

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. Data for earlier weeks can slightly change because of reporting delays.

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:
 - **662 swabs** have been collected,
 - **287 tested RSV positive**,
 - Italy has collected 400 swabs, the United Kingdom 151 swabs, Spain 97 swabs, the Netherlands 8 swabs and Belgium 4 swabs.
- Italy has recruited 216 RSV positive cases and collected 66 Day-14 questionnaires so far. Due to a lack of weekly data, we do not present Italy in the figures.
- Italy is planning to retrospectively collect questionnaires for RSV+ cases that were included in the study. It was not possible to reach all parents on time to collect Day-14 and Day-30 questionnaires because the research team was overwhelmed with other activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. vaccination programs.

References

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

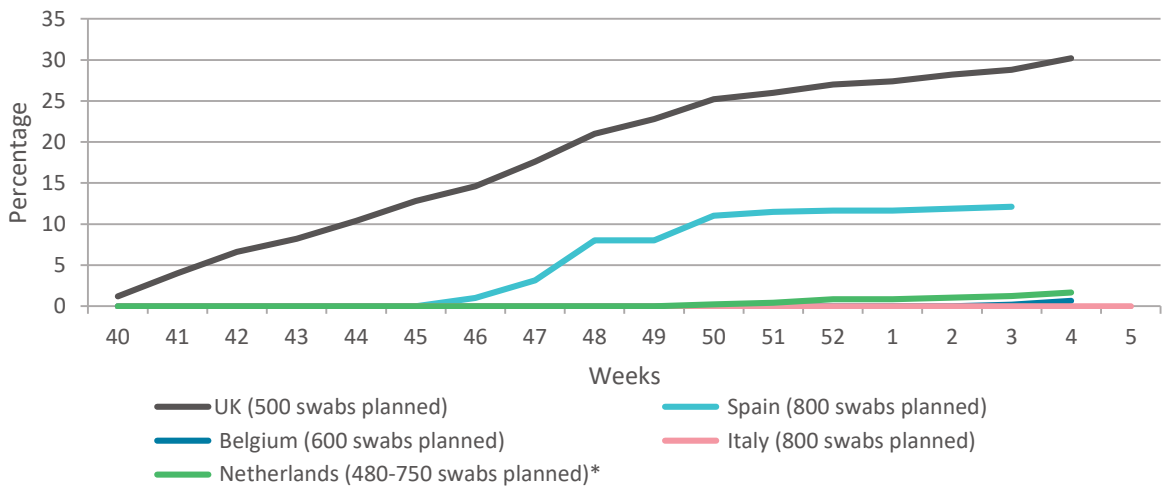
More information?

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

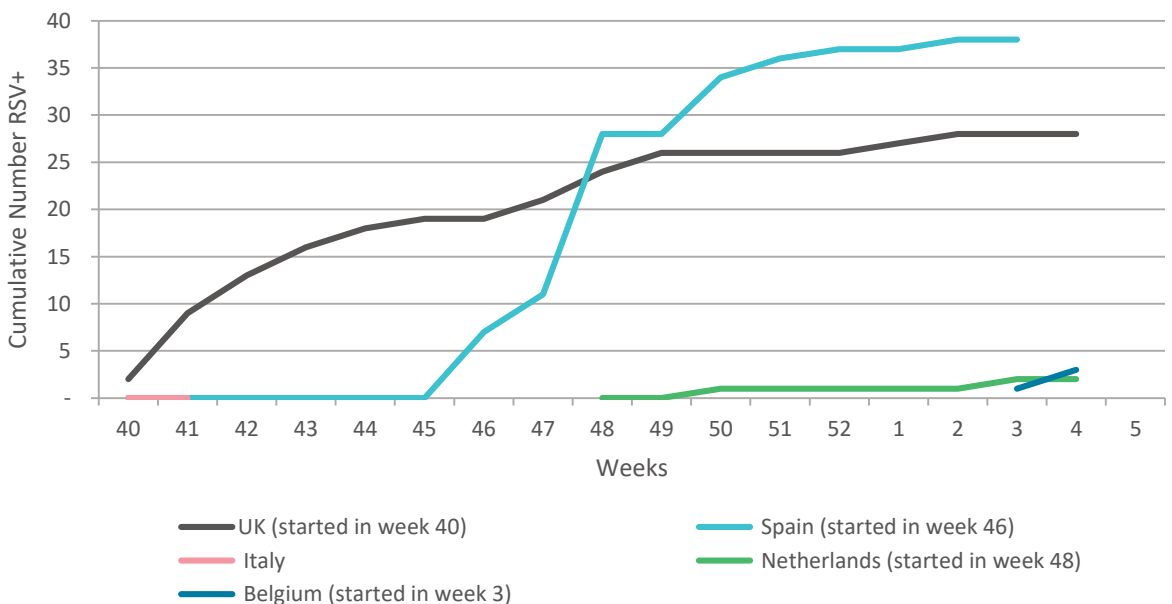
This figure shows the percentage of swabs as a fraction of the planned number of swabs for the season per country. The planned number of swabs that will be collected varied between countries.



* 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

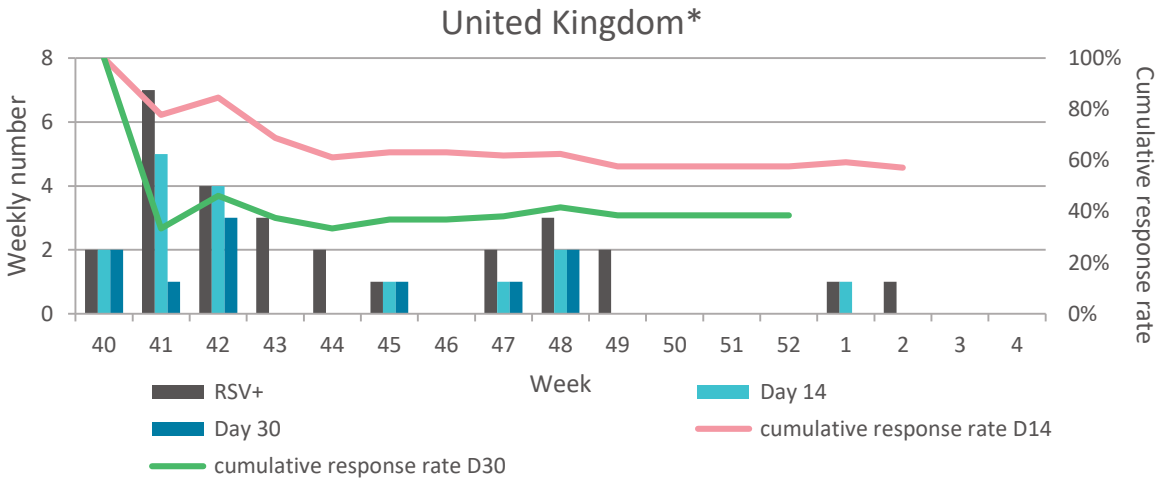
This figure shows the cumulative number of RSV+ cases that were identified in each country. Not all of those RSV+ children are included in the study.



Response rates on parental questionnaires

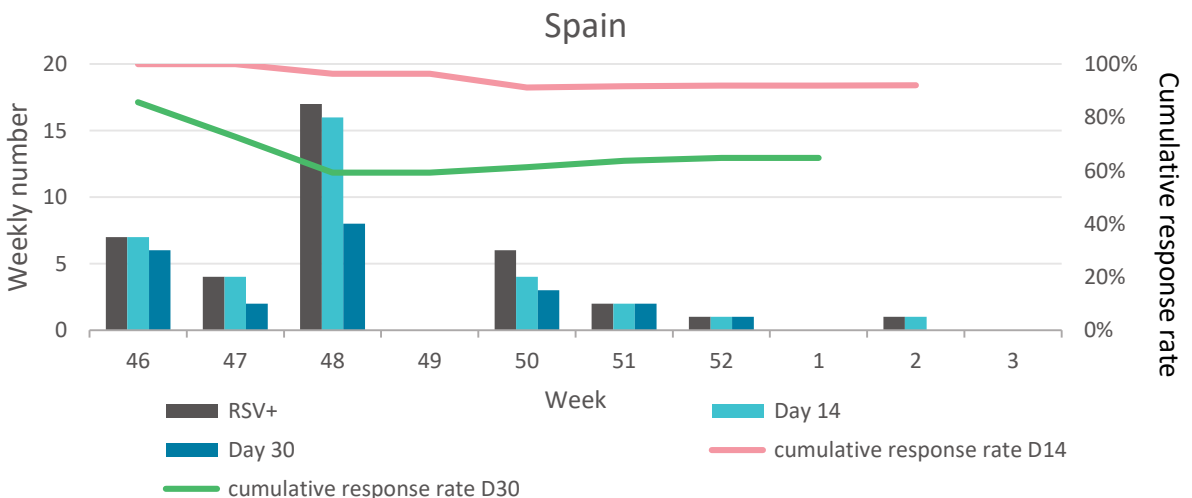
In the following figures, the weekly number of RSV+, Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires are presented (left y-axis) since the week that data collection has started. In addition, the cumulative response rates for the Day 14 and Day 30 questionnaires are shown (right y-axis).

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.



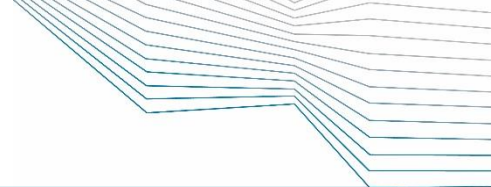
In total **28 children tested RSV+**, and **15 parents** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **10 parents** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

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.

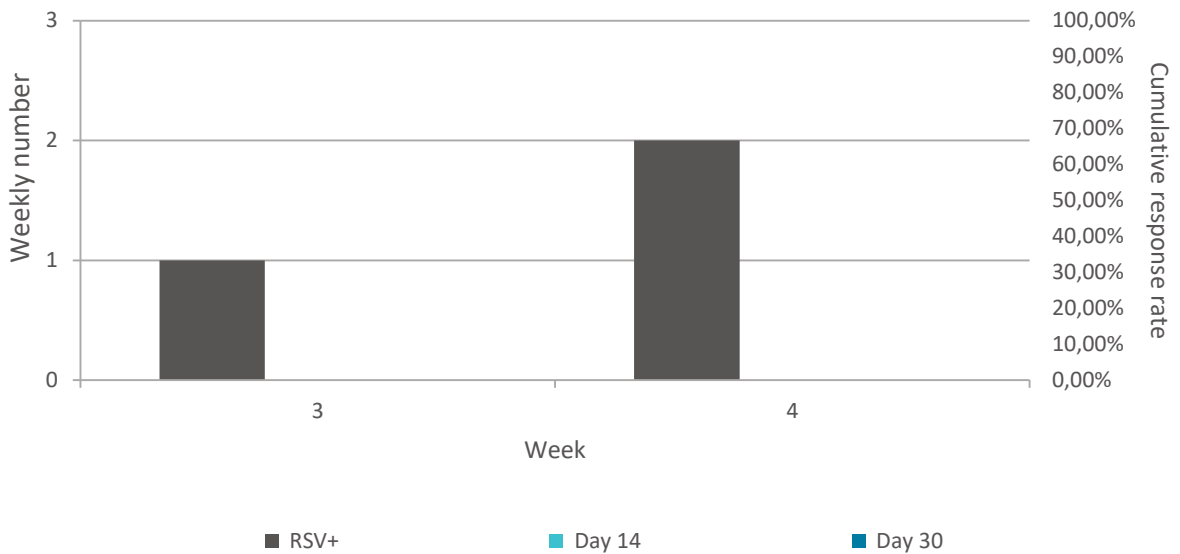


In total **38 children tested RSV+**, and **35 parents** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **22 parents** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

In Spain 17 pediatrician practices are participating in the RSV ComNet study in 9 regions.

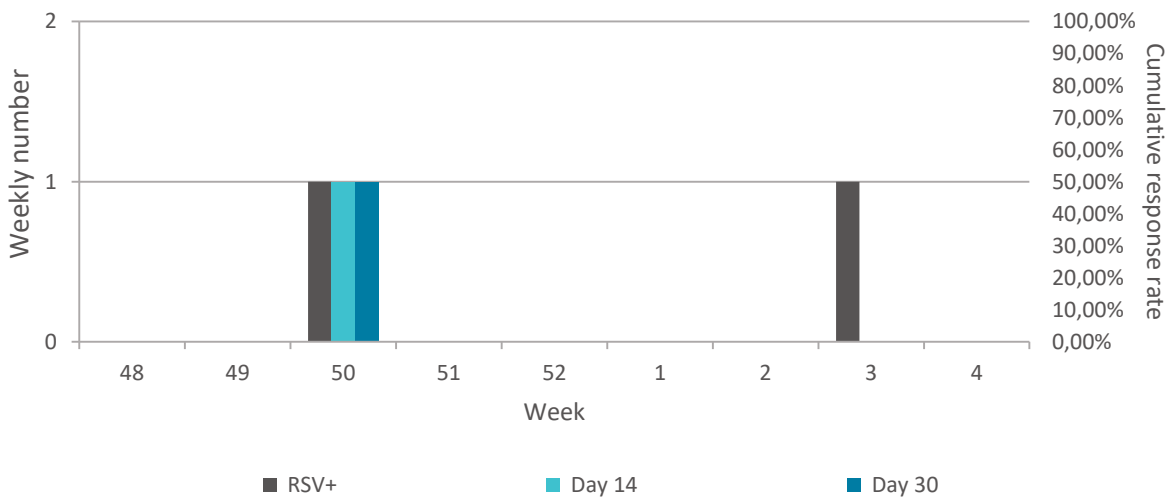


Belgium



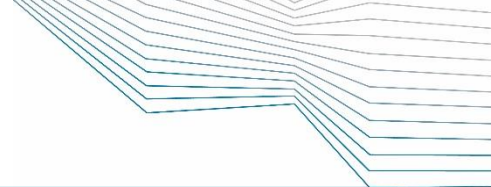
The study in Belgium has started in week 3. In total **3 children tested RSV+**.

The Netherlands



In total **2 children tested RSV+**, and **1 parent** completed the **Day-14** questionnaire and **1 parent** the **Day-30** questionnaire.

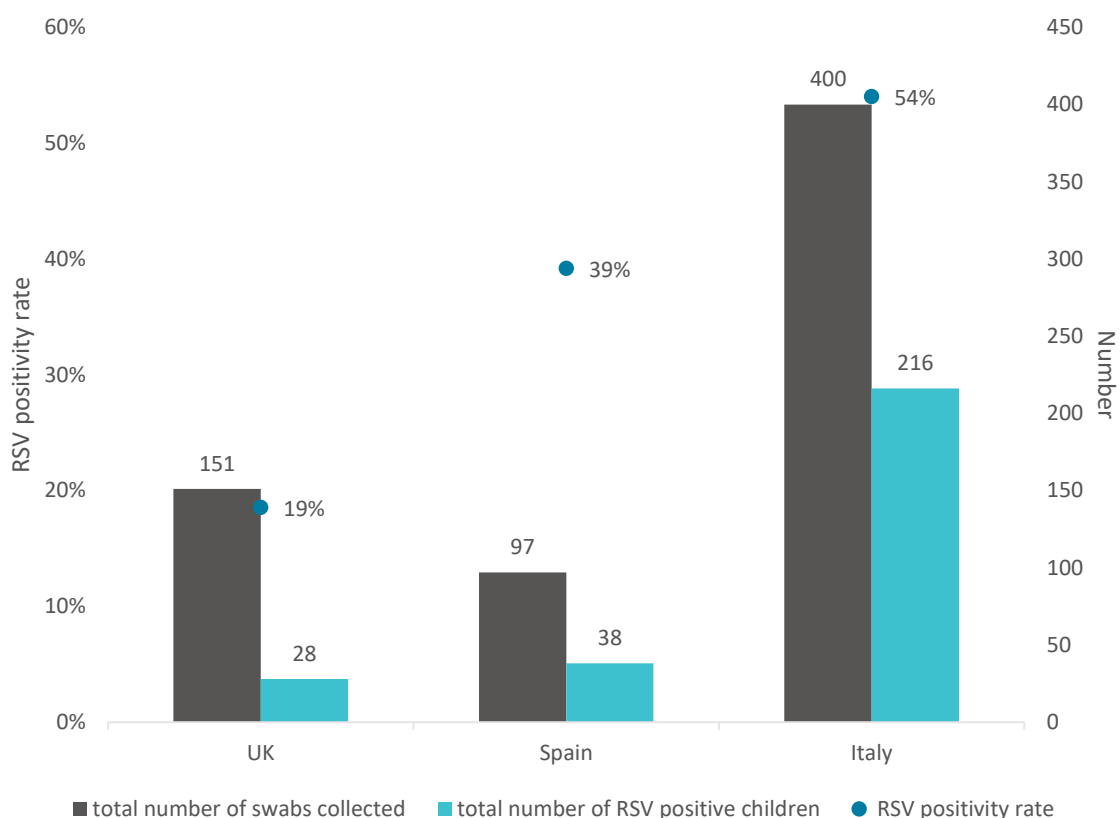
In the NL, 36 GP practices are participating in the RSV ComNet study.



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. 19 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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