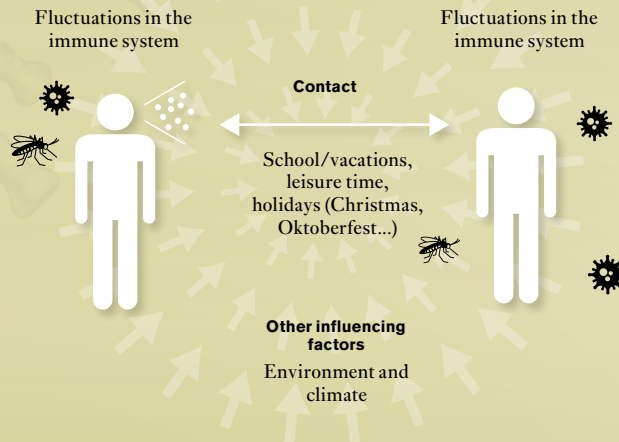


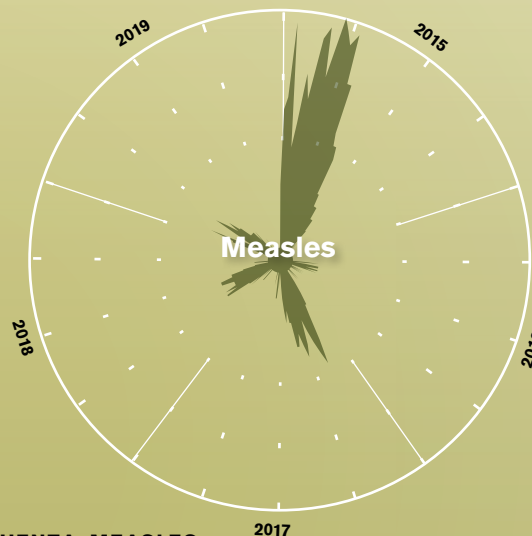
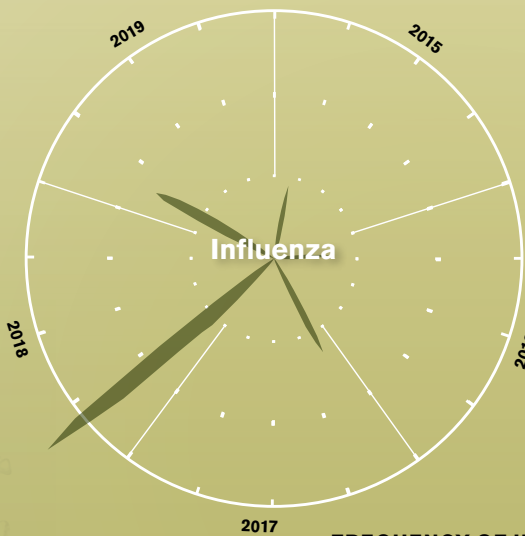
# PEAK SEASON FOR VIRUSES

In temperate latitudes, many viral infections occur more frequently in winter. Despite the fact that there are no seasons in the tropics, many infectious diseases still occur there with uneven distribution throughout the year. The period in which a wave of infection reaches its peak depends on several factors, for example on seasonal temperature fluctuations or changes in contact rates among susceptible people. Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology have managed to decipher the seasonality of chickenpox in Colombia. Their findings can help with the development of vaccination programs.

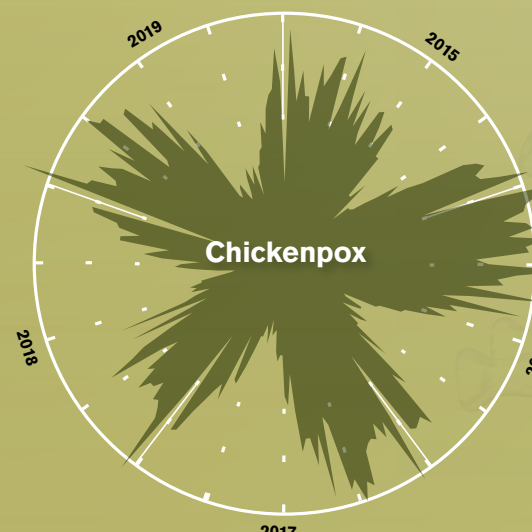
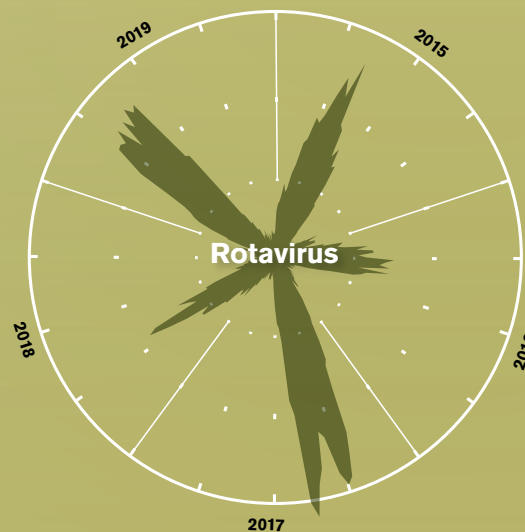
## TRIGGERS FOR WAVES OF INFECTION



26



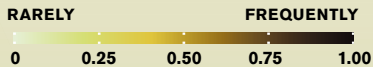
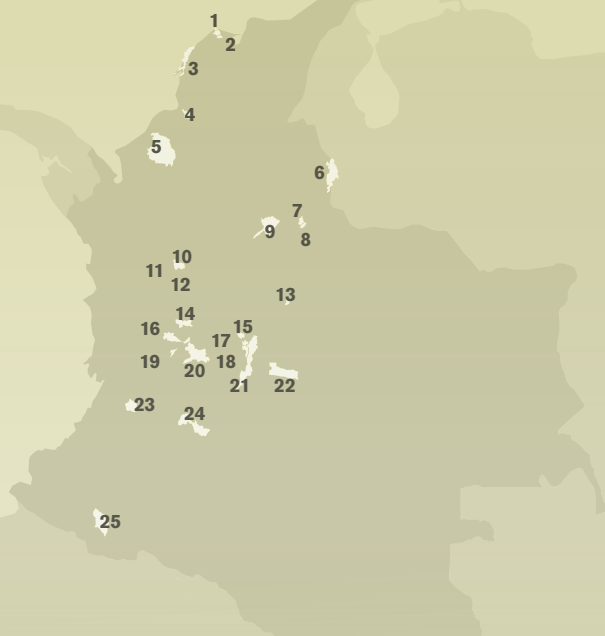
FREQUENCY OF INFLUENZA, MEASLES, ROTAVIRUS, AND CHICKENPOX IN GERMANY



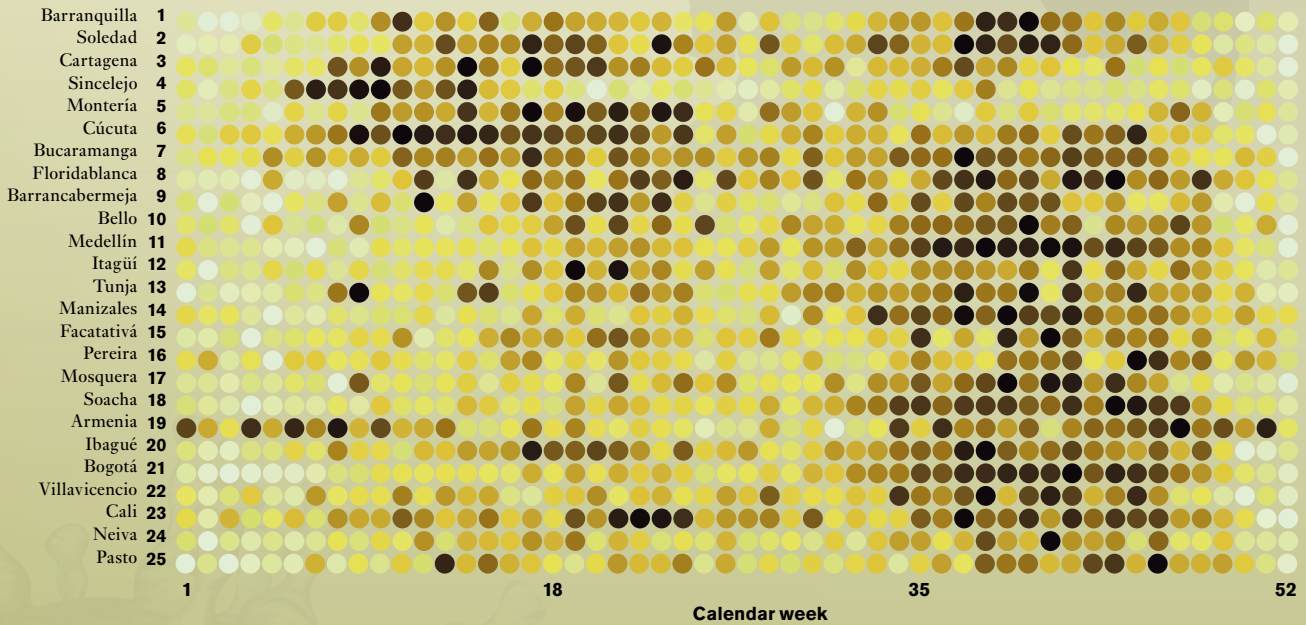
GRAPHIC: GCO BASED ON BARRERO GUEVARA ET AL., 2023

### CHICKENPOX IN COLOMBIA AND GERMANY

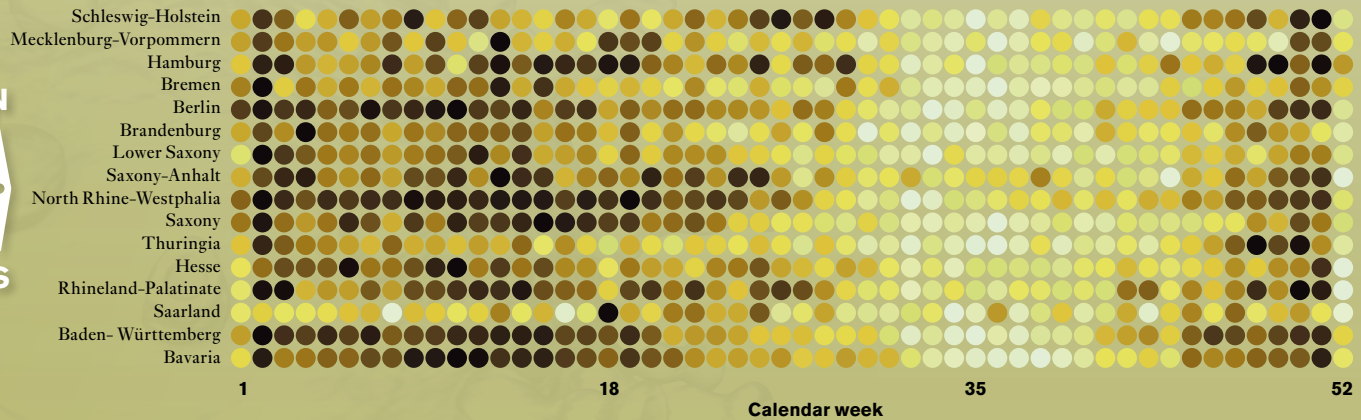
In Colombia, chickenpox occurs more frequently in April and October. The South American country does not have seasons like in Germany; instead, humidity fluctuates throughout the year. In the north, the first few months of the year are dry, then humidity rises and remains high until the end of the year. In the south, meanwhile, it increases at the start of the year and decreases again towards the end of the year. The researchers suspect that chickenpox is more easily transmitted during the dry months and during the school term. In communities in the north of the country, the wave is therefore higher in April than in October, while in the south it is the other way around. In Germany, meanwhile, the chickenpox season peaks around the same time in all federal states.



#### Colombia



#### Germany



Our infographics were recognized with the Creative Communication Award in 2023.