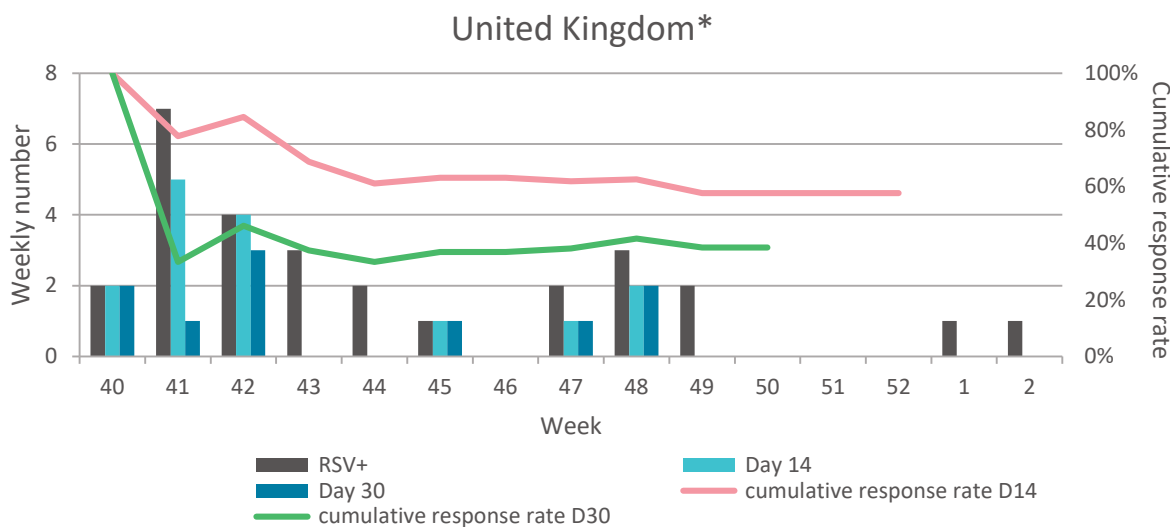
This figure shows the cumulative number of RSV+ cases that were identified in each country. Not all of those RSV+ children are included in the study.



Response rates on parental questionnaires

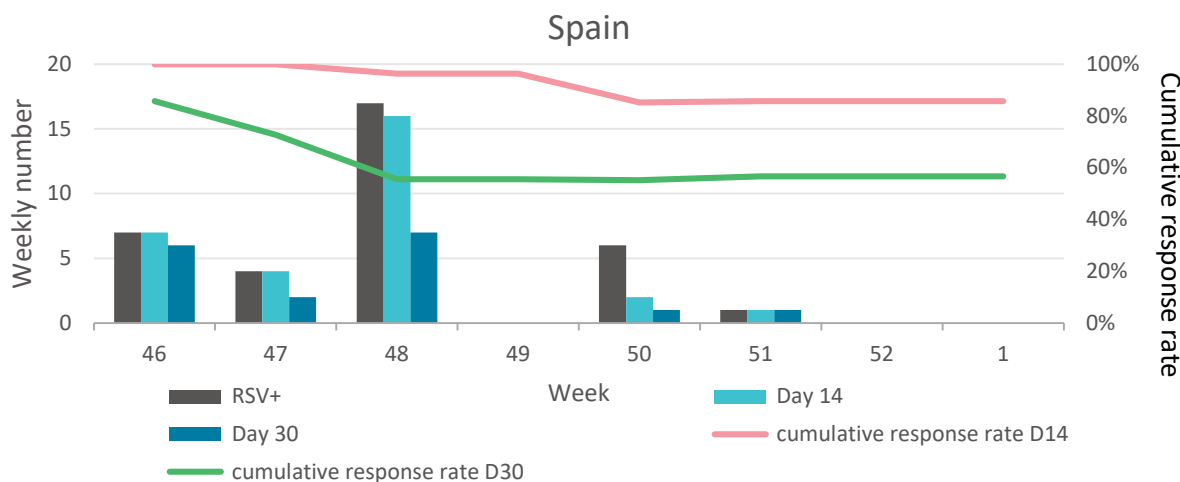
In the following figures, the weekly number of RSV+, Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires are presented (left y-axis). In addition, the cumulative response rates for the Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires are shown (right y-axis).

Note: The receipt of the Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires are aligned with the week the swab was taken. This implies that the receipt figures of the Day 14 questionnaire is always 14 days lagging behind and the Day 30 questionnaire 30 days lagging behind.



In total **28 children tested RSV+**, and **15 parents** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **10 parents** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

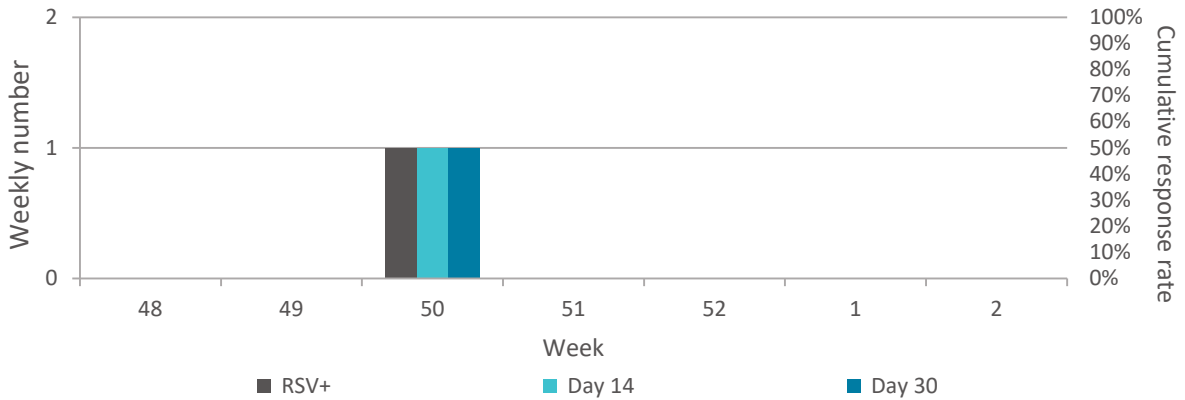
In the UK, 19 GP practices participating in the sentinel surveillance are also participating in the RSV ComNet study. These GPs will invite parents of children that tested RSV+ to complete the RSV ComNet follow-up questionnaires. This means that it is possible that not all parents of RSV+ children give informed consent to complete follow-up questionnaires. Which can be reflected in a slightly lower response rate on the Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaire compared to other countries.



In total **33 children tested RSV+**, and **30 parents** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **17 parents** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

In Spain 9 pediatrician practices are participating in the RSV ComNet study in 9 regions.

The Netherlands



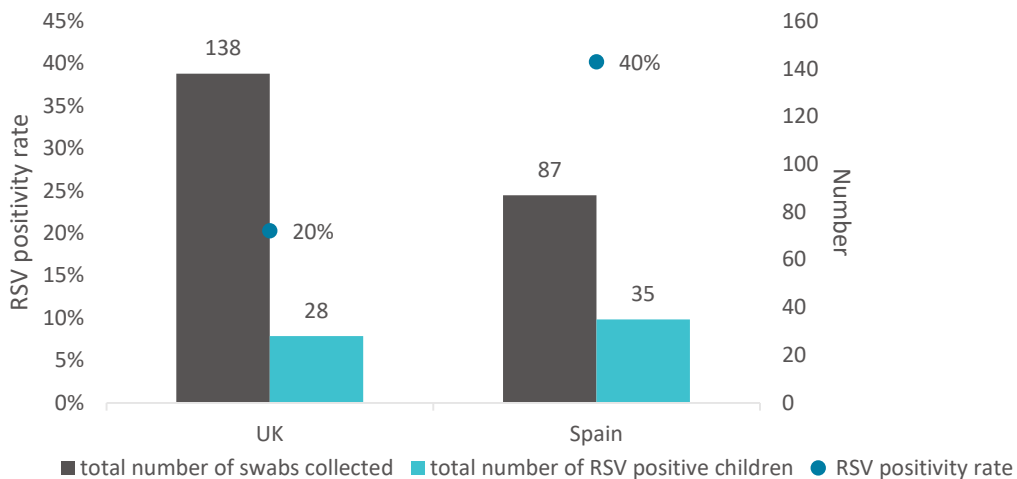
In total **1 child tested RSV+**, and **1 parent** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **1 parent** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

In the NL, 33 GP practices are participating in the RSV ComNet study.

RSV positivity rate since start data collection

In this figure the RSV positivity rate is presented for each country that has collected at least 30 swabs in the 2021/22 season. The RSV positivity rate is calculated by dividing the total number of RSV+ cases by the total number of swabs collected since the start of data collection.

Data collected via the RSV ComNet study cannot be considered as surveillance data. This because only a small selection of GPs or pediatricians are participating in the RSV ComNet study (e.g. 18 GP practices in the UK), which is not a representative reflection for the country as a whole. In addition, purposeful sampling is applied which means that swabbing is increased in weeks with increased RSV circulation.



More information?

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