

### **WHAT IS THE VIVALDI STUDY?**

Researchers on the VIVALDI Study are investigating the impact of COVID-19 on care homes and what can be done to prevent infection from spreading among staff and residents. The study was set up in June 2020 and is collecting information from over 50,000 care home staff and residents across more than 300 care homes in England.

Using these samples, we could tell who **had** been infected with COVID-19 before October 2020 (people **with** COVID-19 antibodies in their blood) and who **had NOT** been infected (people **without** COVID-19 antibodies in their blood).

Since July 2020, all care home staff and residents have been tested regularly for COVID-19 infection. This was done with nasal swab tests that were organised through the national testing programme. We used the results from these swab tests to pick out individuals who had a new COVID-19 infection after October 2020. We combined the information from the blood and nasal swab tests and split the participants into two groups. We then compared the number of infections in these groups.

**Group 1:** Those who did NOT have COVID-19 antibodies in their blood by October 2020, and who later had a COVID-19 infection as shown by a positive swab test.

**Group 2:** Those who had COVID-19 antibodies in their blood by October 2020, but who later had a second COVID-19 infection as shown by a positive swab test.

### WHAT DID WE FIND?

People **with** COVID-19 antibodies at the start of the study (indicating they had been infected before) were much less likely to get a new COVID-19 infection compared to people **without** antibodies.

In an average month between October 2020 and February 2021, **7** out of 100 residents **without** antibodies had a COVID-19 infection. Only **1** out of 100 residents **with** antibodies at the start of the study had a second COVID-19 infection. In the same period, **3** out of 100 staff members **without** antibodies were infected with COVID-19. Only **1** out of 100 staff **with** antibodies at the start of the study had a second COVID-19 infection.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CARE HOMES?

The findings suggest that people living and working in care homes who have already been infected with COVID-19 have a reduced risk of further infection. This is good news, but we do not, however, know how

get vaccinated (even if you have been infected with COVID-19) to get the best long-term protection against COVID-19.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

