

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year

**22 / 2026**

Population

**19,582,808**

Dates

**25/05/2026 - 31/05/2026**

No. Practices

**1,834**

### Notes

All rates in this report are given per 100,000 population presenting in the week of the report. A rolling 5-year average rate is also provided as a historical comparison. Rates are provided for four regions (North, South, Midlands and East, and London). For acute respiratory infections, a breakdown by age group is also provided.

Rates are presented on a weekly basis, using ISO week numbers.

Please see page 20 for further explanatory notes on the data.

### Comments

Overall rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) have decreased this week and are in line with the seasonal average for this time of year. Swab positivity rates for this week remains low, pages 3 and 4.

The overall rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) have decreased this week, while rates nationally remains below the seasonal average for this time of year, page 7.

Rates of COVID-19 remain low except slight increase in age group 65+ yrs, page 6.

Other comments:

- Tonsillitis and pharyngitis, otitis media, sinusitis, infected insect bites, impetigo, herpes zoster and urinary tract infection (UTI) consultation rates are currently above the five-year average. We believe this reflects identification of additional cases through the Pharmacy First scheme, and we are monitoring these changes

## Seasonal Focus

In the "Change since last week" column, a change in rate of 5% to 10% is marked with a single arrow (↗ or ↘), while a change of more than 10% is marked with a double arrow (↗↗ or ↘↘). A flat line (—) indicates the rate was stable, changing less than 5%.

### Region Breakdown

	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	124.1	181.2	↘-57.1	1.2	2.9	↘-1.7	5.7	7.7	↘-2.0
Midlands And East	171.0	248.1	↘-77.1	0.9	1.3	↘-0.3	10.8	14.1	↘-3.3
North	192.2	281.7	↘-89.6	1.2	1.9	↘-0.6	16.0	21.8	↘-5.8
South	141.0	200.7	↘-59.6	0.9	1.9	↘-1.0	9.8	12.9	↘-3.1
<b>National</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>229.0</b>	<b>↘-70.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>↘-0.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>↘-3.6</b>
	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	25.2	36.3	↘-11.1	97.4	143.3	↘-45.9	0.0	0.1	↘-0.1
Midlands And East	46.1	67.8	↘-21.7	121.3	177.1	↘-55.8	0.1	0.2	↘0.0
North	62.6	84.9	↘-22.3	122.8	187.9	↘-65.1	0.1	0.2	↘-0.1
South	43.3	57.9	↘-14.6	95.5	139.9	↘-44.4	0.2	0.2	— 0.0
<b>National</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>↘-17.6</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>161.8</b>	<b>↘-52.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>↘0.0</b>

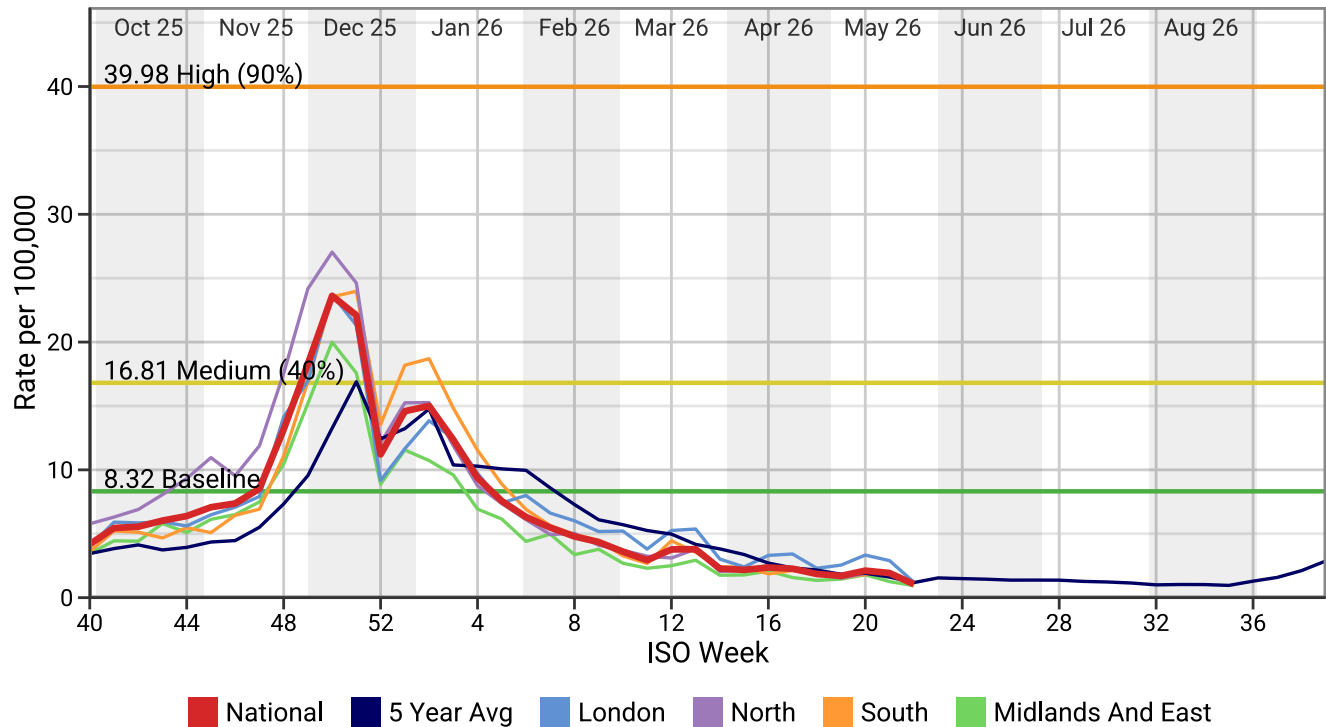
### Age Group Breakdown

	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	652.6	899.7	↘-247.1	0.6	1.8	↘-1.2	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
1-4yrs	537.3	814.7	↘-277.3	1.4	1.7	↘-0.3	1.4	2.1	↘-0.7
5-14yrs	183.8	307.4	↘-123.7	0.4	1.6	↘-1.2	2.4	5.4	↘-3.0
15-64yrs	118.1	168.0	↘-49.9	1.2	2.2	↘-0.9	7.7	10.3	↘-2.6
65+yrs	181.0	243.0	↘-62.0	0.8	1.3	↘-0.5	29.9	38.3	↘-8.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>229.0</b>	<b>↘-70.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>↘-0.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>↘-3.6</b>
	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	140.8	167.8	↘-27.0	564.3	809.4	↘-245.1	0.6	1.8	↘-1.2
1-4yrs	79.1	107.6	↘-28.5	500.0	762.8	↘-262.8	0.1	0.3	↘-0.1
5-14yrs	15.7	26.9	↘-11.2	172.7	286.2	↘-113.5	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
15-64yrs	28.8	42.4	↘-13.6	85.5	121.4	↘-35.9	0.0	0.1	↘-0.1
65+yrs	111.6	145.2	↘-33.6	49.2	70.7	↘-21.4	0.4	0.3	↗0.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>↘-17.6</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>161.8</b>	<b>↘-52.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>↘0.0</b>

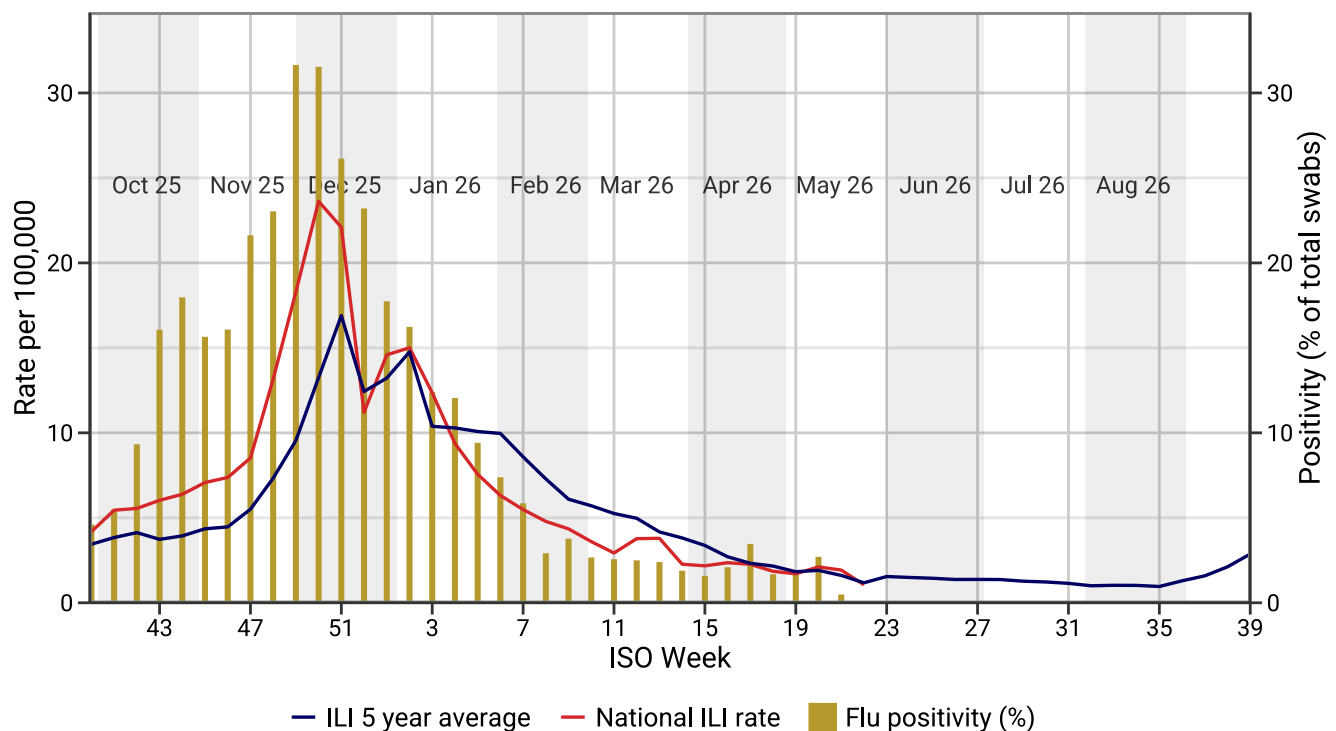
## 2025/26 Focus

### (A) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by region

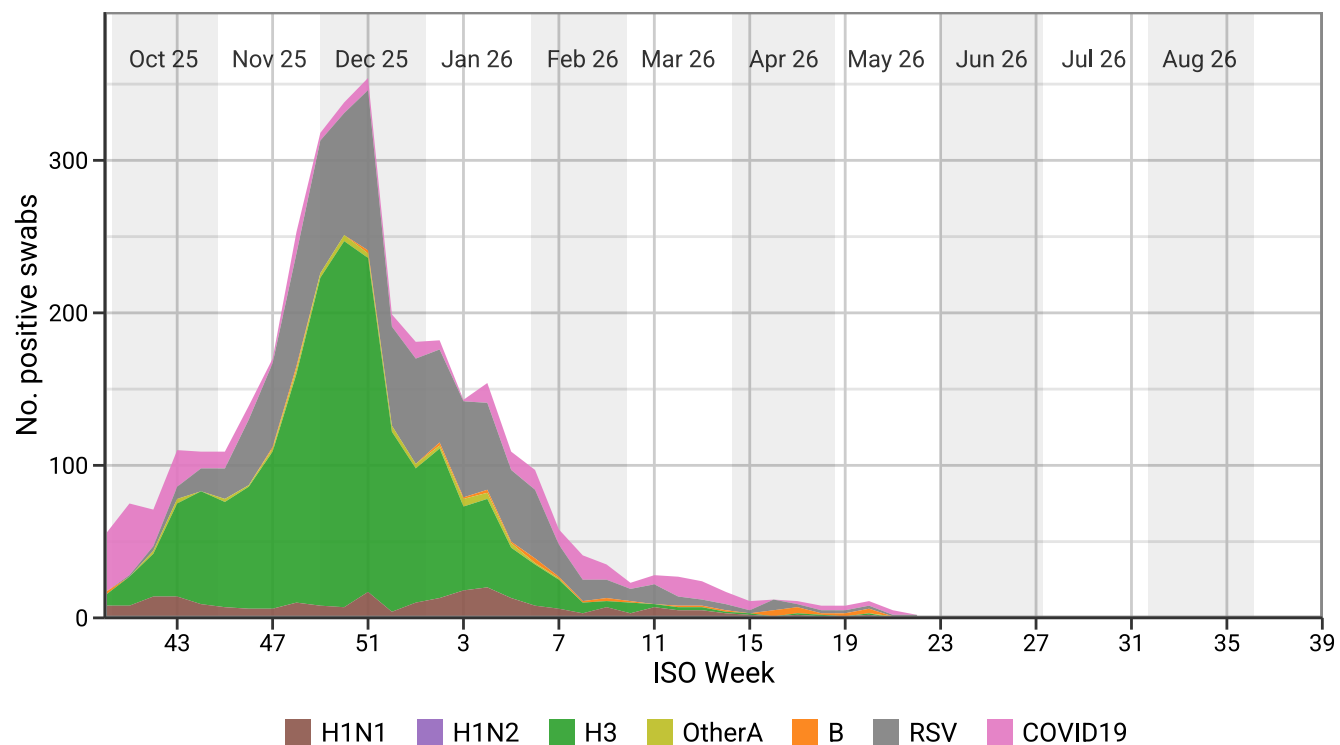
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.



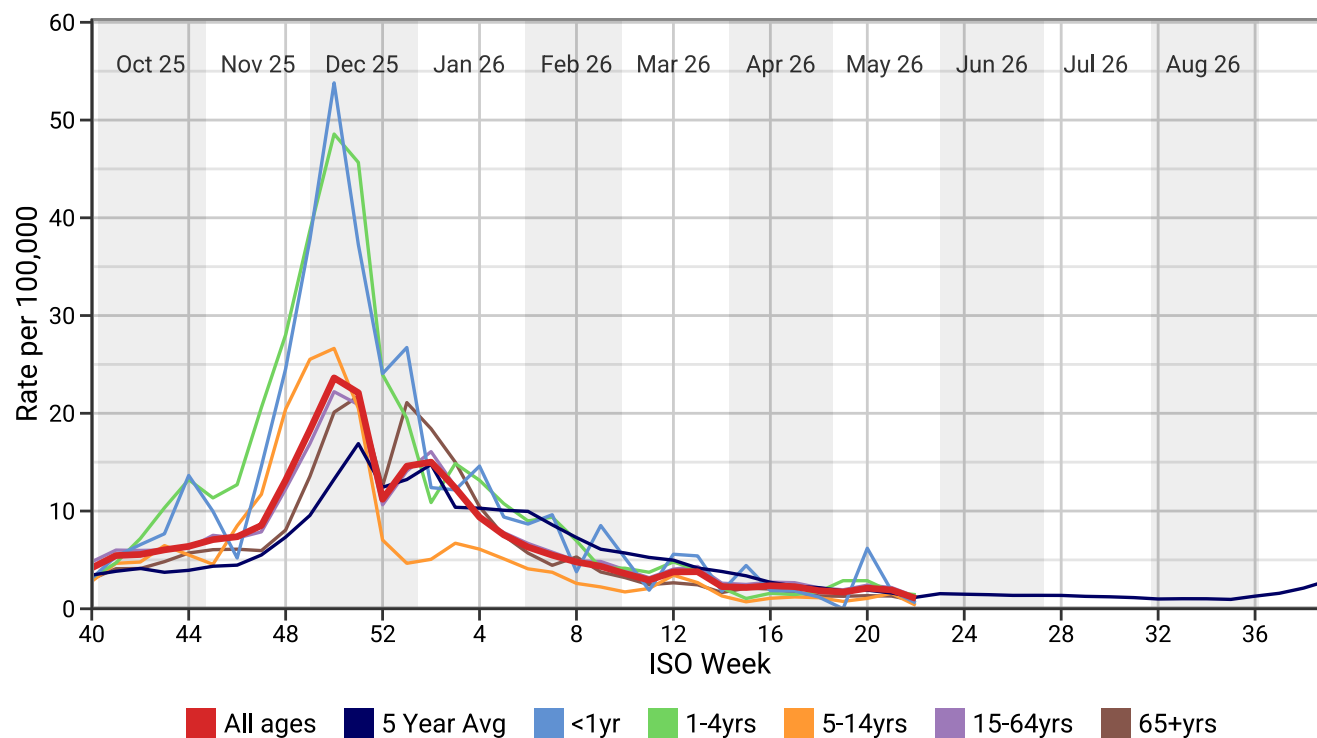
### (B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance



(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 virology swab surveillance (by strain)



(D) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band



**(E) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band**

This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - thresholds are shown in the second table. Refer to page 19 for more information.

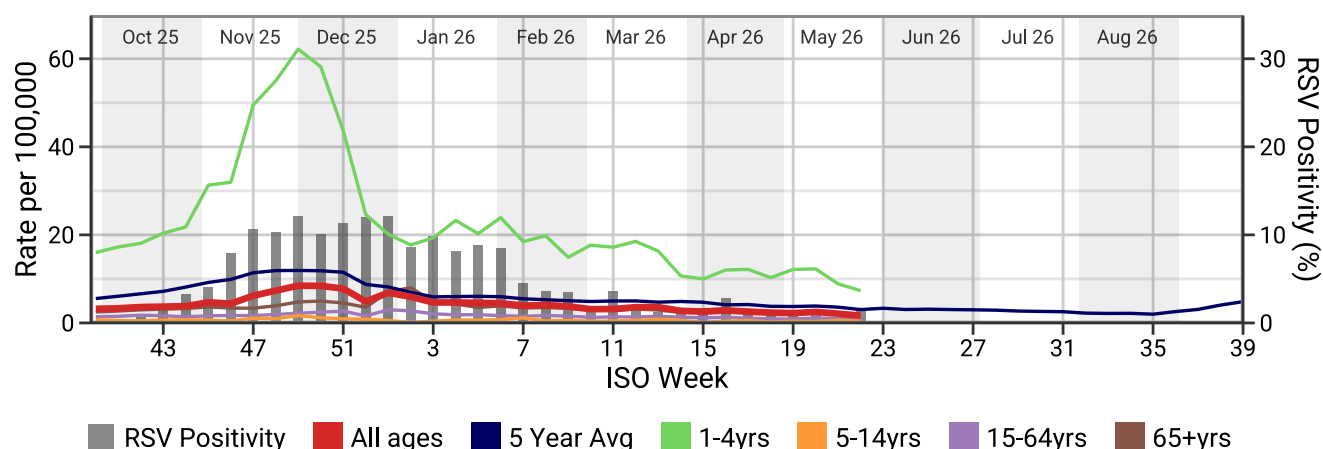
	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4
1-4yrs	2.5	3.2	4.7	7.2	10.3	13.2	11.3	12.7	20.6	28.0	38.7	48.6	45.7	23.9	19.5	10.9	14.9	13.1
5-14yrs	2.2	2.8	4.6	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.5	8.5	11.7	20.4	25.5	26.6	20.5	7.0	4.7	5.1	6.7	6.1
15-64yrs	3.7	4.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	7.5	7.2	7.9	12.3	16.9	22.2	20.9	10.6	14.1	16.1	12.5	9.4
65+yrs	2.7	3.1	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.9	8.1	13.5	20.1	21.7	12.6	21.1	18.4	15.0	10.4
All ages	3.3	4.2	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.4	7.1	7.4	8.5	13.2	18.3	23.6	22.1	11.2	14.6	15.0	12.4	9.4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1-4yrs	10.8	9.0	9.4	7.0	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.8	4.0	2.1	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.9	2.9	1.7	1.4
5-14yrs	5.1	4.1	3.7	2.6	2.2	1.7	2.1	3.4	2.7	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.4
15-64yrs	7.8	6.7	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.2	4.1	4.3	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.2
65+yrs	7.5	5.7	4.4	5.3	3.8	3.2	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8
All ages	7.6	6.3	5.5	4.8	4.3	3.6	2.9	3.8	3.8	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.1

	Below Threshold	Threshold to medium	Medium to high	High to very high	Above very high
1-4yrs	<7.86	7.86 to 16.38	16.38 to 30.29	30.29 to 39.75	39.75+
5-14yrs	<5.17	5.17 to 11.83	11.83 to 29.13	29.13 to 43.38	43.38+
15-64yrs	<9.81	9.81 to 18.31	18.31 to 44.31	44.31 to 65.49	65.49+
65+yrs	<8.10	8.10 to 14.49	14.49 to 37.90	37.90 to 57.96	57.96+
All Ages	<8.32	8.32 to 16.81	16.81 to 39.98	39.98 to 58.62	58.62+

**(F) Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis: national incidence rate by age band**

Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.

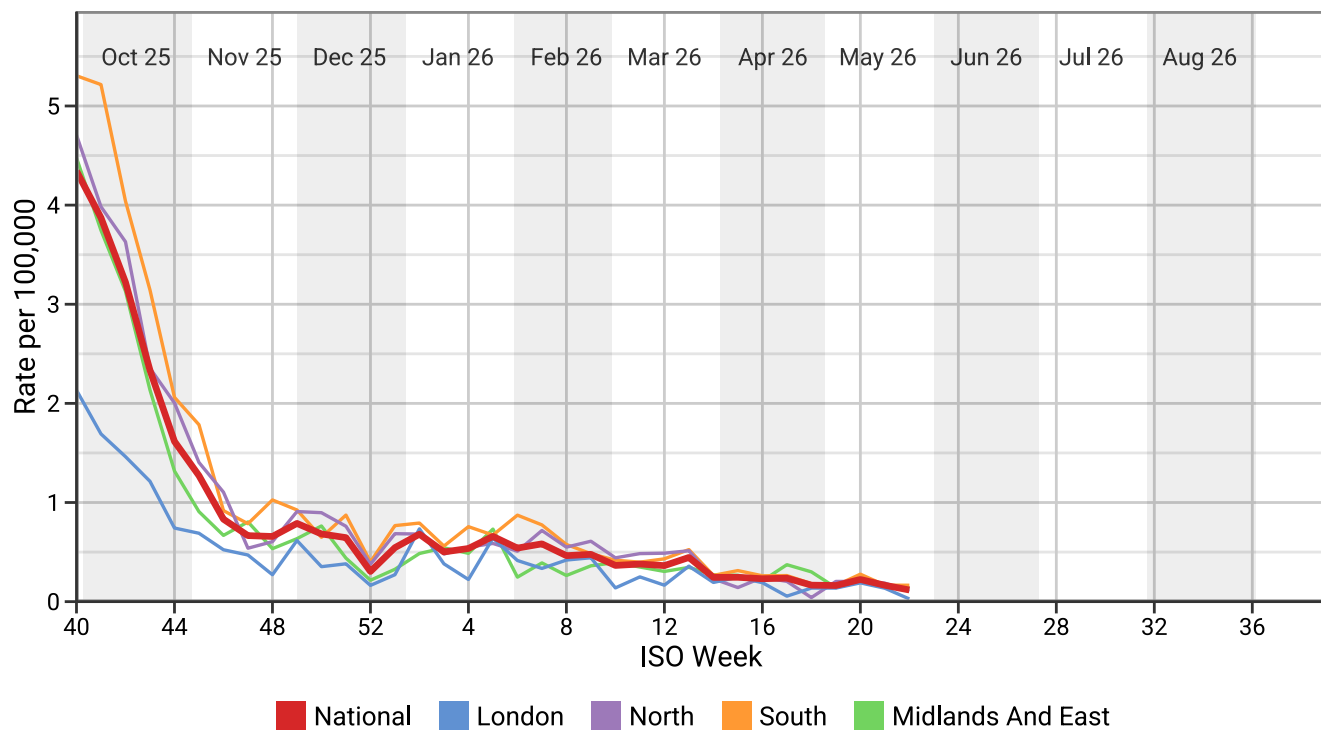
**Weekly incidence rates of influenza-like illness, and acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis (per 100,000)**

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	0.6	65.0
1-4yrs	1.4	7.3
5-14yrs	0.4	0.4
15-24yrs	1.5	0.2
25-44yrs	1.3	0.6
45-64yrs	1.0	1.0
65-74yrs	1.0	1.8
75-84yrs	0.8	1.8
85+yrs	0.4	1.4
All ages	1.1	1.6

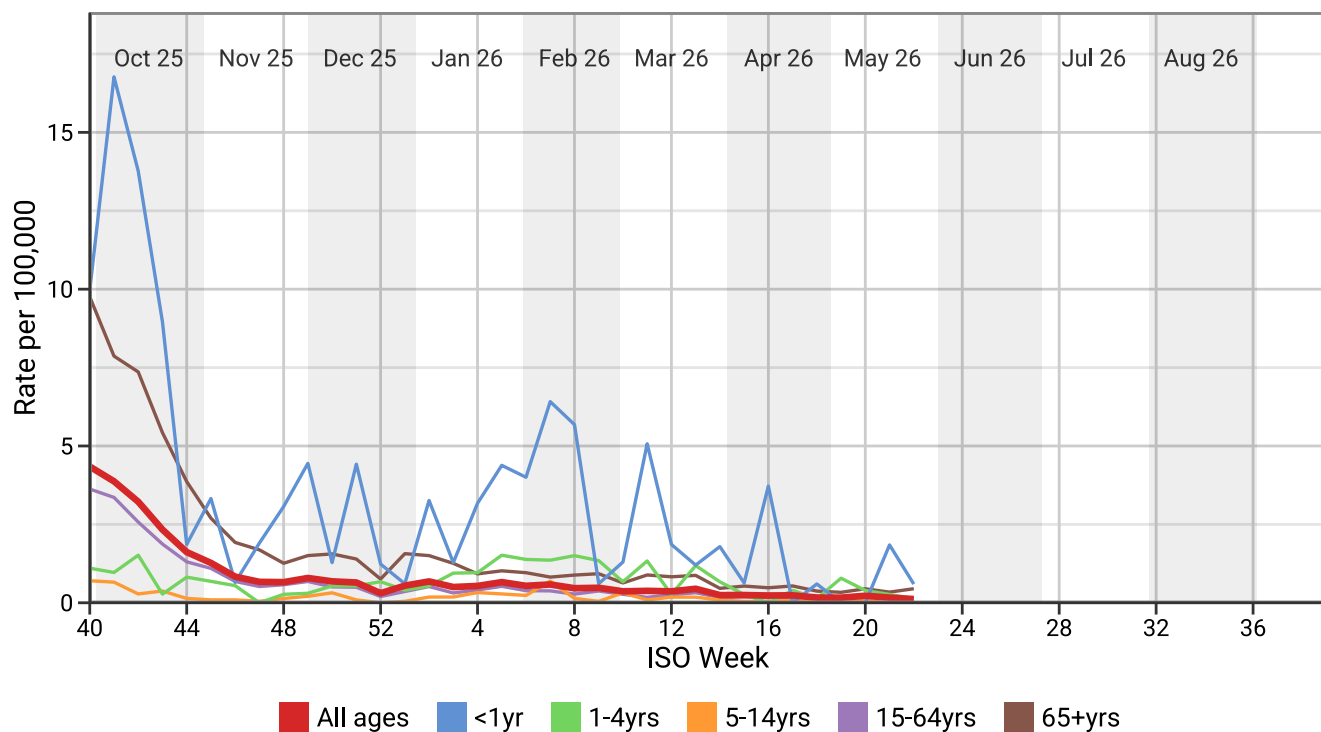
  

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
London	1.2	1.5
Midlands And East	0.9	1.7
North	1.2	2.1
South	0.9	1.3
National	1.1	1.6

(G) COVID-19: national incidence rate by region

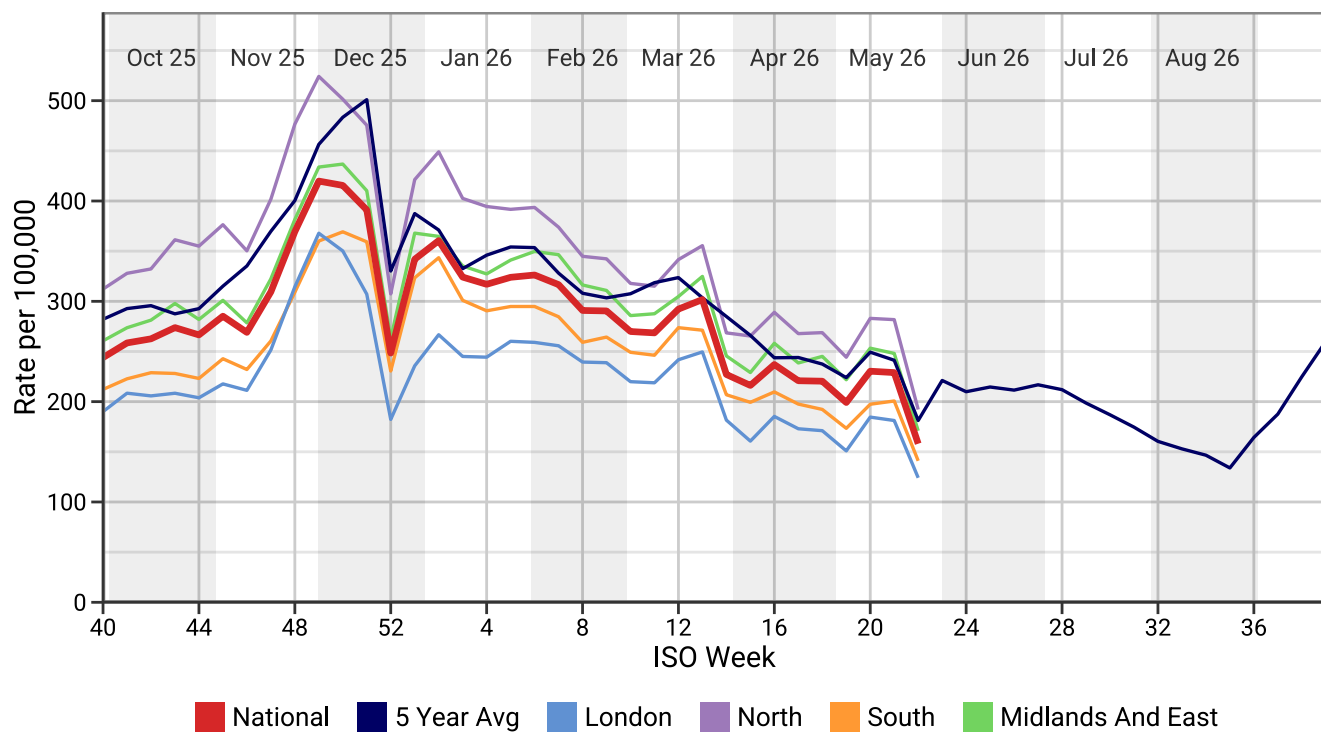


(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

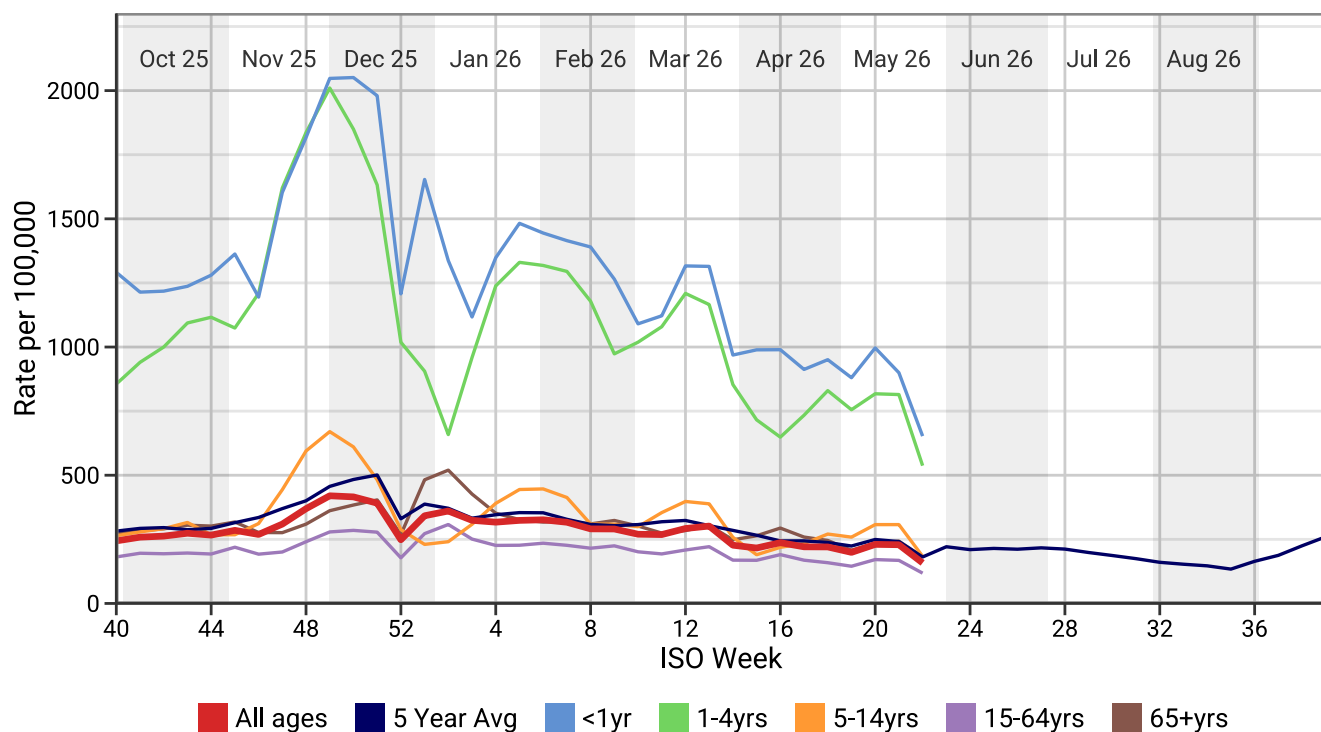


# 1. Respiratory Infections

## (I) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by region



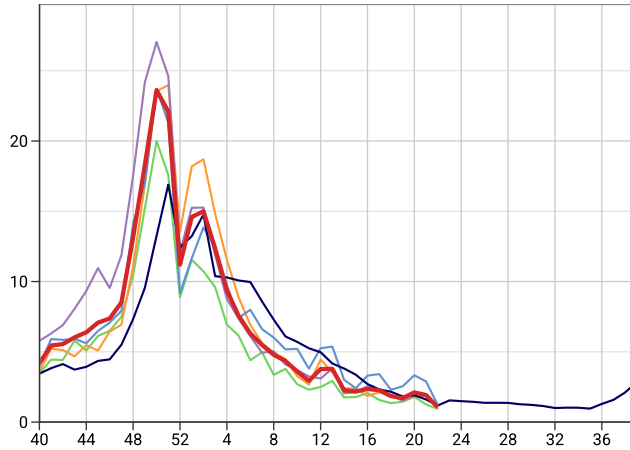
## (J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band



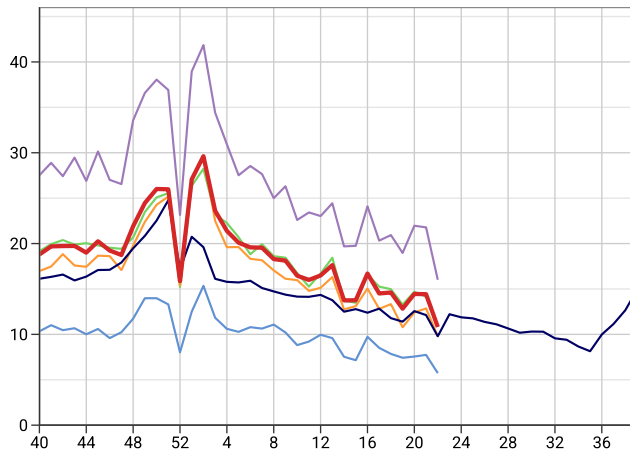
## Respiratory Infections - by region

■ National ■ London ■ South  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ North ■ Midlands And East

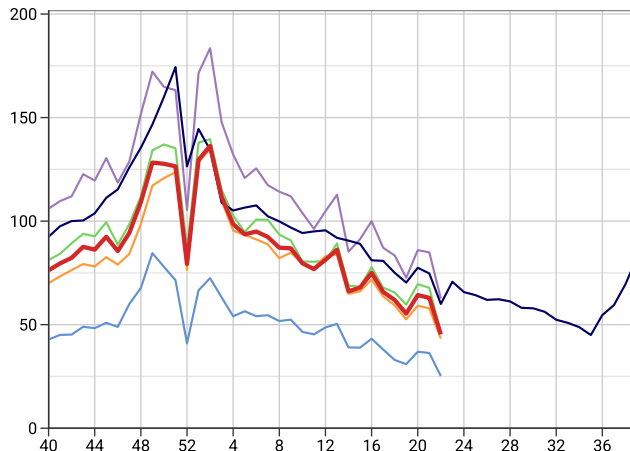
**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



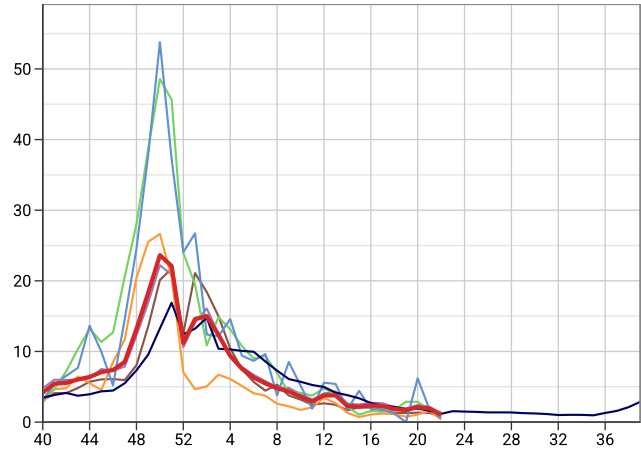
**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



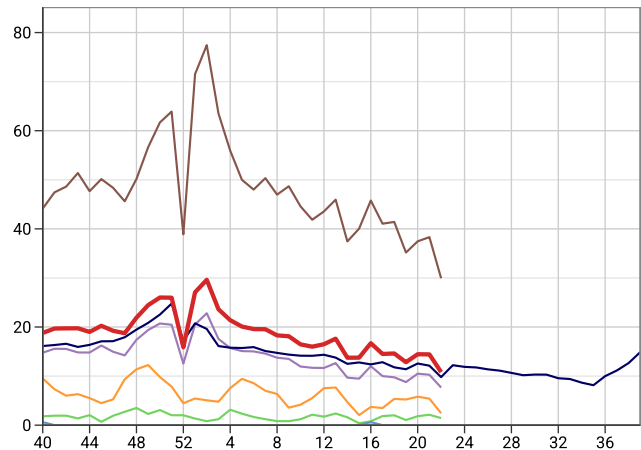
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ All ages ■ <1yr ■ 5-14yrs ■ 65+yrs  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ 1-4yrs ■ 15-64yrs

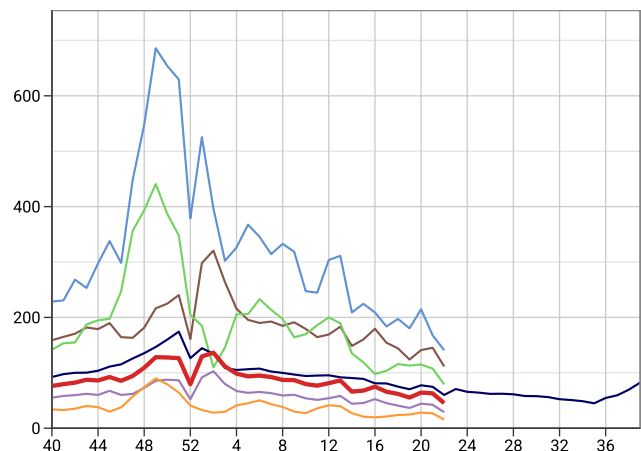
**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

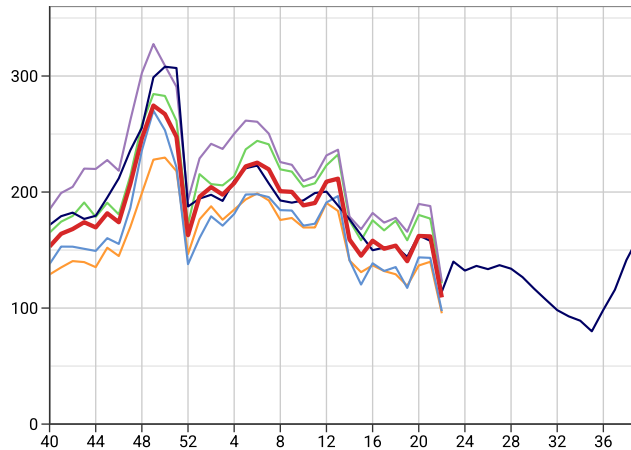




## Respiratory Infections - by region

■ National ■ London ■ South  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ North ■ Midlands And East

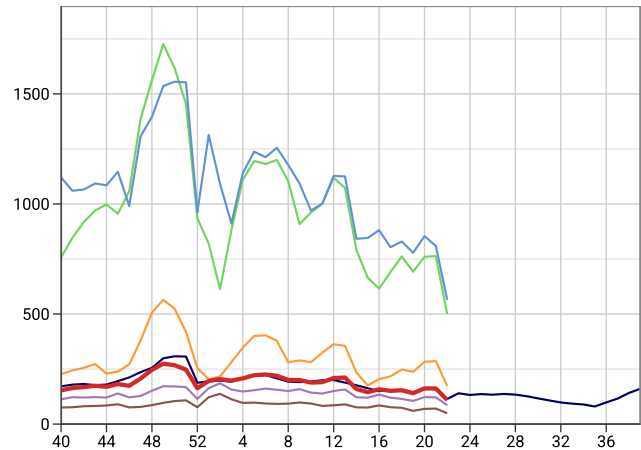
**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



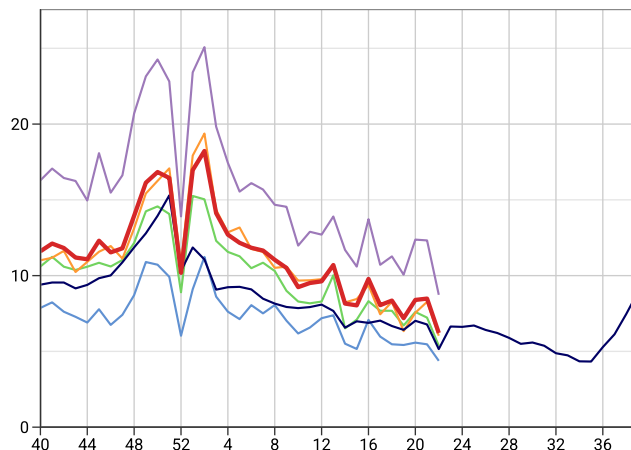
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ All ages ■ <1yr ■ 5-14yrs ■ 65+yrs  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ 1-4yrs ■ 15-64yrs

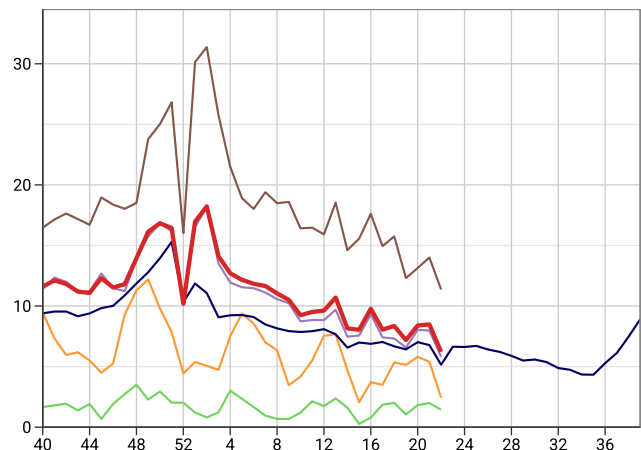
**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



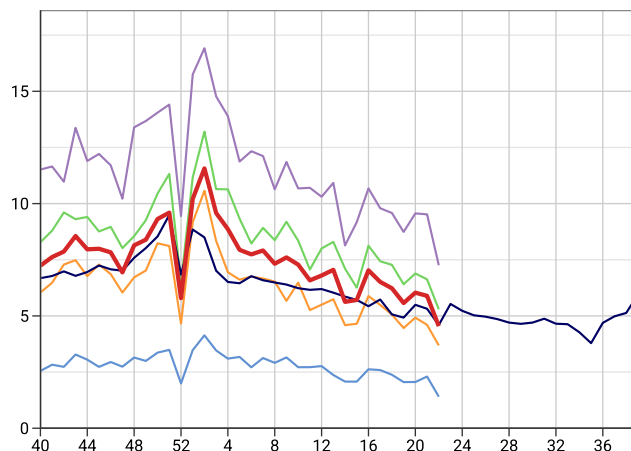
**ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



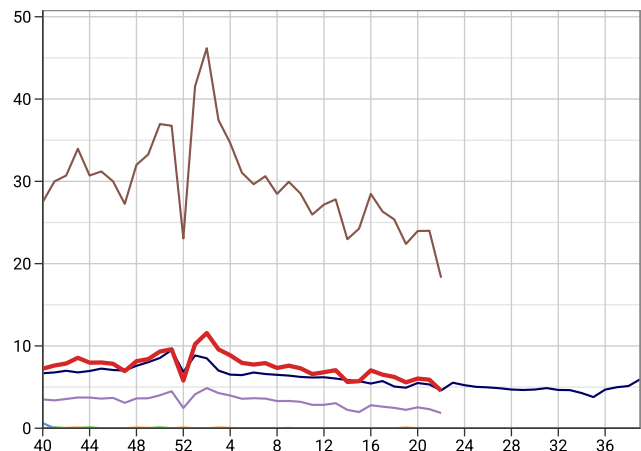
**ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**ECLD - COPD Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



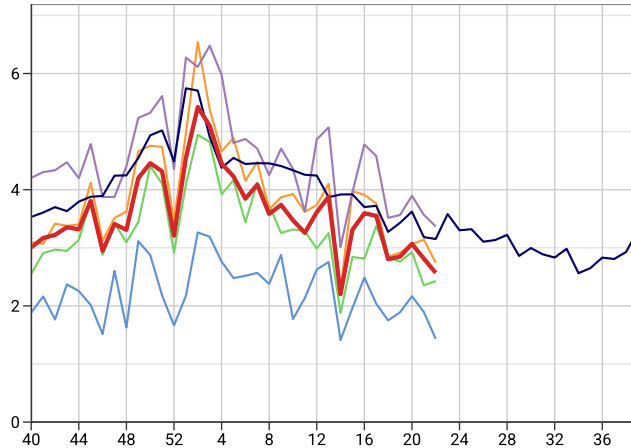
**ECLD - COPD Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



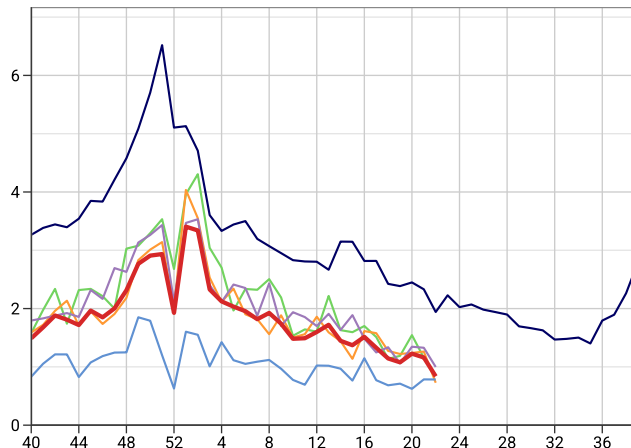
## Respiratory Infections - by region

■ National ■ London ■ South  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ North ■ Midlands And East

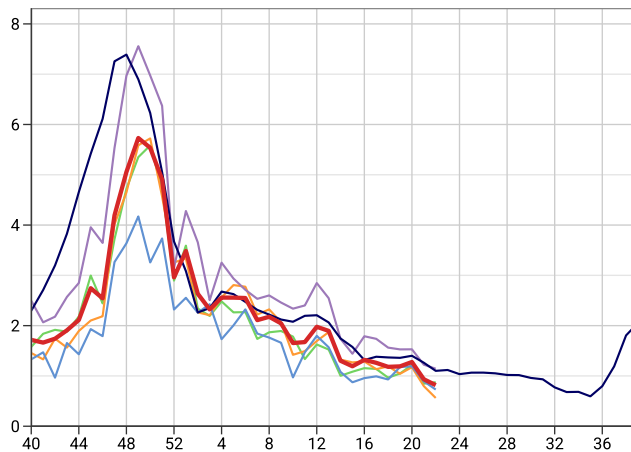
**LRTI - Pneumonia**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**LRTI - Acute Bronchitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



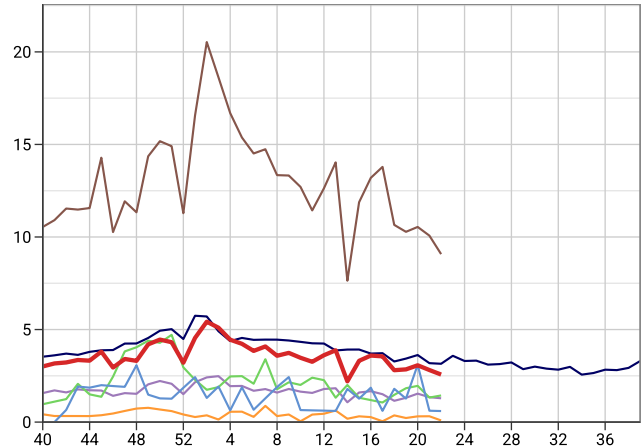
**LRTI - Bronchiolitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



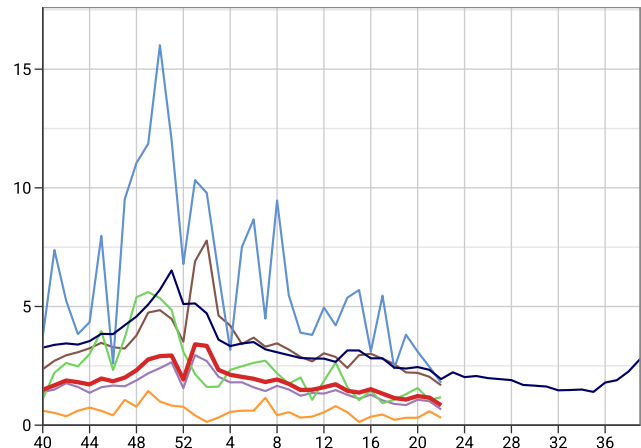
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ All ages ■ <1yr ■ 5-14yrs ■ 65+yrs  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ 1-4yrs ■ 15-64yrs

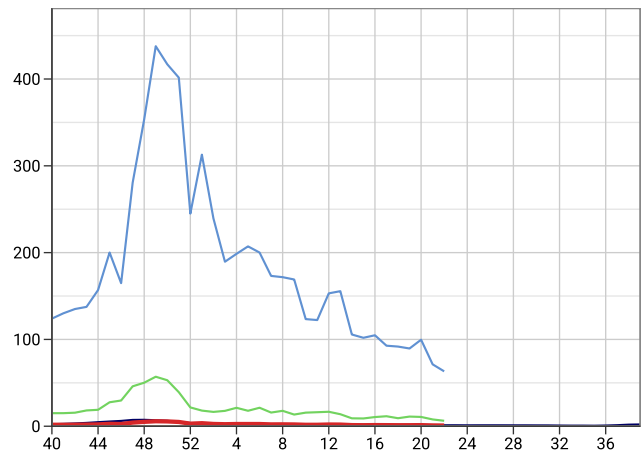
**LRTI - Pneumonia**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**LRTI - Acute Bronchitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



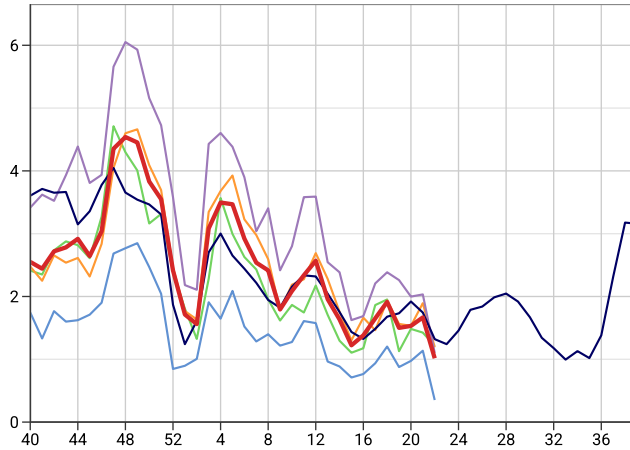
**LRTI - Bronchiolitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## Respiratory Infections - by region

■ National ■ London ■ South  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ North ■ Midlands And East

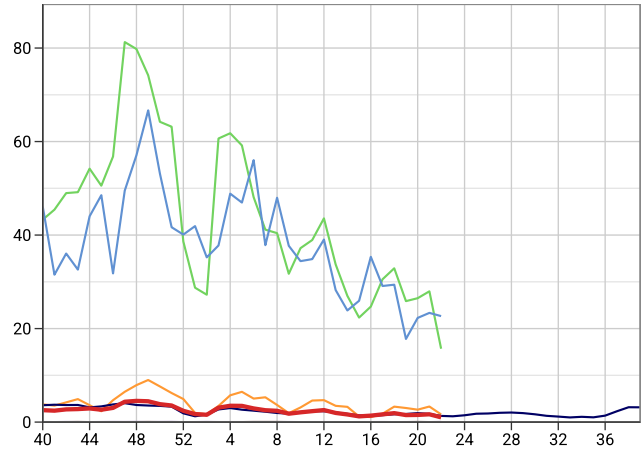
**URTI - Croup**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



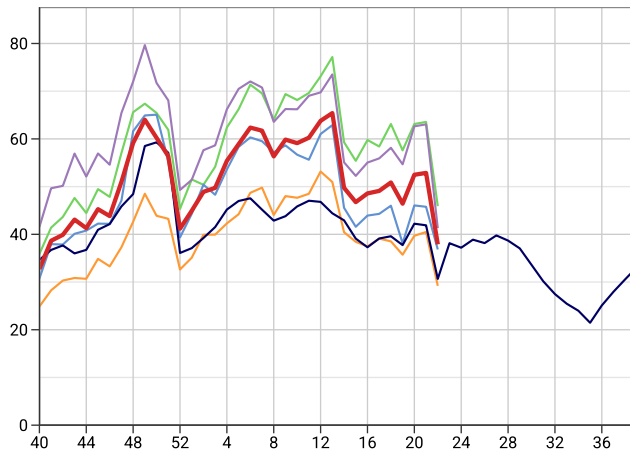
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ All ages ■ <1yr ■ 5-14yrs ■ 65+yrs  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ 1-4yrs ■ 15-64yrs

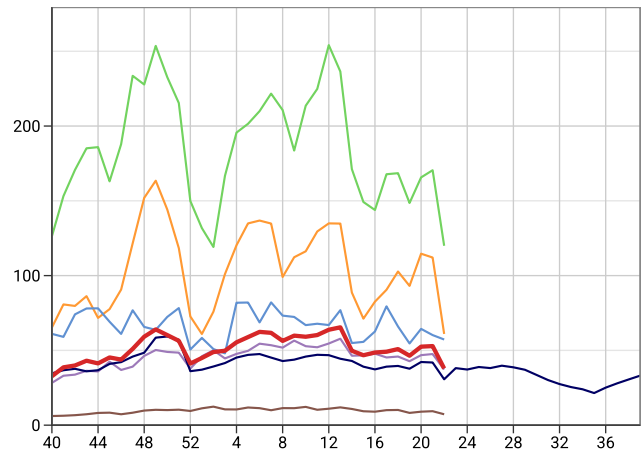
**URTI - Croup**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



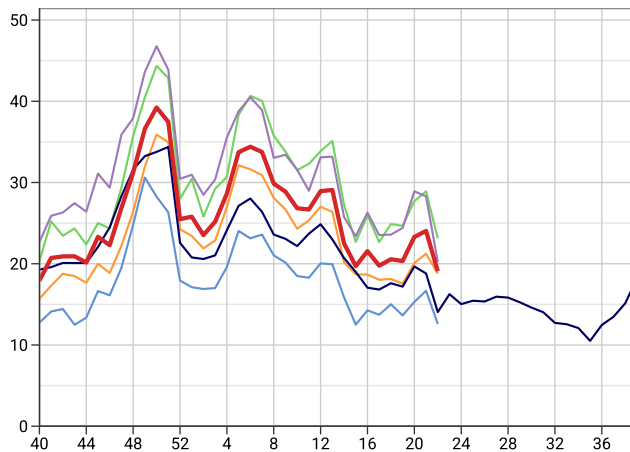
**URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



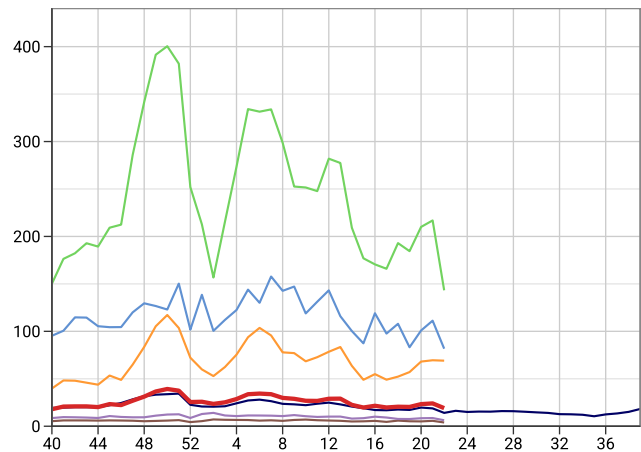
**URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**URTI - Otitis Media**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



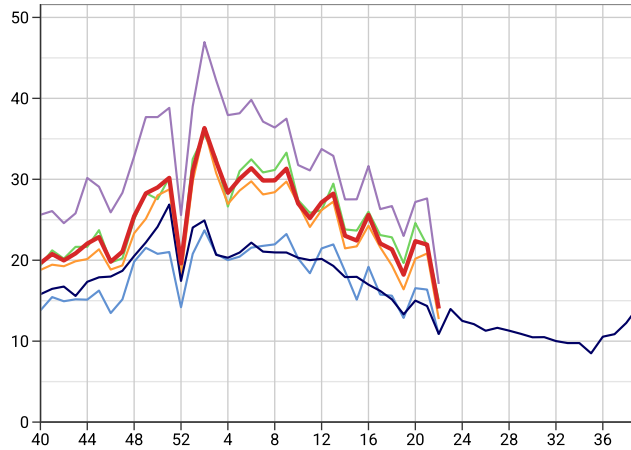
**URTI - Otitis Media**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## Respiratory Infections - by region

■ National ■ London ■ South  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ North ■ Midlands And East

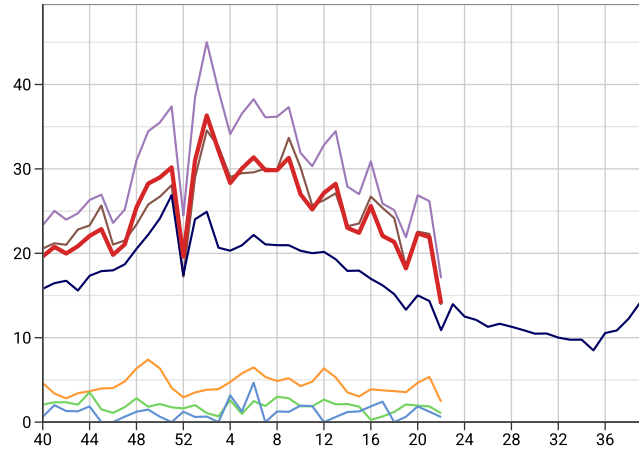
**URTI - Sinusitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



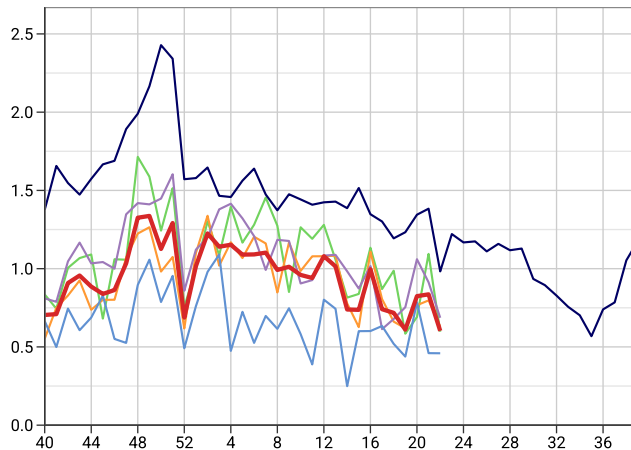
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ All ages ■ <1yr ■ 5-14yrs ■ 65+yrs  
■ 5 Year Avg ■ 1-4yrs ■ 15-64yrs

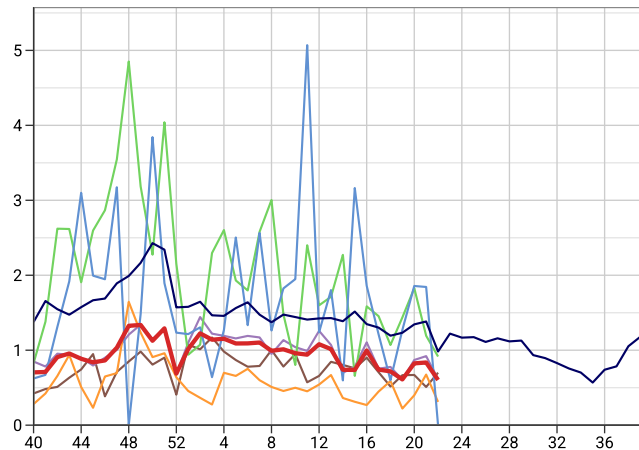
**URTI - Sinusitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**URTI - Laryngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



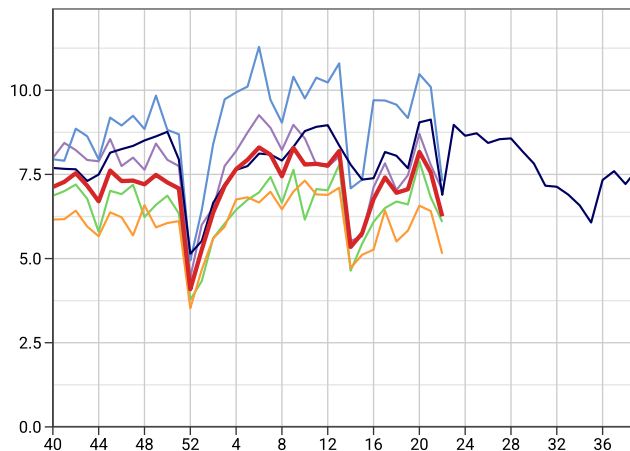
**URTI - Laryngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



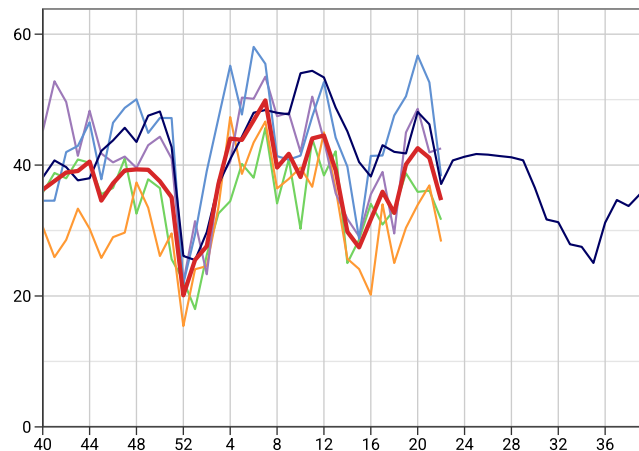
## 2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

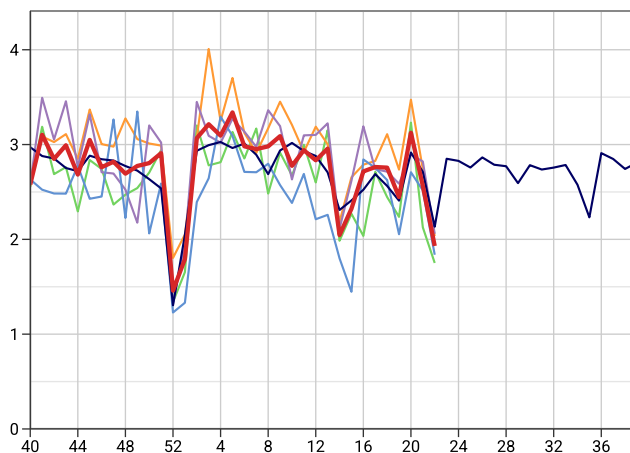
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



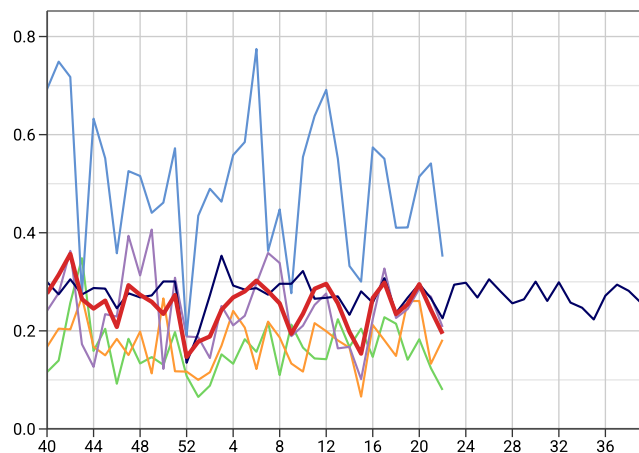
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



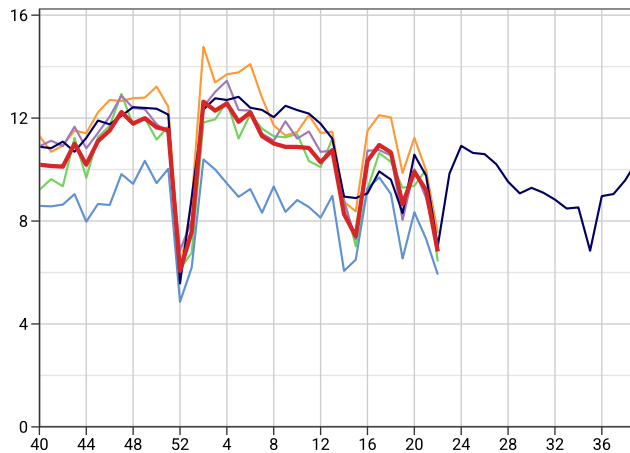
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



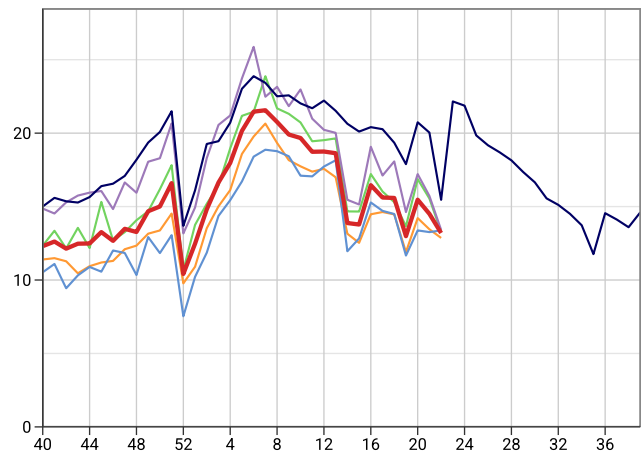
### 3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

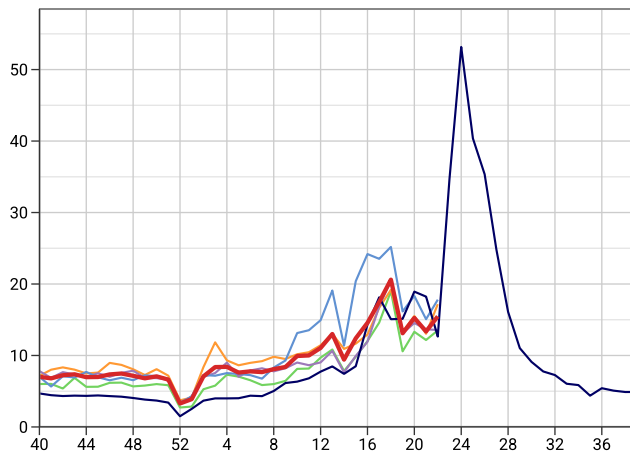
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



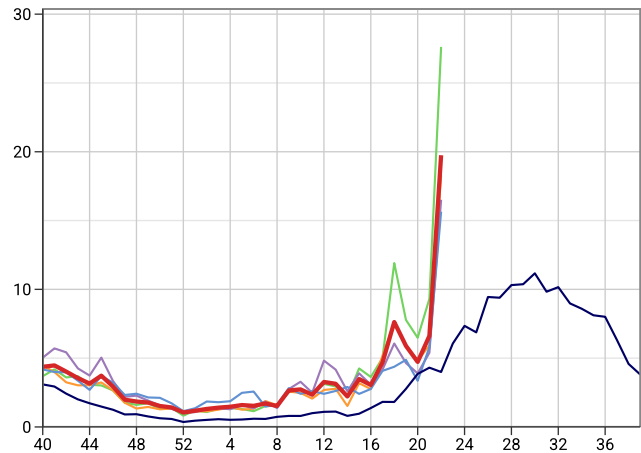
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



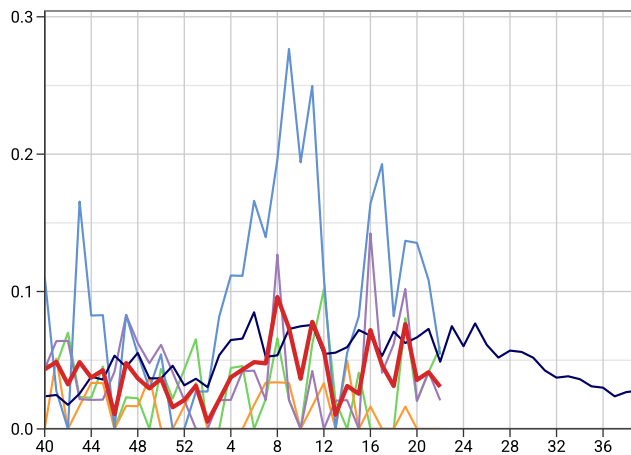
**Infected Insect Bites**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



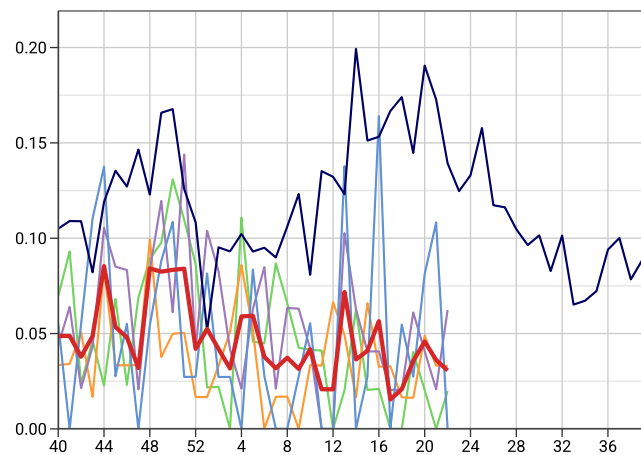
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

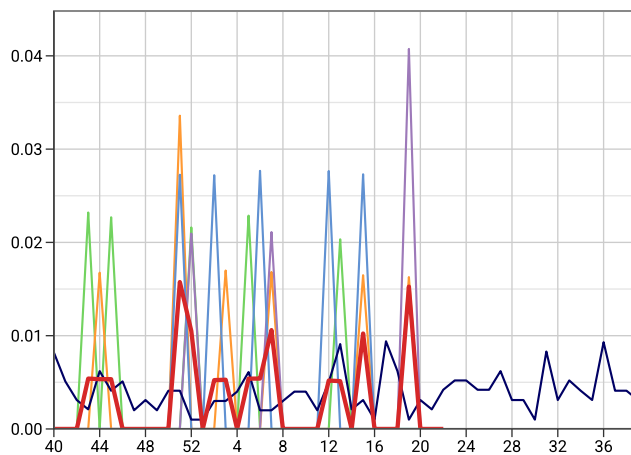
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



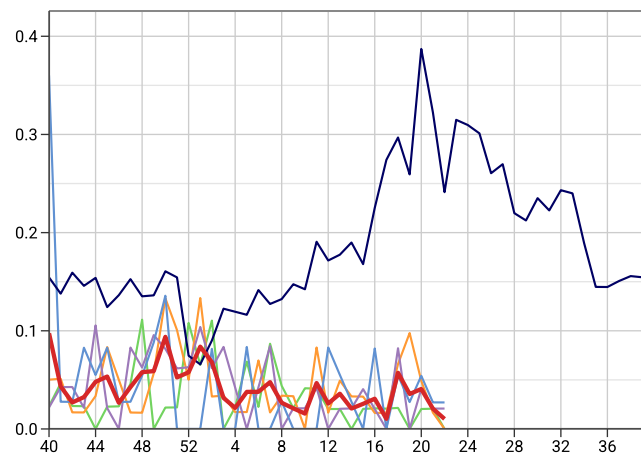
**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



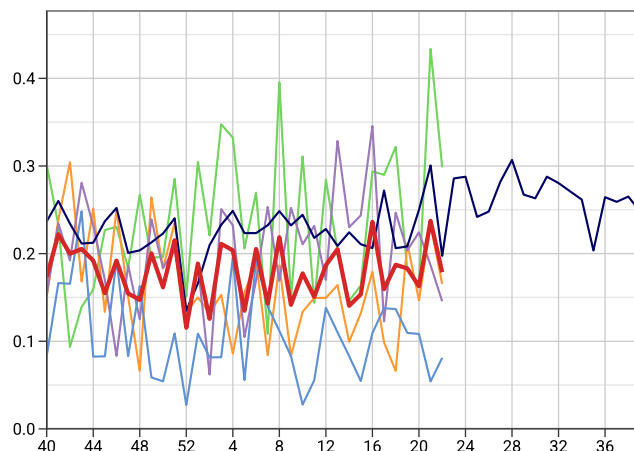
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



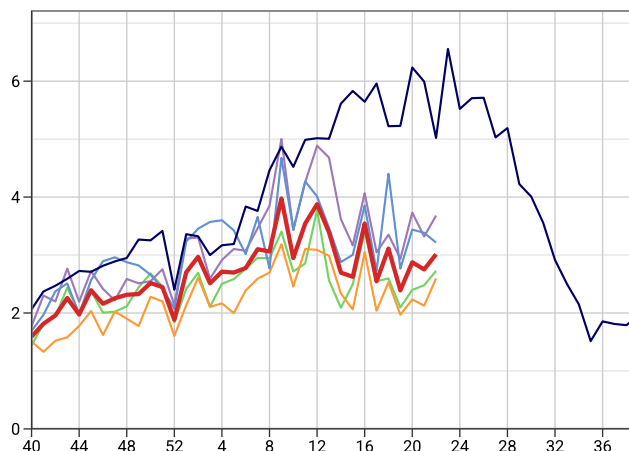
## 5. Skin Contagions

■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

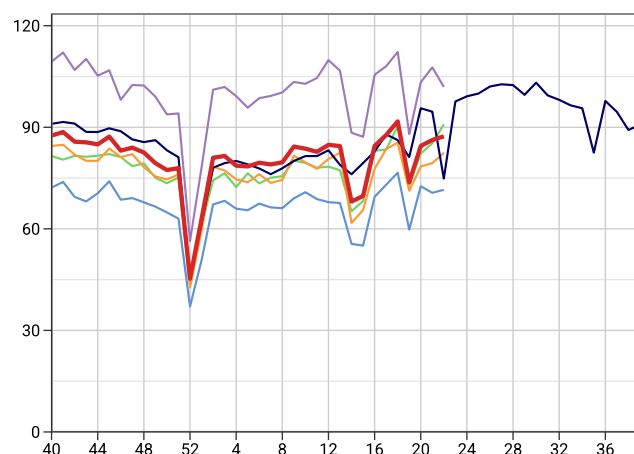
**Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



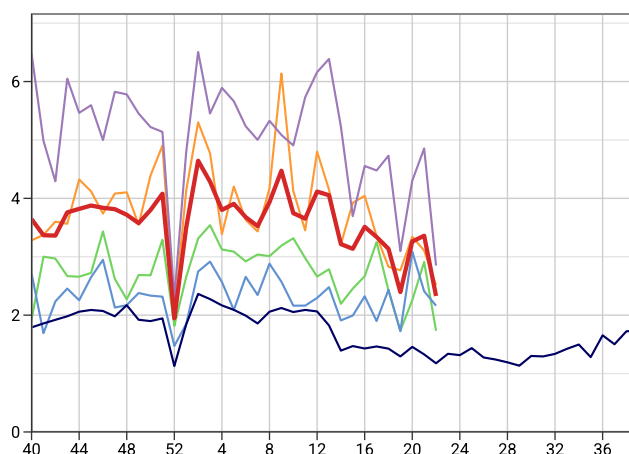
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



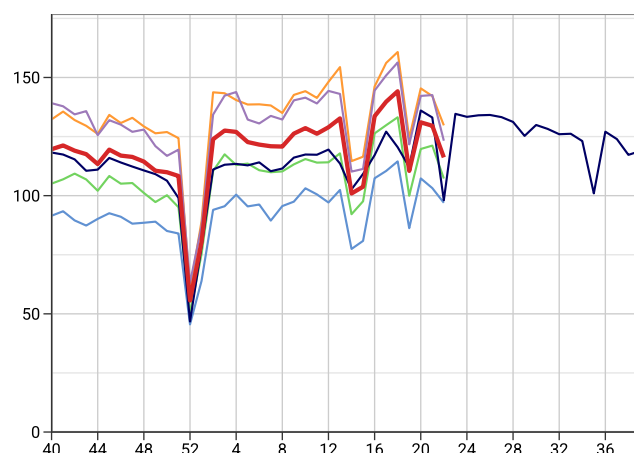
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



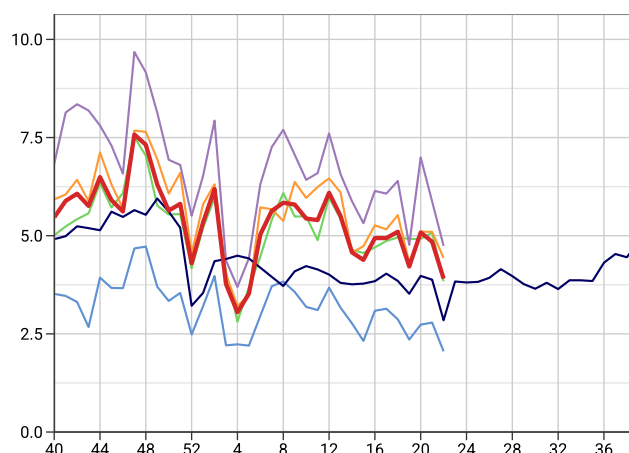
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23),**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



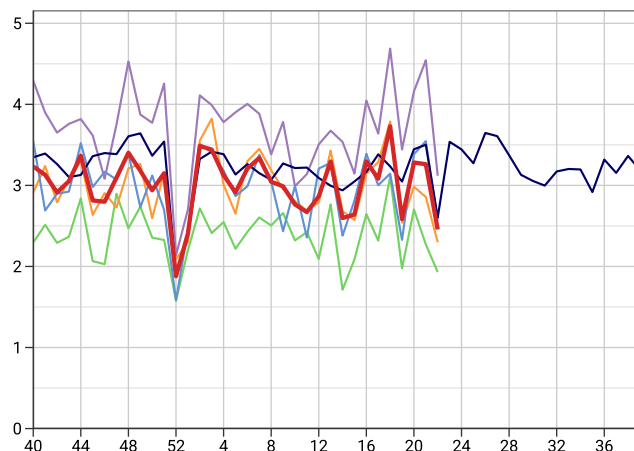
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



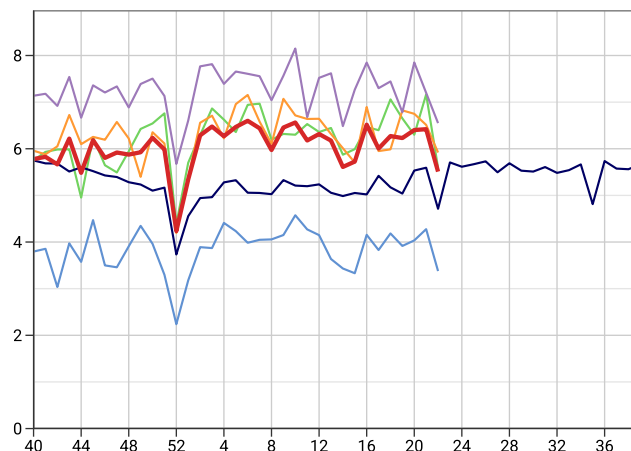


■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

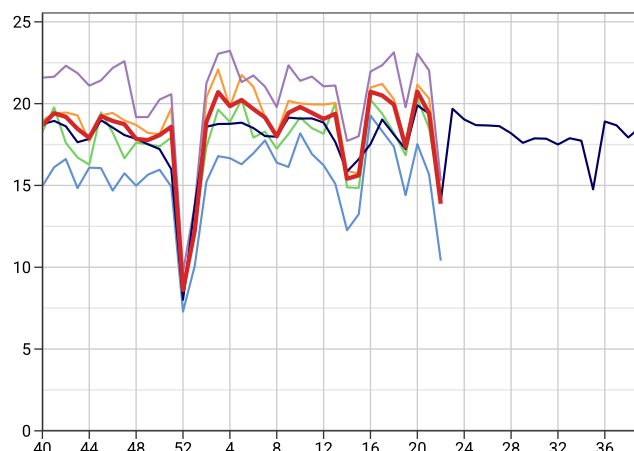


**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

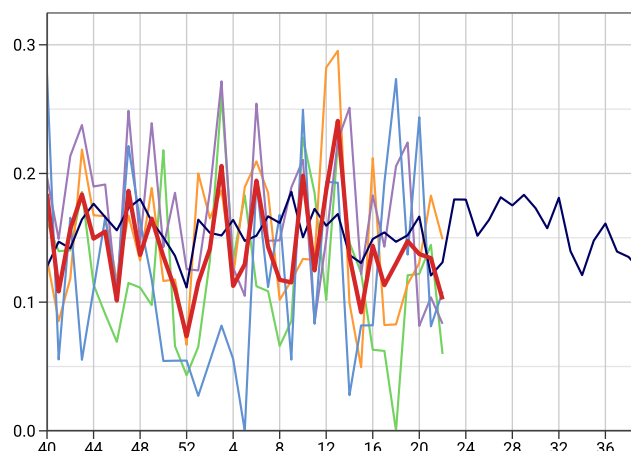


## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

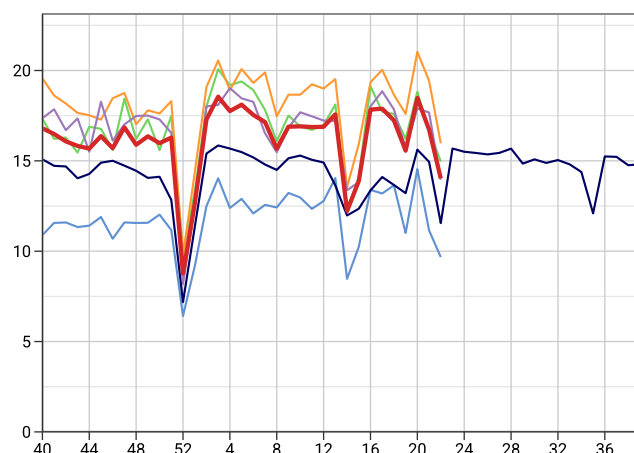
**Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72),** Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05),** Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



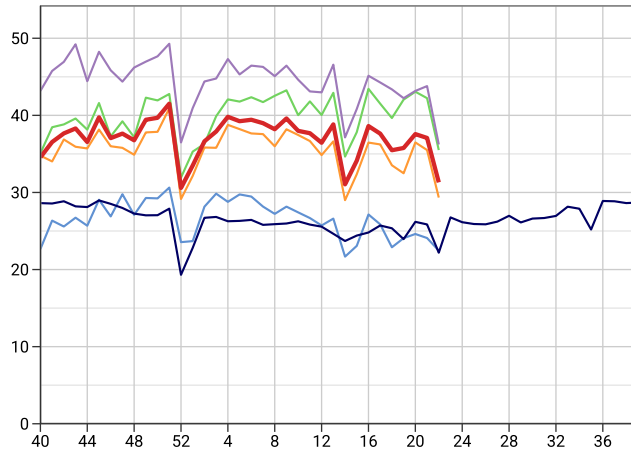
**Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29),** Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

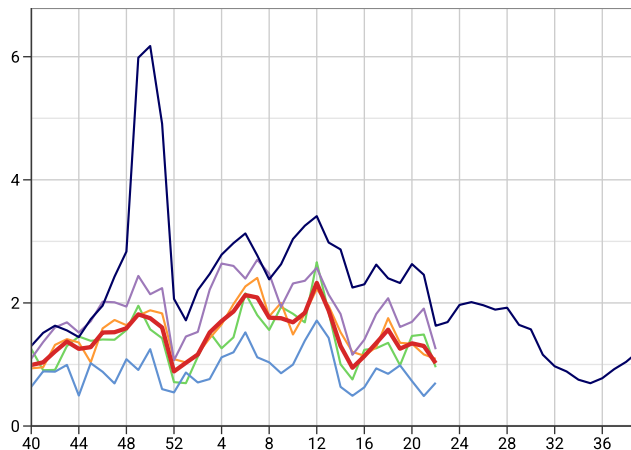
■ National ■ 5 Year Avg ■ London ■ North ■ South ■ Midlands And East

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

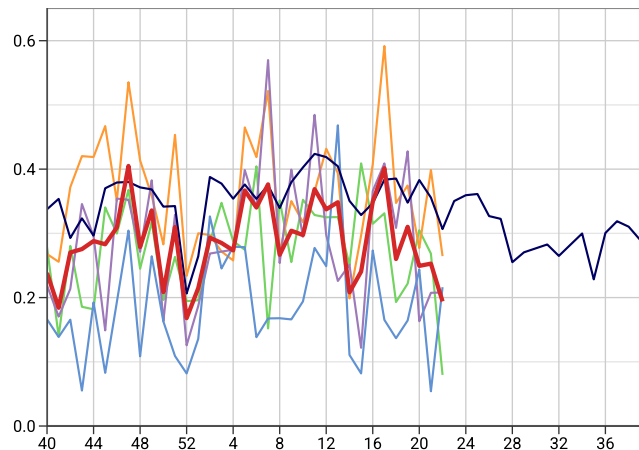


## 8. Other Disorders

**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average**



**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## 9. Tabular Summary by Disease

	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22
Dates	04/05/2026 - 10/05/2026	11/05/2026 - 17/05/2026	18/05/2026 - 24/05/2026	25/05/2026 - 31/05/2026
Population	19,663,369	19,651,680	19,377,697	19,582,808
Practice Count	1,853	1,846	1,817	1,834

Disease	Week 19		Week 20		Week 21		Week 22	
	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	1.1	212	1.2	241	1.2	225	0.8	164
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	199.1	39,159	230.4	45,268	229.0	44,370	158.1	30,954
Allergic Rhinitis	13.1	2,577	15.3	2,997	13.4	2,590	15.5	3,029
Asthma	8.7	1,701	9.9	1,949	9.2	1,783	6.8	1,335
Bronchiolitis	1.2	234	1.3	251	0.9	181	0.8	160
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	36	0.2	32	0.2	46	0.2	35
COVID-19	0.2	32	0.2	44	0.2	32	0.1	23
Chickenpox	2.4	470	2.9	565	2.8	533	3.0	590
Conjunctival Disorders	13.0	2,553	15.5	3,040	14.5	2,811	13.2	2,585
Croup	1.5	295	1.5	301	1.7	323	1.0	199
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	5.6	1,096	6.0	1,186	5.9	1,142	4.5	890
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	7.2	1,414	8.4	1,650	8.5	1,644	6.2	1,217
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	12.8	2,523	14.5	2,840	14.4	2,795	10.8	2,118
Herpes Simplex	2.6	508	3.3	645	3.3	632	2.5	481
Herpes Zoster	6.2	1,225	6.4	1,258	6.4	1,244	5.5	1,079
Impetigo	4.2	829	5.1	999	4.8	939	3.9	765
Infected Insect Bites	5.9	1,159	4.7	929	6.6	1,282	19.7	3,867
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	7.1	1,388	8.2	1,605	7.6	1,464	6.3	1,225
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	61	0.2	49	0.3	49	0.2	38
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	1.7	335	2.1	415	1.9	373	1.1	207
Laryngitis	0.6	120	0.8	162	0.8	162	0.6	118
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	55.3	10,883	64.3	12,633	63.0	12,203	45.3	8,878
Measles	0.1	15	0.0	7	0.0	8	0.0	6
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	29	0.1	27	0.1	26	0.1	20
Mumps	0.0	7	0.0	9	0.0	7	0.0	6
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	2.4	481	3.1	614	2.6	497	1.9	378
Otitis Media	20.3	3,998	23.3	4,578	24.0	4,659	19.1	3,737
Peripheral Nervous Disease	17.4	3,413	20.7	4,074	19.4	3,760	13.9	2,718
Pneumonia	2.8	560	3.1	603	2.8	545	2.6	503
Rubella	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies	2.4	471	3.3	641	3.4	651	2.3	456
Sinusitis	18.2	3,581	22.4	4,393	21.9	4,249	14.0	2,747
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	73.7	14,500	84.5	16,602	86.2	16,711	87.3	17,102
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.3	247	1.3	264	1.3	252	1.0	200
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	110.5	21,721	131.0	25,747	129.6	25,110	116.2	22,752
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	15.6	3,060	18.5	3,631	16.7	3,242	14.0	2,747
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	46.4	9,128	52.5	10,314	52.9	10,245	37.9	7,422
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	140.4	27,601	162.1	31,865	161.8	31,350	109.2	21,383
Urinary Tract Infections	35.8	7,033	37.6	7,383	37.1	7,183	31.3	6,131
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	50	0.3	58	0.2	47	0.2	38
Whooping Cough	0.0	7	0.0	8	0.0	4	0.0	2

## Further Information

### Focus on winter respiratory infections and infections with epidemic or pandemic infection

A key role of the RSC is to monitor conditions that cause winter pressures on the NHS, as well as provide early warnings of outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. The RSC has been collecting data on infections since 1957, conducting sentinel surveillance since 1967 (with virology added in 1993), and serosurveillance from 2000.

Pages 2-6 of this report focus on influenza-like illness (ILI), virology data, and acute respiratory infections (ARI). ILI is the name given to clinically identified flu cases, around half of which will be due to the influenza virus (the other half will be due to other viruses).

### Measuring the level of circulating influenza

The level of influenza-like illness (ILI) is reported using intensity thresholds (Graph A, page 2 and Table E, page 4). These are calculated using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM). MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculating a baseline threshold and intensity levels based on pre- and post-epidemic rates. This provides a better measure of severity of ILI than simply comparing it to the five-year average rate.

The MEM intensity levels for ILI are defined as follows:

<b>Threshold to Medium</b>	Below 40% percentile
<b>Medium to High</b>	From 40% to below 90% percentile
<b>High to Very High</b>	From 90% to below 97.5% percentile
<b>Above Very High</b>	At or above 97.5% percentile

The MEM methodology is used by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to standardise reporting of influenza activity.

*More information about MEM can be found at:*

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22897919/>

### Rate of monitored conditions

Our monitored conditions are reported as the number of new cases each week per 100,000 population. We refer to this as the 'weekly incidence'. All conditions are shown with males and females combined.

The report's population, also called the denominator, is the registered population of RSC practices who share anonymised data for this report. The denominator varies weekly as patients register and deregister; additionally, a practice's data may not be included if there is an issue with data extraction.

### Five-year averages

In addition to weekly incidence rates, we plot a five-year average for most conditions. Previously a ten-year average was used, but this window was shortened to reflect faster changes in seasonal variations and therefore enable a more meaningful comparison to relevant historic trends. COVID-19 pandemic years are excluded from this calculation for some conditions.

## Regional rates of monitored conditions

In addition to a national rate, we present regional rates for all monitored conditions for four regions of England. The four RSC regions are aggregated NHS regions:

<b>North</b>	NHS North East and Yorkshire, and North West regions
<b>Midlands and East</b>	NHS East of England and Midlands regions
<b>South</b>	NHS South East and South West regions
<b>London</b>	NHS London region

## Reporting of acute respiratory infections (ARI) by age band

In addition to regional rates, we report rates by age band for ARI. We display five age bands: those aged under 1 year, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-64 years, and those aged 65 years and over. We subdivide ARI into four categories:

- **influenza-like illness (ILI);**
- **exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD),** mainly asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);
- **lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI),** including bronchitis and pneumonia;
- **upper respiratory tract infections (URTI),** including tonsillitis and sinusitis.

*More information about our classification of ARI can be found at:*

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.35.2300682>

## About the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

### What we do

Established in 1957, the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) is an internationally renowned source of information, analysis and interpretation concerning the onset, patterns, prevalence and trends over time of morbidity in primary care. The RSC provides weekly reports about health and disease: the Weekly Returns Service (WRS). The WRS has been produced since 1967, in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and its predecessor bodies. The University of Oxford currently provides the WRS on behalf of RCGP and UKHSA.

The RSC is active in research and surveillance. In addition to the WRS, the RSC contributes data to UKHSA's Syndromic Surveillance system, and supports vaccine effectiveness studies. The role of general practice members of the RSC is set out in an annual commissioning letter.

*Further information about the RSC can be found on our website:*

[www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/research-at-rcgp/research-surveillance-centre](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/research-at-rcgp/research-surveillance-centre)

### Our data extraction process and governance

Data are extracted on behalf of the RSC from practice computerised medical record systems, twice a week by Magentus Data Management, or daily by Optum.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences (NDPCHS) at the University of Oxford. Our systems meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information about the NHS England approval of the RSC's data security can be found at:

<https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/OrganisationSearch/EE133863-MSD-NDPCHS>

### What the data is used for

The WRS monitors the number of patients consulting with new episodes of illness classified by diagnosis in England and provides weekly incidence rates per 100,000 population for these new episodes of illness. It is the key primary care element of the national disease monitoring systems run by the UK Health Security Agency.

In addition to the WRS, the data are used for other research studies. Any other uses of the data for research follow ethical approval or agreement from NIHR proportionate review, and where relevant Health Research Authority Confidential Advisory Group advice that further approval is not needed.

### Get in touch

For further information about the work of the RSC, or if you would like to be included on our email notification list, please contact:

Director: Professor Simon de Lusignan ( [Simon.DeLusignanPA@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Simon.DeLusignanPA@phc.ox.ac.uk) )

RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre  
Policy, Research and Campaigns  
Royal College of General Practitioners  
30 Euston Square  
London, NW1 2FB  
Tel: 020 3188 7400

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences  
Gibson Building  
Radcliffe Observatory Quarter  
Woodstock Road  
Oxford, OX2 6GG  
Tel: 01865 617855

