The overall viral detection rate was low in this sample set of healthy students, making it hard to investigate the relationship between viral infections and meningococcal carriage.

There was weak evidence of an association between the detection of respiratory Rhinovirus and meningococcus at visit 1. 1,813 students were recruited for an initial swab, with 918 students taking part in a longitudinal part of the study, in which pharyngeal swabs were collected from them monthly for 6 months.

Bacterial and viral nucleic acids were extracted from the STGG broth using a QIAsymphony machine.

1,813 students were recruited for an initial swab, with 918 students taking part in a longitudinal part of the study in which pharyngeal swabs were collected from them monthly for 6 months.

No association between the presence of RhV or any virus in the previous sample and meningococcal carriage in healthy adolescents were observed.

There was weak evidence of an association between meningococcal carriage and Rhinovirus at visit 1. There was weak evidence of an association between meningococcal carriage and Rhinovirus at visit 1.

There was weak evidence in visit 1 samples of an association between the detection of respiratory syncytial virus and meningococcus. Intercurrent rhinovirus infection may be associated with an increase in meningococcal density, which potentially could increase the likelihood of onward transmission.

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