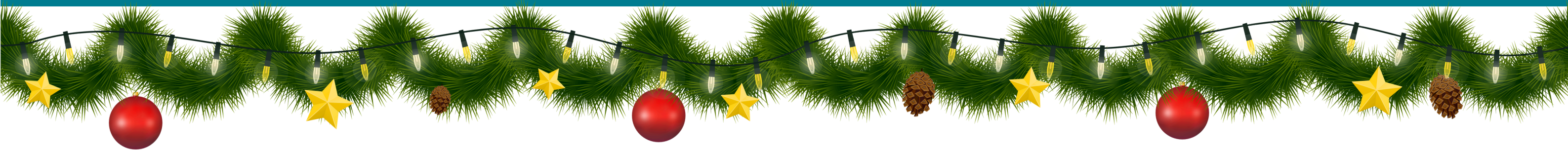




Participant Newsletter



Welcome to the Christmas edition of the SIREN newsletter.

With both NHS staff and patients facing high levels of circulating respiratory viruses over the colder period, SIREN is again collecting crucial infection data, thanks to you, our amazing cohort.

Read on to hear the latest news about what we have been up to, including a snapshot of SIREN's work over the last year, news about reopening the cohort to new participants for the first time since the study launched, and much more.

Coming up in this issue...

The year in brief

Look back at SIREN's activities over the last year.

Reopening the cohort

We are thrilled to announce SIREN will be inviting new participants from select NHS sites to join the study for the first time after closing recruitment during the pandemic.

Your blood samples help unlock answers

Read about how SIREN samples will directly inform the global influenza vaccination strategy.

SIREN+ Prepare Pathway

Learn more about how our latest study pathway will help us to prepare for future pandemics.



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SARS-CoV-2 Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation

Participant Newsletter

SIREN: Our Year In Brief

2025 has been an exciting year for SIREN's scientific outputs.

While the early years of the study focused on collecting samples and information from our participants, we have been working hard to answer key research questions by using this data and your samples.

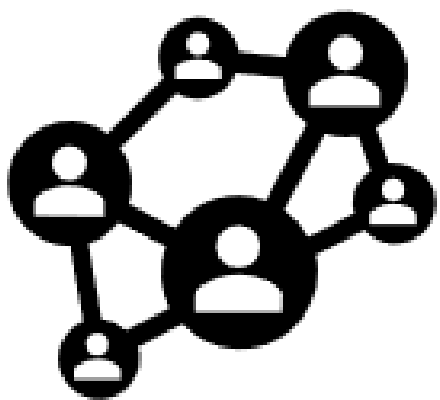
This year, with your help, we have...



Launched **four** sub-studies:

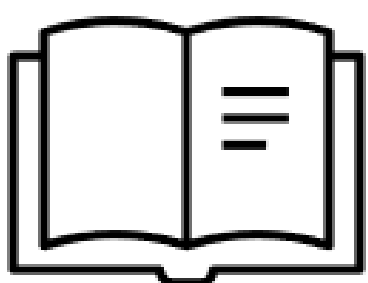
- SIREN+ RespOME sub-study
- SIREN+ Winter Pressures
- Long COVID questionnaire
- SIREN+ Prepare pathway

Each of these have contributed novel data to tackle important research questions.



Engaged in partnerships with **six** organisations:

- Cardiff University
- The Francis Crick Institute
- The Pirbright Institute
- University College London
- University of Edinburgh and IFCC
- Wellcome Sanger Institute



Released **11** publications in scientific peer-reviewed journals

Check out a plain language summary of all our publications on the SIREN portal, [here](#).



Collected **40,707** surveys

Gathering valuable information on time off work and symptoms in healthcare workers.





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Reopening the Cohort for new participants

We are excited to announce that, for the first time since 2021, we are re-opening the cohort to recruit new participants!

Healthcare workers from eligible sites who have not previously joined SIREN can register to take part. At the moment, we have opened recruitment at:



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board



We would like to extend a warm welcome to any new joiners.

Opening the cohort to new participants helps making sure that our participants still reflect the current workforce by bringing in a greater range of people, views, and experiences.

Whilst we are piloting reopening the cohort at selected sites this year, we aim to expand recruitment in the future.

New participants will be recruited via a link shared in local organisations communications, such as newsletters and posters.

If you know someone working at one of these sites who may be interested in joining SIREN, please spread the word!





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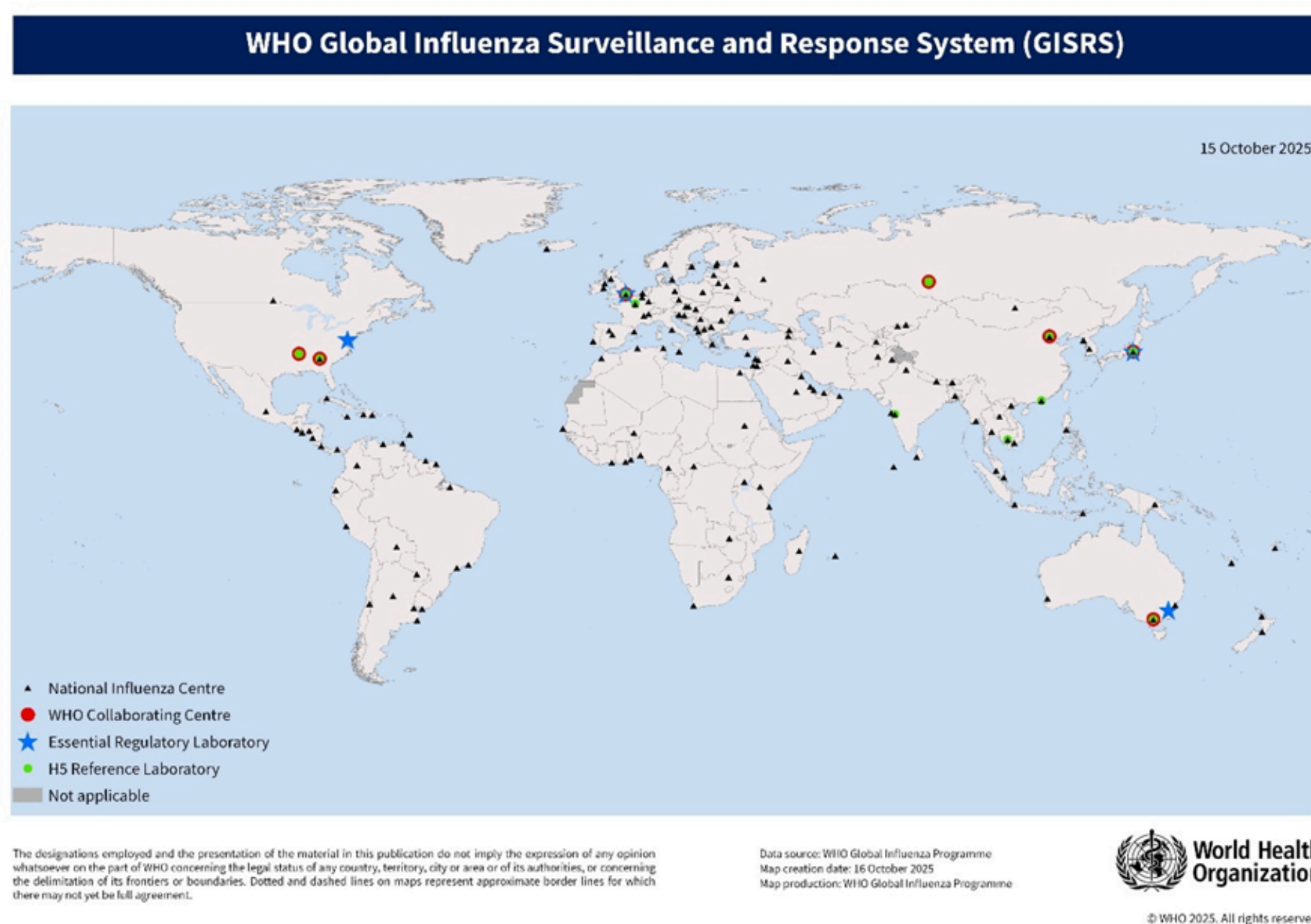
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Your blood samples help unlock answers

Since 1952, global influenza surveillance has been carried out by the World Health Organisation's Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). GISRS is made up of National Influenza Centres from 125 countries and the WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza. This centre collaborates closely with the Worldwide Influenza Centre, at the Francis Crick Institute in London.



Given SIREN's existing collaboration with the Francis Crick Institute, a subset of blood samples provided by SIREN participants this year will be studied to understand how current vaccines work against circulating global influenza strains, helping us to prevent illness and save lives around the world.



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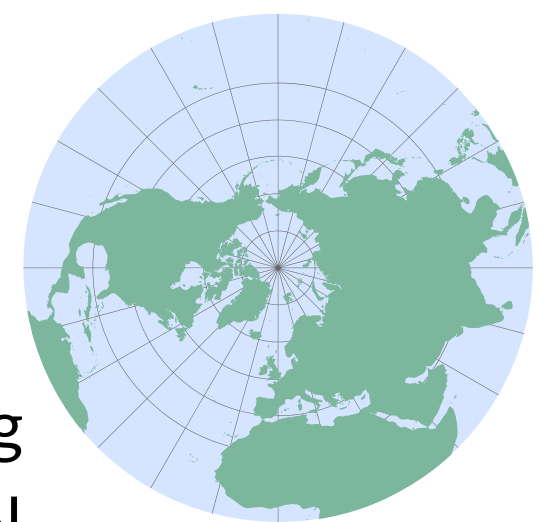
Participant Newsletter

Your blood samples help unlock answers

From 23rd to 26th February 2026 the WHO Vaccine Composition Meeting will be held to decide the composition of next winters' (2026-27) influenza vaccine for the northern hemisphere.



World Health
Organization



This meeting will review many different types of data, including information from the pre-vaccination and post-vaccination SIREN blood samples.

The use of stored blood samples has recently become increasingly important because differences seen in circulating influenza viruses are difficult to detect using other ways.

We, and the Francis Crick Institute, would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have provided blood samples this year.

*Thank
you*

Results generated here at the Crick, using your samples, will provide important evidence to help scientists decide if they need to update the flu vaccine, to make sure people are protected.

Without your support and willingness to take part, we would not be able to generate this important data for the WHO.



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SIREN+ Prepare Pathway

SIREN+ recently launched the SIREN Prepare pathway, which is designed to improve the UK's future pandemic preparedness.

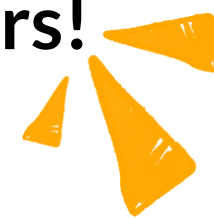
Healthcare workers are frequently exposed to new infections through their work with patients, so are a key group for pandemic preparedness.

This sub-study is collecting samples from participants over Winter 2025/26, with three main aims: the aims of adding to SIREN's biobank of samples, and investigate the immune response to a wide range of pathogens. This will help us to detect and respond to new public health threats, including pathogens.

We were thrilled with the response to the study going live, breaking our previous record for the fastest participant recruitment.



We achieved our target recruitment in under **two hours!**



While unfortunately the number of places on this particular pathway was limited, we really appreciate the enthusiasm of everyone who was interested in taking part.

We will keep you updated with future research opportunities, which we hope will also be of interest.



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*From the whole SIREN Study Research Team, we
wish you a very happy holiday season!*

