



# Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on influenza and respiratory syncytial virus antibody titres in the community: a prospective cohort study in Neustadt, Thuringia, Germany

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**The lack of circulation of influenza and RSV during the COVID-19 pandemic did not result in a substantial drop in respective antibody levels in the community over 12 months** <https://bit.ly/3qXVLId>

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*To the Editor:*

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and the subsequent infection control measures, has led to a substantial shift in the spectrum of respiratory tract infections. In many regions, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was or still is the most common viral respiratory pathogen while the circulation of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was decreased [1–3]. There is some evidence from the past that an interruption of viral circulation for several years may reduce the immunity of the population and lead to a consecutive severe season, as observed in the 2017–2018 season that was dominated by influenza B lineage Yamagata, which was barely present in the previous 5 years [4, 5].

