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SIREN

SARS-CoV-2 Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation

July 2026

Participant Newsletter

Welcome to the July issue of the SIREN participant newsletter.

In this issue, we will share an update on the last winter participant recruitment round, summarise your feedback on SIREN+ Prepare pathway, and show how your samples have contributed to a new study, SIREN+ Prepare and Detect.

Read on to hear SIREN's latest news...

Welcome to new joiners!

Following SIREN's first new participant recruitment since the study began, we are excited to welcome new joiners into the study.

SIREN+ Prepare Pathway

A huge thank you to all those involved in the SIREN+ Prepare pathway over the 2025/26 winter. Here we share an update and feedback from participants who took part.

SIREN+ Prepare & Detect sub-study

A small number of samples you provided via SIREN+ Prepare pathway were tested via metagenomics, and here we share more details.



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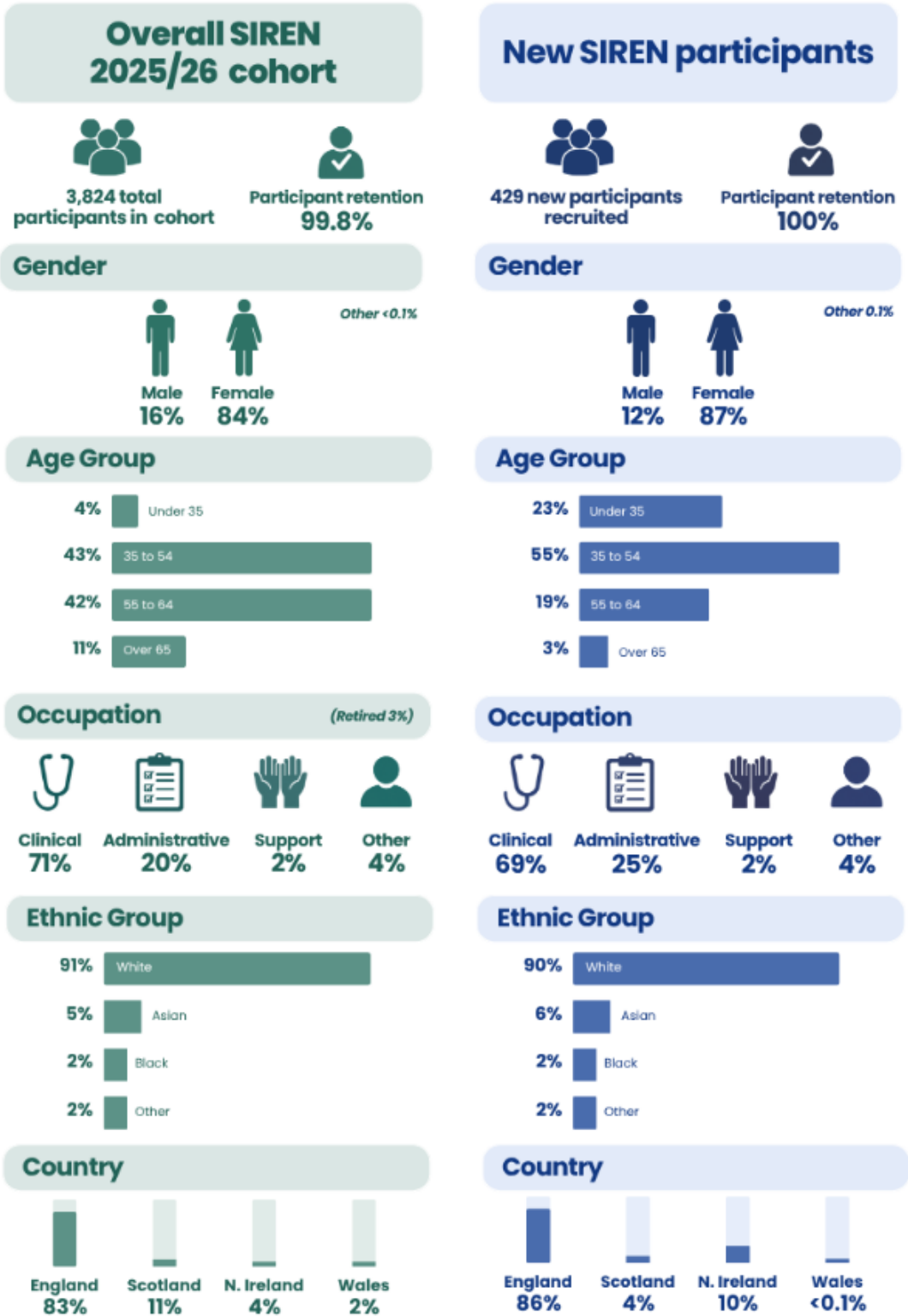
Welcome to new joiners!

For the first time since 2021, we have re-opened the SIREN cohort to recruit new healthcare workers (HCW).

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new joiners!

Over the last winter, we have asked selected sites to advertise the SIREN study locally and invite their staff to join the SIREN+ Winter Pressures 2026/25 substudy.

In total, 12 sites re-opened recruitment, and 429 new participants signed up. SIREN participants are employed in a range of occupations, cover all working age groups and represent all four nations in the UK. It was great to see that the new participants are broadly similar to the wider cohort.



For those who are new and would like more background on the SIREN study to date, you can find out more, including study updates and previous publications, on the [SIREN UK government webpage](#) and the [SIREN Study Portal](#).



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SIREN+ Prepare pathway feedback

Over last winter 2025/26, we collected swabs and blood samples from 750 participants as part of the SIREN+ Prepare Pathway. As shared in our last newsletters, participants were highly engaged, with excellent sample return rates, despite the increased sample frequency (weekly swabs).

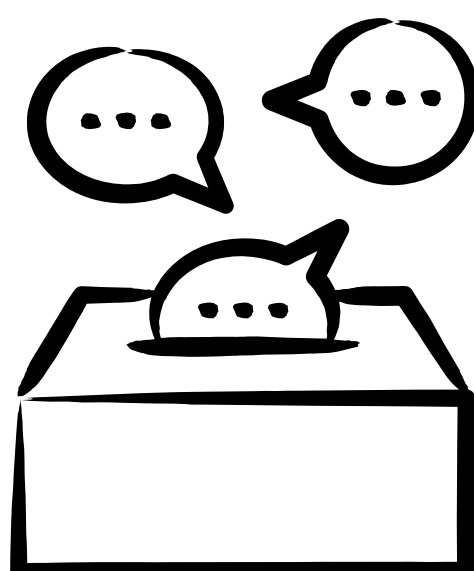


To gather your feedback on the SIREN+ Prepare pathway, we shared a survey to understand participants experience and shape future studies.

75% of participants enrolled into SIREN+ Prepare pathway completing the feedback survey, which is a great response. Overall, participants found the study documents were clear and provided appropriate information about this pathway. The increased swab testing frequency was widely acceptable, as well as the testing period for eight weeks. In addition, finger-prick sampling was a feasible and efficient method to obtain a blood sample.

In summary, these results highlight that participants had a positive testing experience, which support the feasibility of implementing this approach in future studies and its value for pandemic preparedness strategies.

Thank you to all participants that responded to the feedback survey!



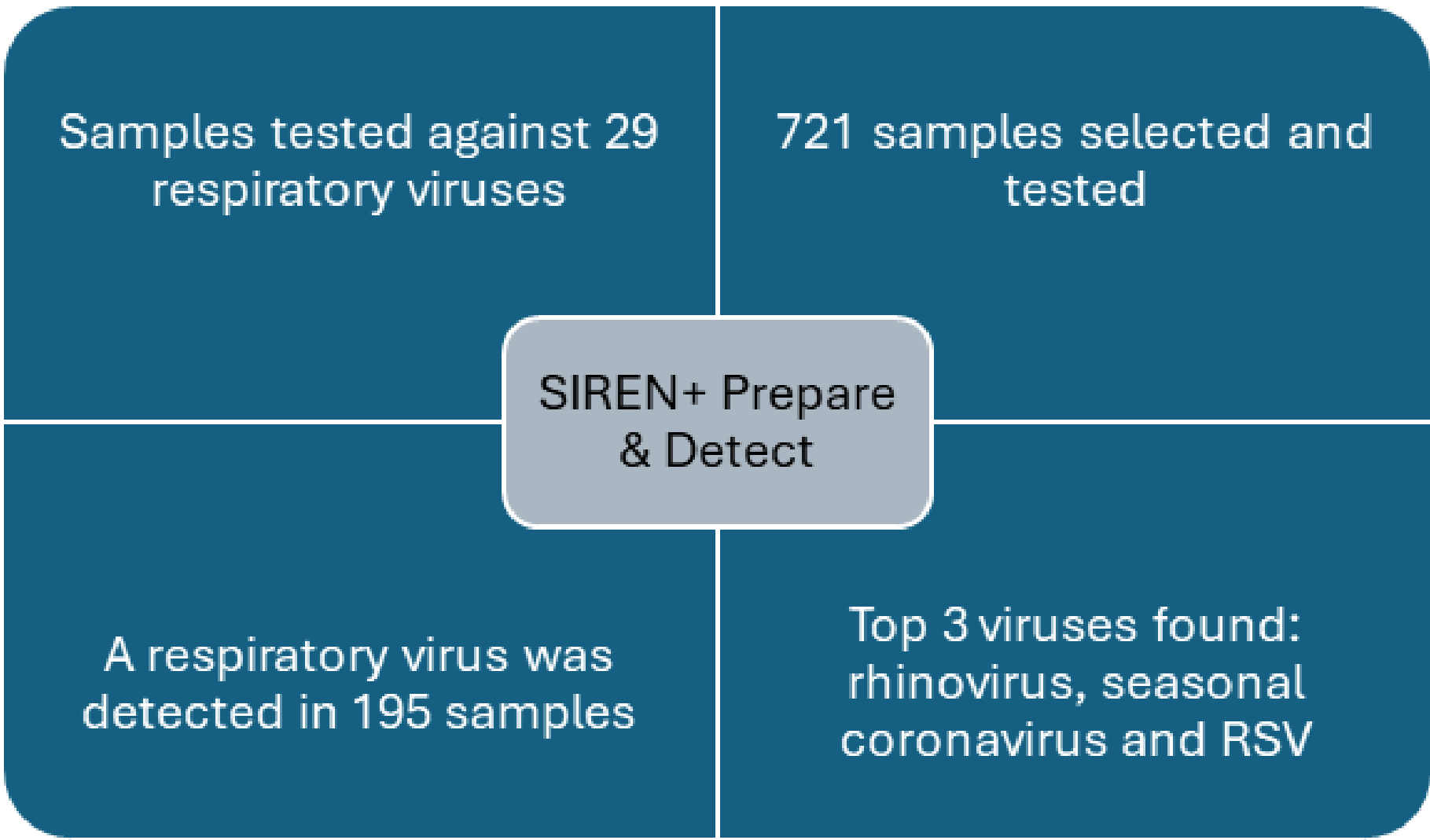


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SIREN+ Prepare & Detect Sub-Study

A subset of the swab samples provided by participants in SIREN+ Prepare pathway were tested for a range of respiratory viruses using metagenomics, as part of a sub- study named SIREN+ Prepare and Detect.

Although this analysis is still ongoing, these are the main highlights so far:



Sample positivity varied according to the week the sample was taken and whether participants reported symptoms.

This sub-study provides important information about viruses circulating in HCWs over winter, allowing us to understand how different viruses impact on respiratory symptoms and identifying emerging pathogens.

We will share more details as the analysis progresses, so watch the space!





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SIREN collaborations update

We have been progressing with collaborations with key research partners, such as University of Edinburgh, Pirbright Institute, Wellcome Sanger and the Francis Crick Institute.

Please check our study portal and stay connected to our ongoing partnerships:

SIREN Study Portal



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*As ever, a huge thank you to you, all our participants, for
your continued support!*



*If you want to get in touch with us directly, please
contact us at phe.siren.participants@ukhsa.gov.uk*