



RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 20/2020
 Week Starting - Ending..... 11/05/2020 - 17/05/2020
 No. of Practices..... 312
 Population..... 3,230,549

National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased from 10.7 in week 19 to 11.0 in week 20.
- **Asthma** : increased from 7.1 in week 19 to 8.4 in week 20.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from 5.5 in week 19 to 5.4 in week 20.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from 2.1 in week 19 to 1.7 in week 20.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from 77.6 in week 19 to 85.6 in week 20.
- **COVID-19** : decreased from 18.0 in week 19 to 13.9 in week 20.

Regional (North, South, London and Midlands and East)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased from 4.9 in week 19 to 6.1 in week 20 in the London region, increased from 15.1 in week 19 to 17.2 in week 20 in the North region, decreased from 10.1 in week 19 to 8.3 in week 20 in the South region, and increased from 10.6 in week 19 to 11.5 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from 9.1 in week 19 to 12.5 in week 20 in the London region, increased from 7.5 in week 19 to 7.7 in week 20 in the North region, increased from 6.9 in week 19 to 8.3 in week 20 in the South region, and increased from 4.6 in week 19 to 5.1 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from 5.6 in week 19 to 5.2 in week 20 in the London region, was unchanged at 6.4 in week 19 and 6.4 in week 20 in the North region, decreased from 5.1 in week 19 to 4.8 in week 20 in the South region, and increased from 5.0 in week 19 to 5.1 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from 0.7 in week 19 to 0.2 in week 20 in the London region, decreased from 1.7 in week 19 to 1.5 in week 20 in the North region, decreased from 2.8 in week 19 to 2.7 in week 20 in the South region, and decreased from 2.5 in week 19 to 1.1 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from 71.5 in week 19 to 76.7 in week 20 in the London region, increased from 94.0 in week 19 to 100.4 in week 20 in the North region, increased from 69.4 in week 19 to 77.8 in week 20 in the South region, and increased from 75.6 in week 19 to 87.3 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.
- **COVID-19** : decreased from 9.6 in week 19 to 7.2 in week 20 in the London region, decreased from 24.6 in week 19 to 15.4 in week 20 in the North region, decreased from 17.2 in week 19 to 14.8 in week 20 in the South region, and decreased a little from 17.3 in week 19 to 16.6 in week 20 in the Midlands And East region.

Comment:

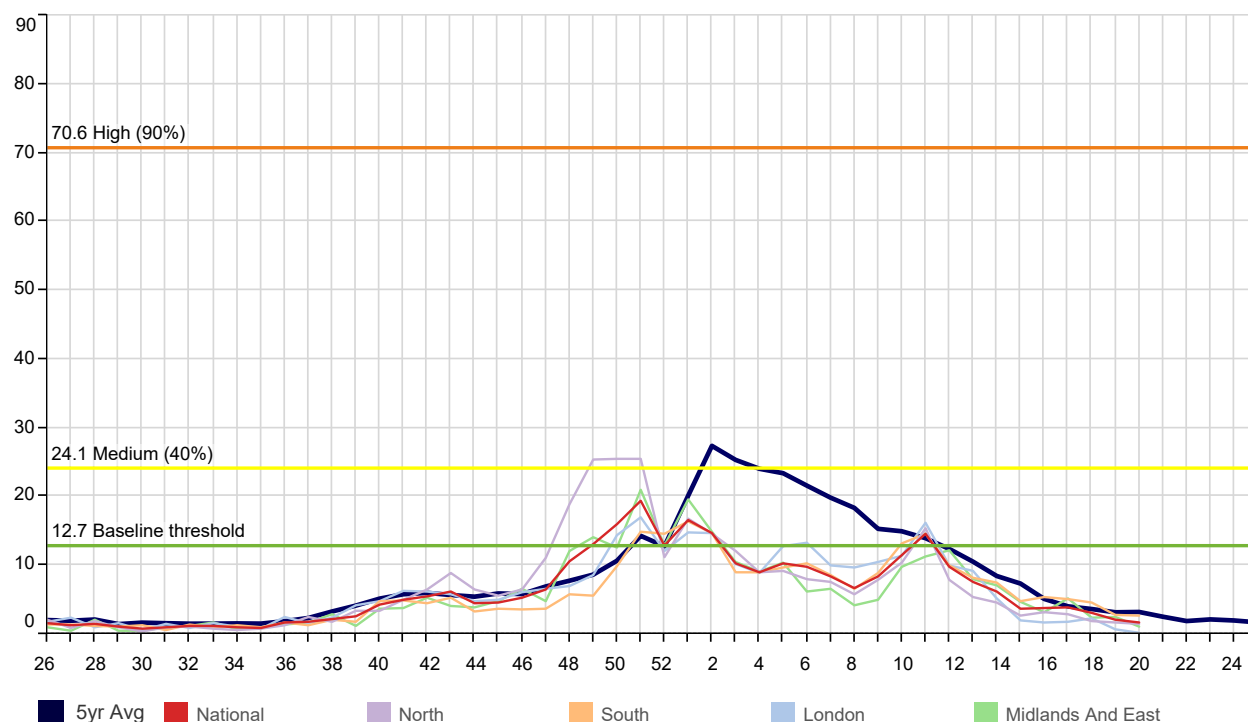
Presentations of respiratory diseases and other infections have increased this week, but remain well below seasonal levels for this time of year, probably due to the recent lockdown. There has been a further fall in COVID-19 incidence across regions and age-bands (Graphs F and G).

This report includes a virology update.

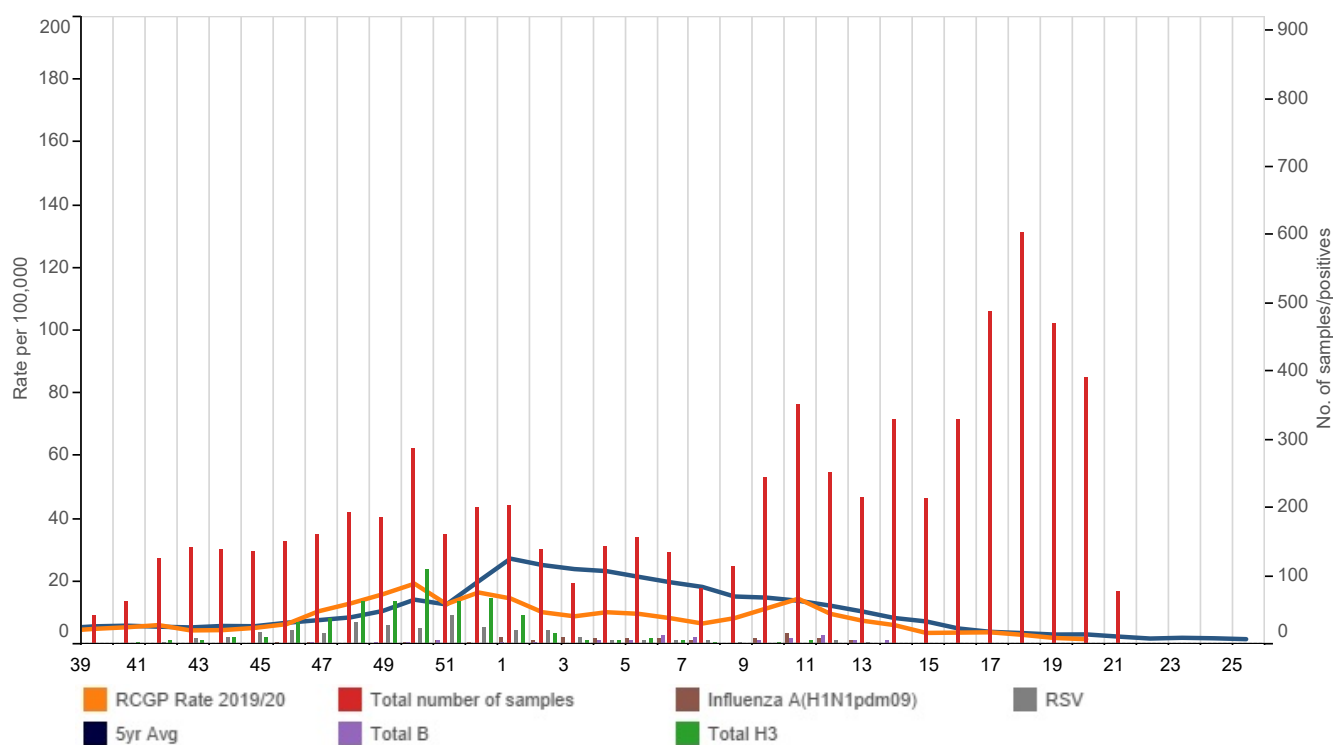
Winter Focus 2019/20

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

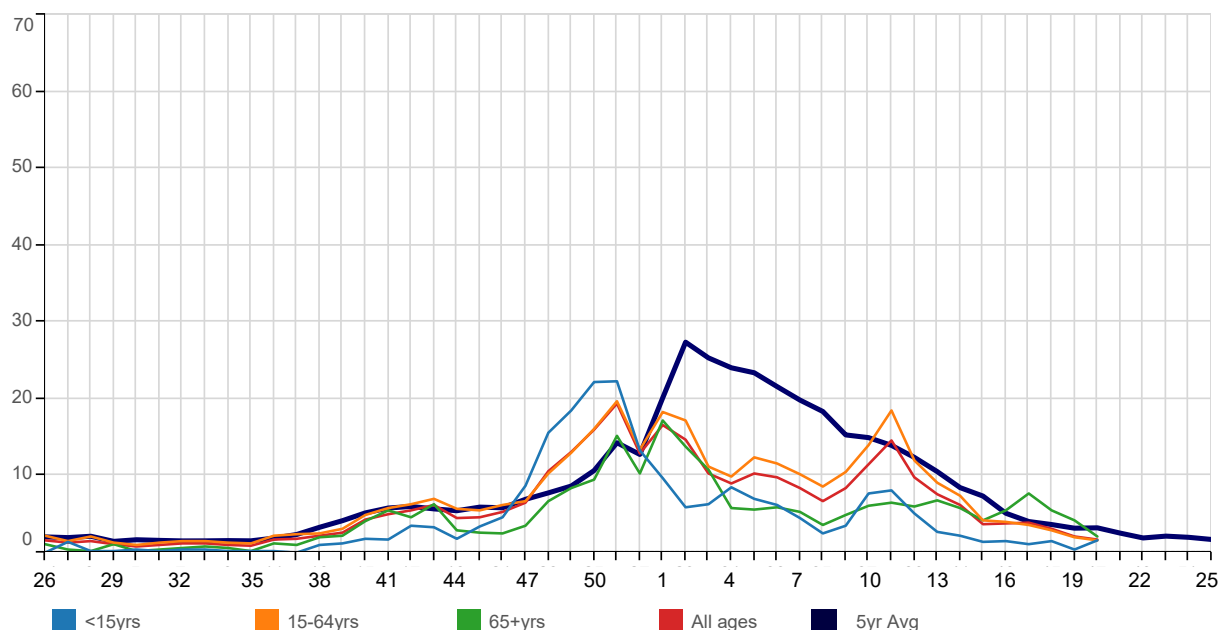
(A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2019/20*



(B) RCGP/PHE RSV and Influenza Virology Swab Surveillance 2019/20(all ages, gender & regions combined)*



* The thresholds used are the agreed RCGP/ Public Health England levels for 2019/20. The rolling average line(blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level.

(C) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group***(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group***

This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

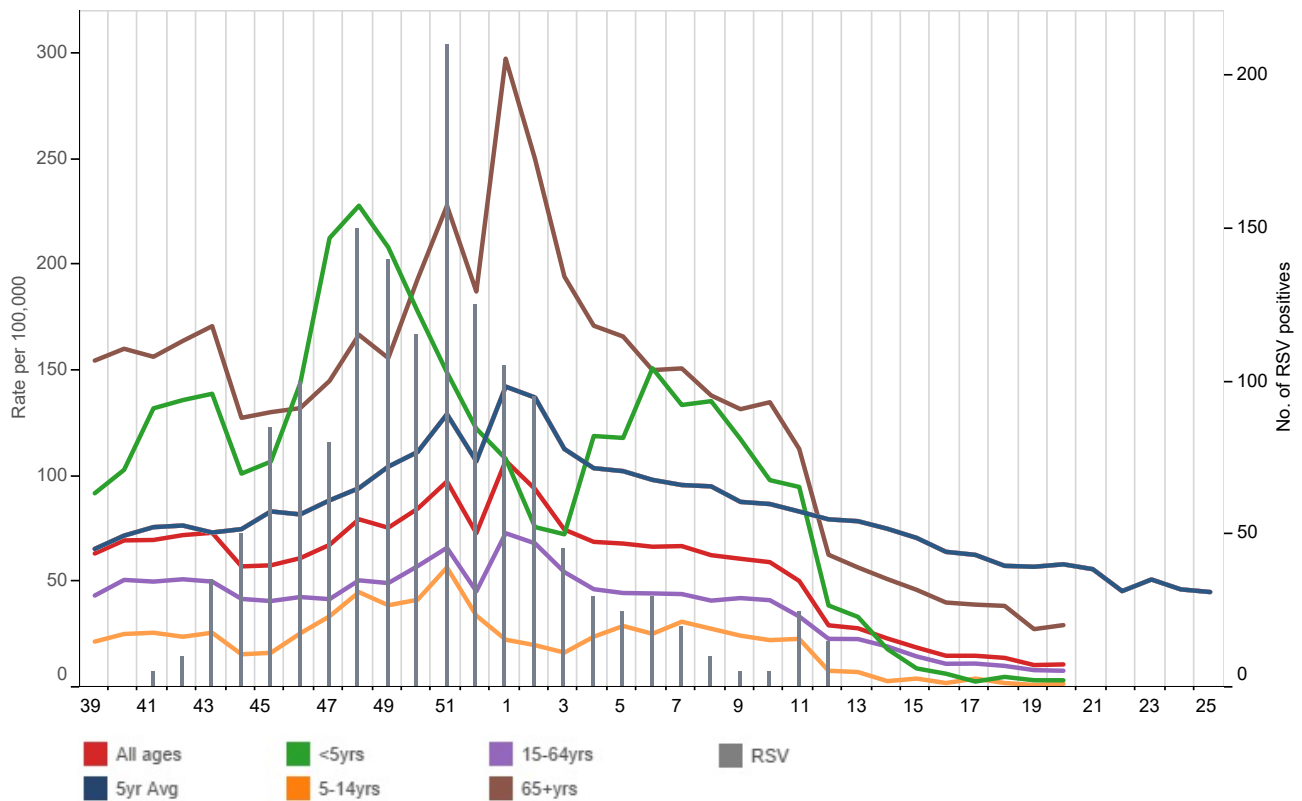
Table 1	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4
<15yrs	1.8	1.7	3.5	3.3	1.8	3.4	4.6	8.7	15.6	18.5	22.2	22.3	13.3	9.7	5.9	6.3	8.5
15-64yrs	4.9	5.8	6.3	7.0	5.7	5.5	6.2	6.7	10.3	13.0	16.1	19.7	13.4	18.3	17.2	11.2	9.9
65+yrs	4.1	5.5	4.6	6.3	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.5	6.7	8.4	9.5	15.2	10.3	17.2	13.8	10.8	5.8
All ages	4.3	5.0	5.5	6.2	4.5	4.6	5.3	6.5	10.6	13.1	16.0	19.4	12.9	16.6	14.7	10.3	9.0

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15-64yrs	12.4	11.6	10.2	8.6	10.5	14.0	18.5	12.0	9.1	7.4	4.2	4.0	3.6	2.9	2.0	1.6
65+yrs	5.6	5.9	5.3	3.6	4.9	6.1	6.5	6.0	6.8	5.8	4.2	5.5	7.7	5.5	4.2	2.1
<15yrs	7.0	6.2	4.5	2.5	3.5	7.7	8.1	5.1	2.7	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.5	0.4	1.6
All ages	10.3	9.8	8.4	6.7	8.4	11.5	14.6	9.8	7.6	6.2	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.1	2.1	1.7

Table 2	Below Threshold ¹	Threshold to Medium ²	Medium to High ³	High to Very High ⁴	Above Very High ⁵
0-14	<10.7	10.7 to <18.1	18.1 to <49.9	49.9 to <78.1	78.1+
15-64	<14.8	14.8 to <28.9	28.9 to <69.6	69.6 to <102.7	102.7+
65+	<11.8	11.8 to <17.9	17.9 to <43.3	43.3 to <64.0	64.0+
All Ages	<12.7	12.7 to <24.1	24.1 to <70.6	70.6 to <113.6	113.6+

Threshold levels¹Below baseline threshold²baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile³40th to <90th percentile⁴90th to <97.5th percentile⁵97.5th+ percentile**Weekly influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

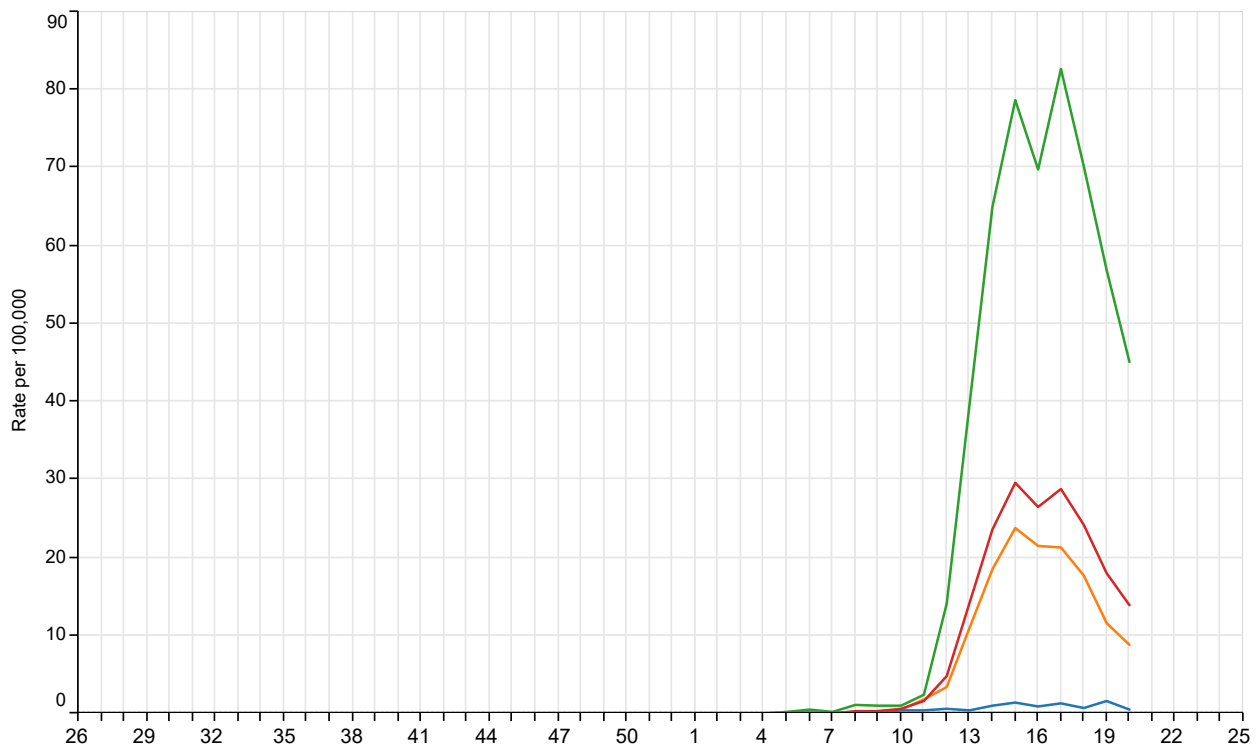
Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis	Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis
<1yr	3.5	10.6	London	0.2	6.1
1-4yrs	3.5	3.5	North	1.5	17.2
5-14yrs	0.8	1.8	South	2.7	8.3
15-24yrs	1.1	2.2	Midlands And East	1.1	11.5
25-44yrs	1.2	7.0	National	1.7	11.0
45-64yrs	2.2	11.7			
65-74yrs	2.0	23.4			
75-84yrs	1.6	32.9			
85+yrs	3.9	46.2			
All ages	1.7	11.0			

(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group***Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis
<5yrs	3.5	4.7
5-14yrs	0.8	1.8
15-64yrs	1.6	8.0
65+yrs	2.1	29.6
All ages	1.7	11.0

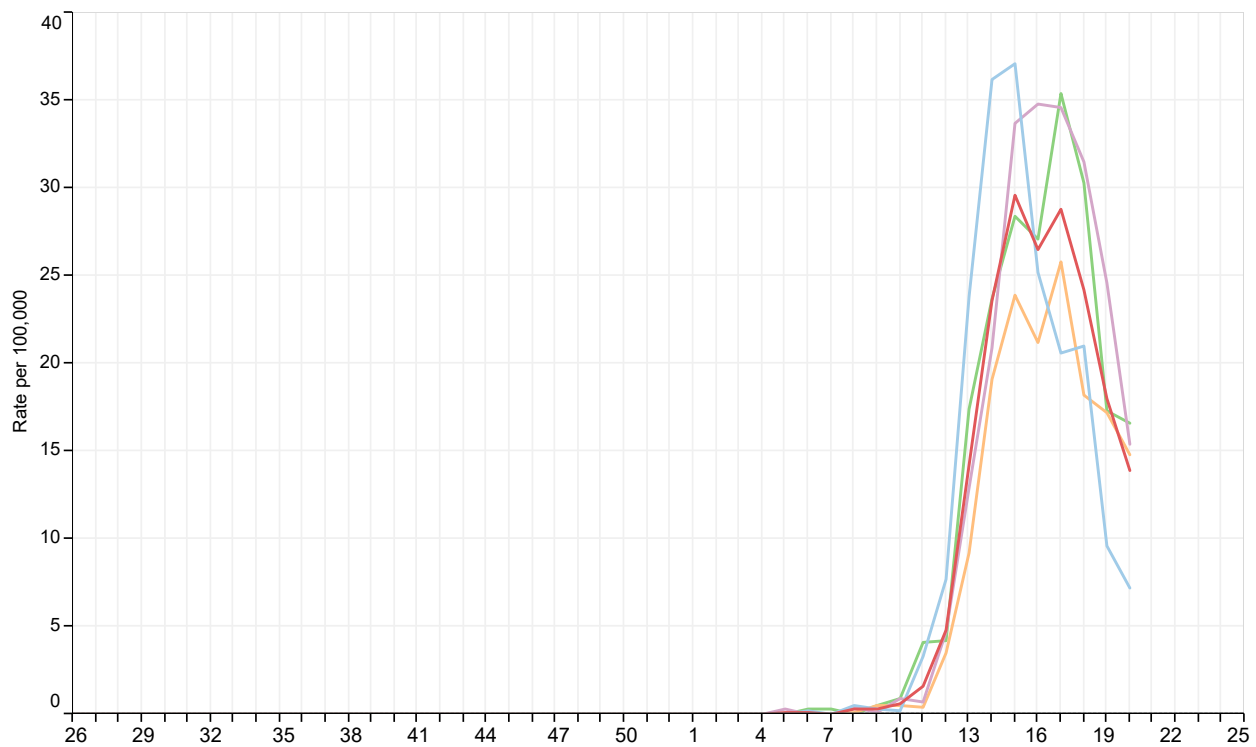
■ All ages ■ <15yrs ■ 15-64yrs ■ 65+yrs

(F) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group*



■ National ■ London ■ North ■ South ■ Midlands And East

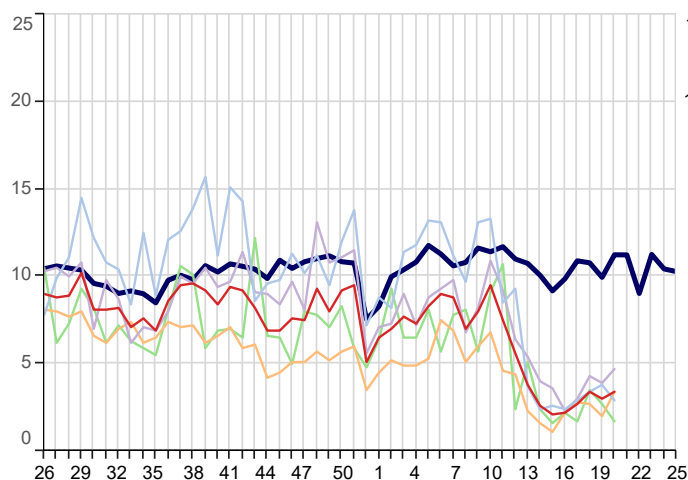
(G) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2019/2020 by region*



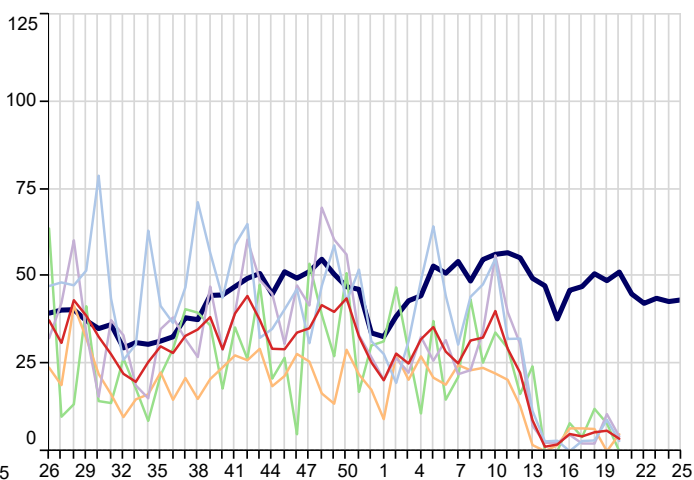
1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

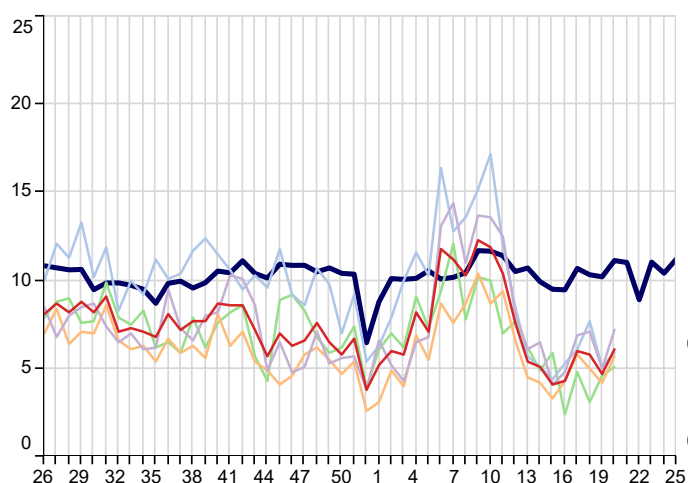
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



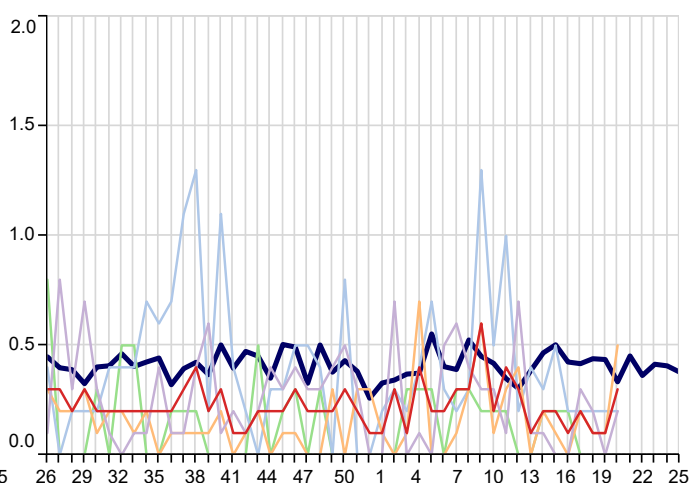
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



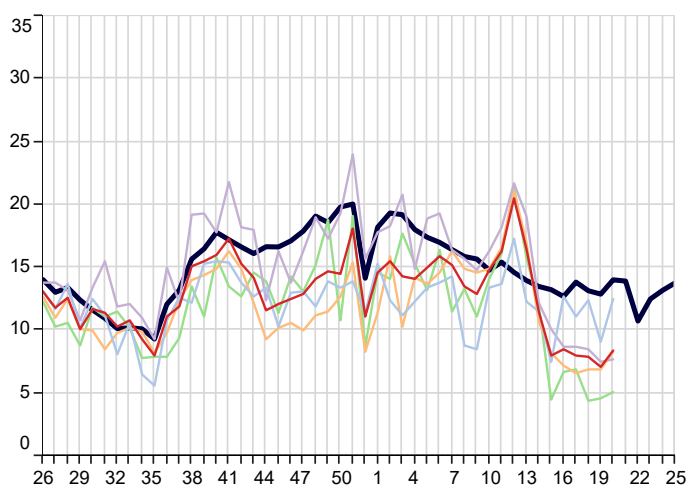
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



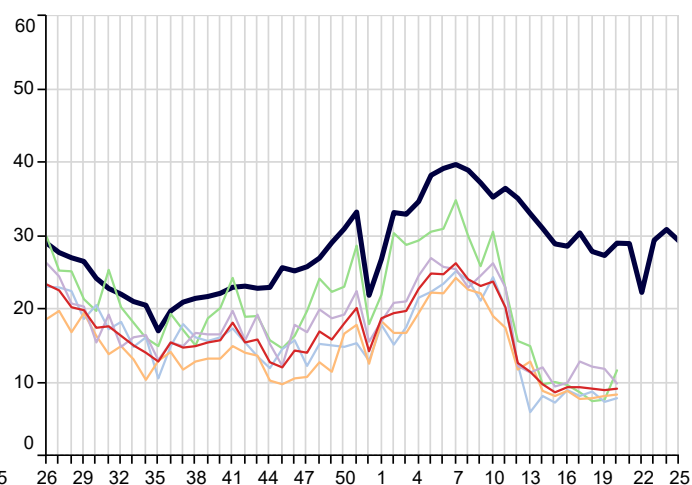
2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

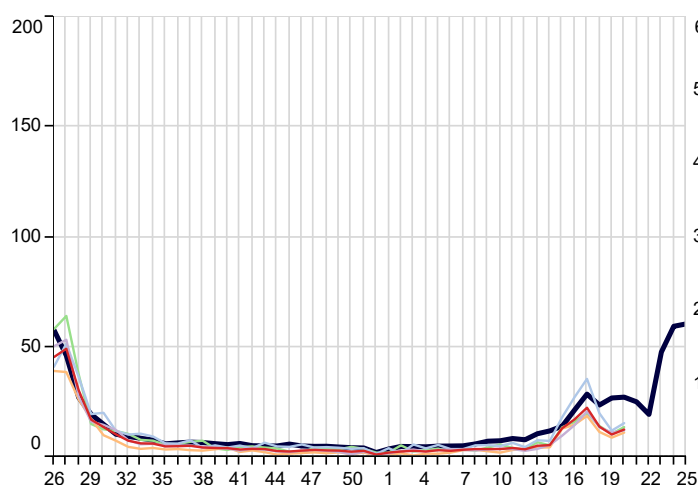
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



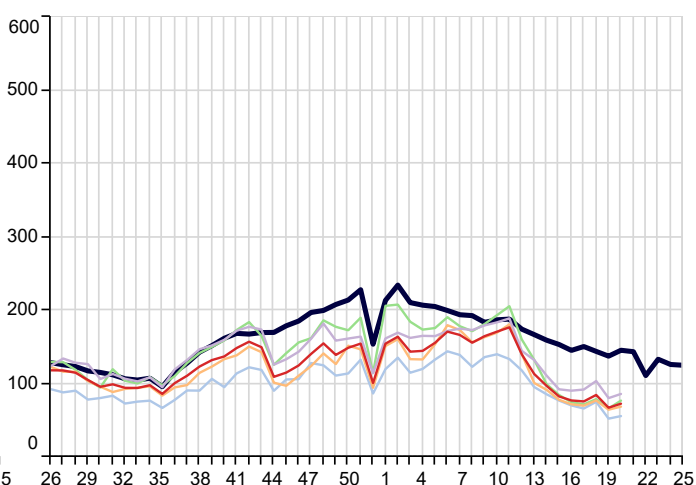
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



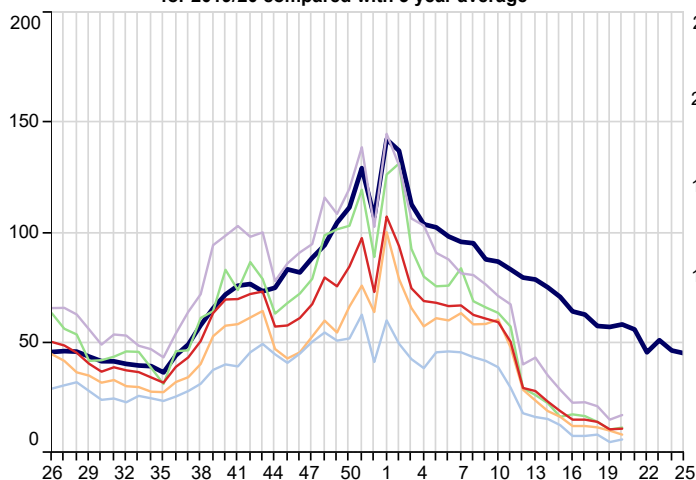
Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



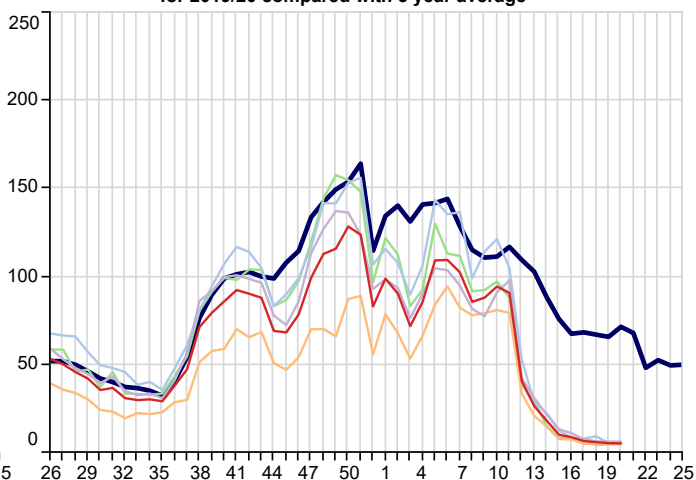
3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

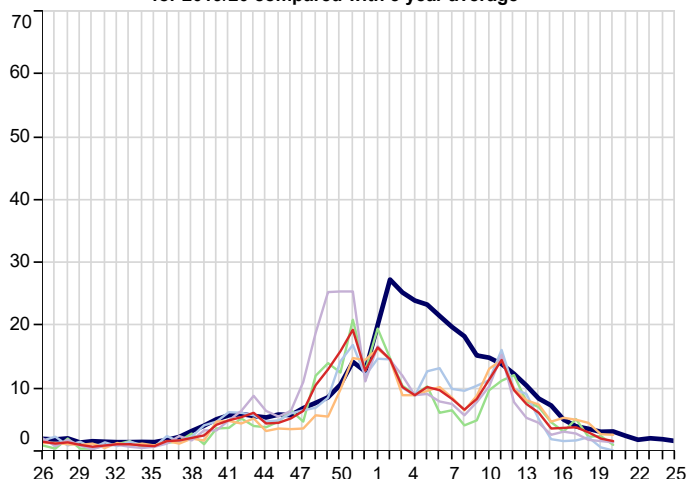
Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



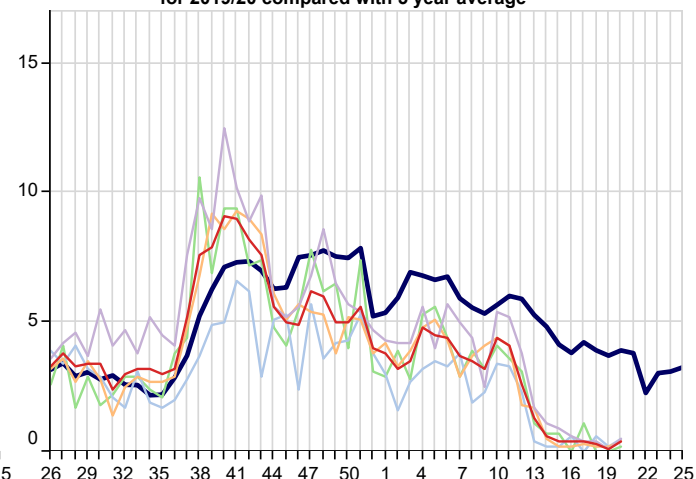
Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



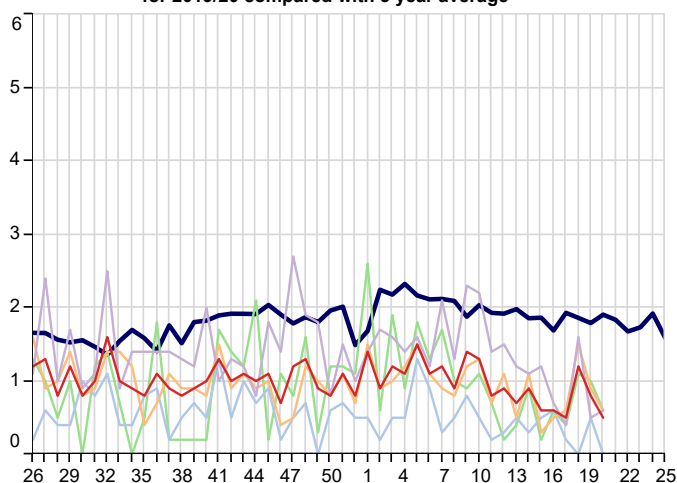
Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



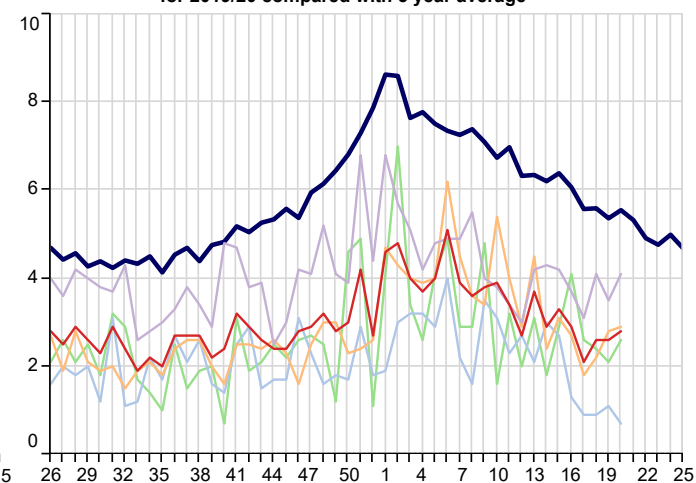
Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



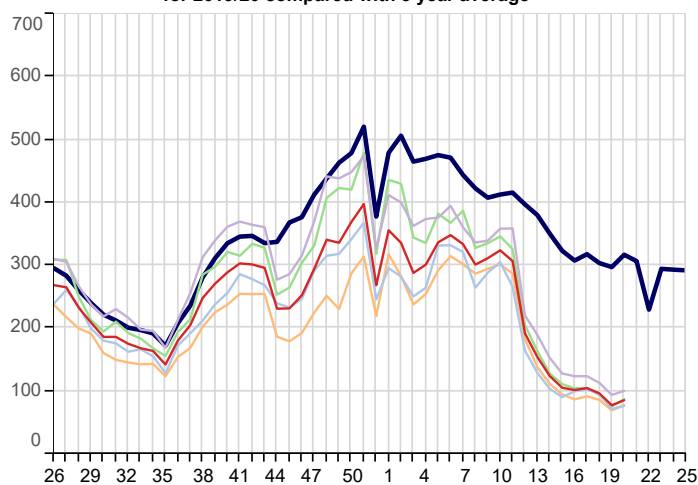
Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



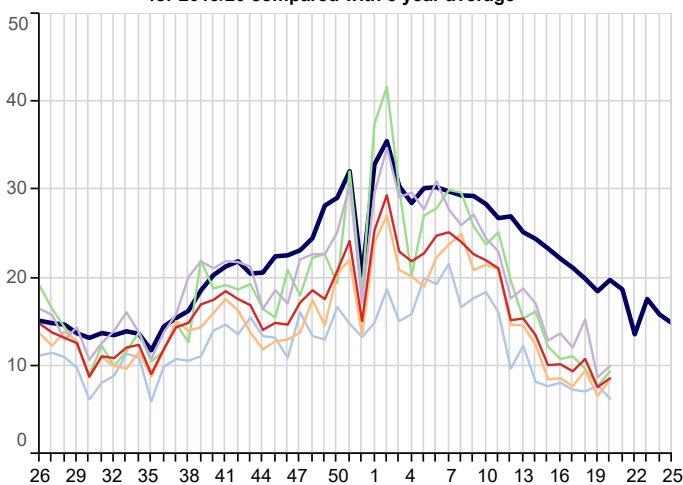
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

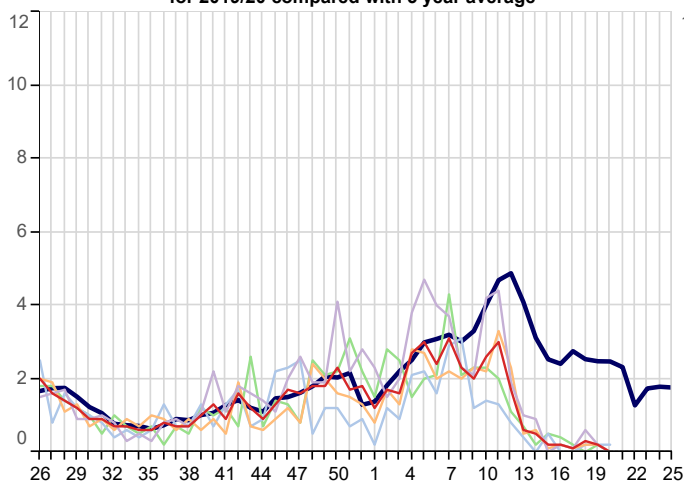
Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



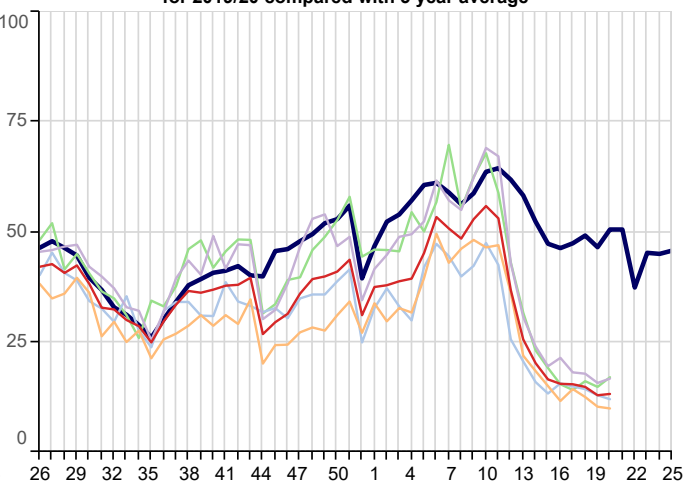
Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



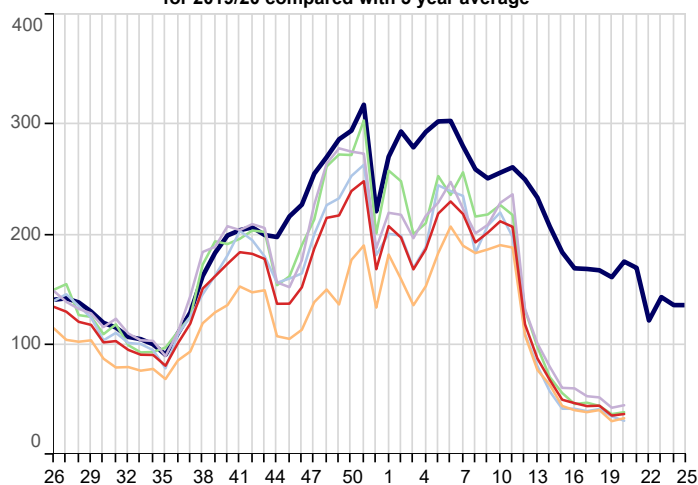
Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



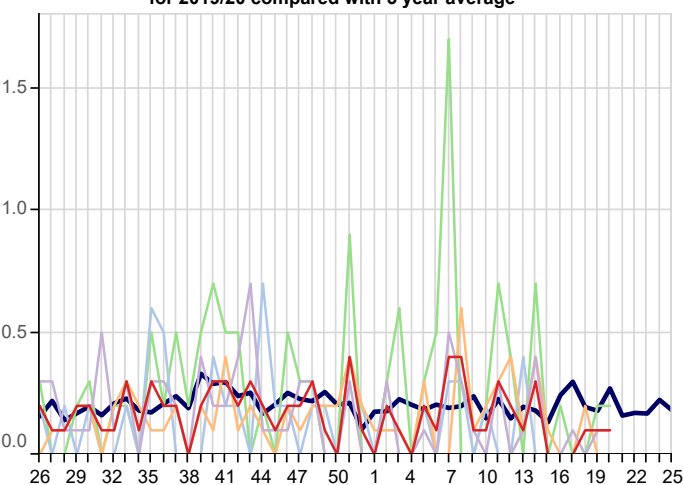
Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



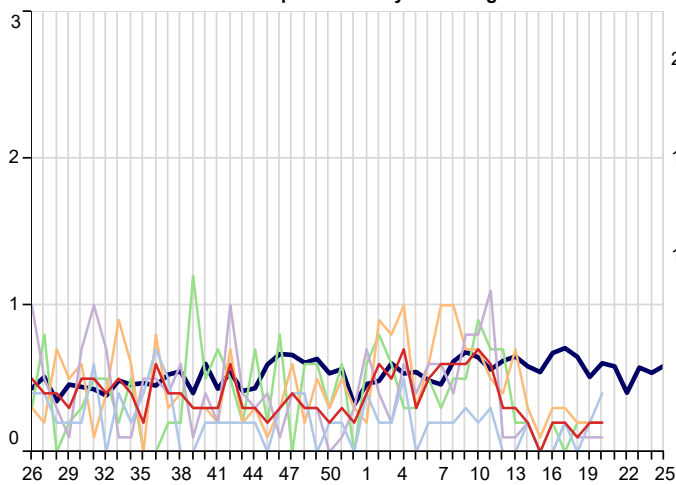
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



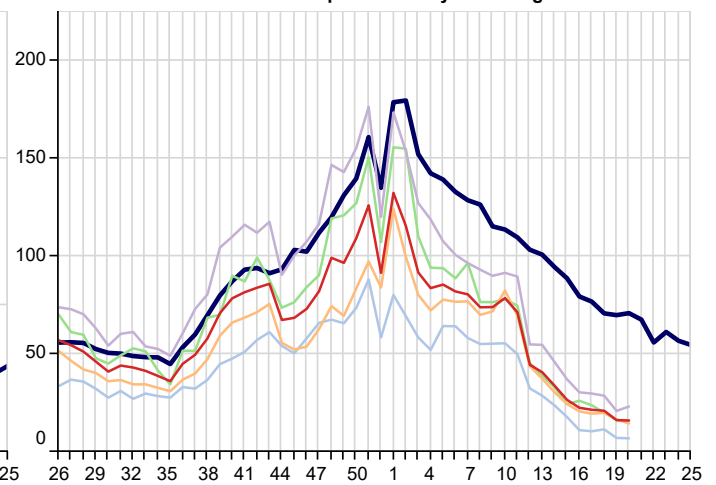
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

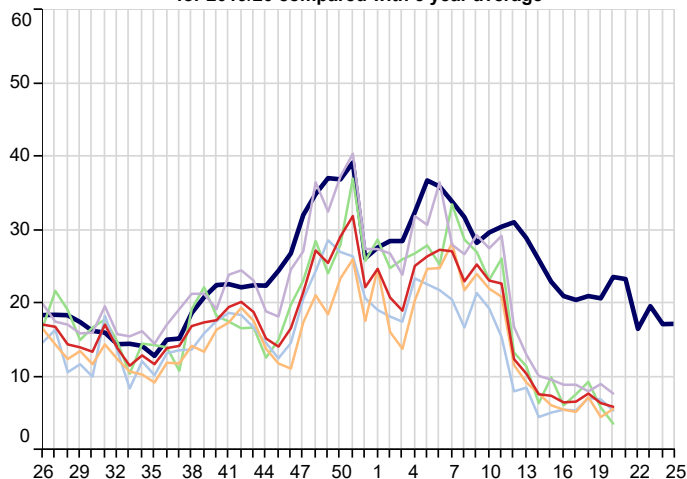
Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



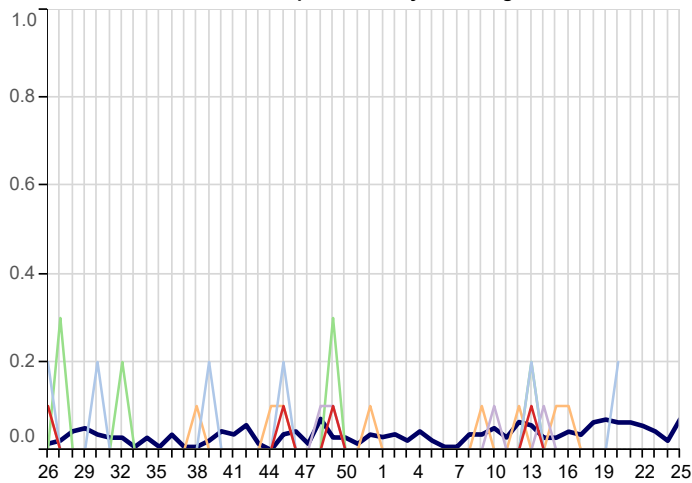
Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



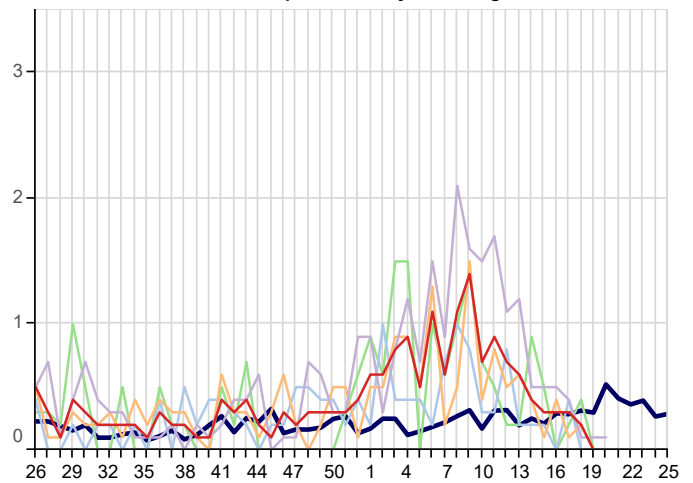
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

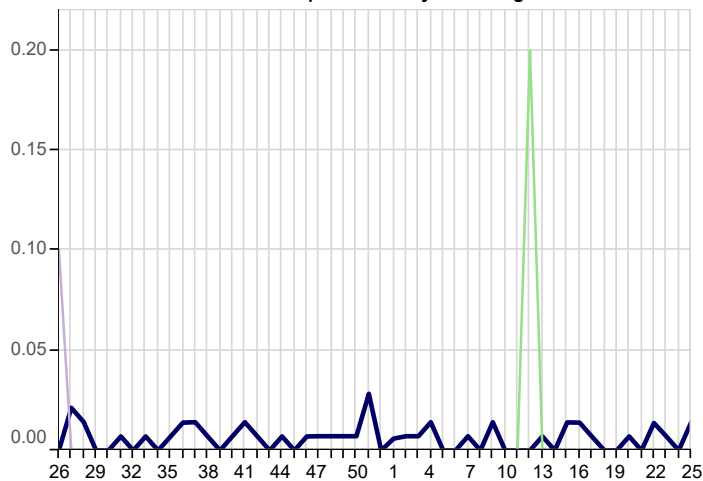
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

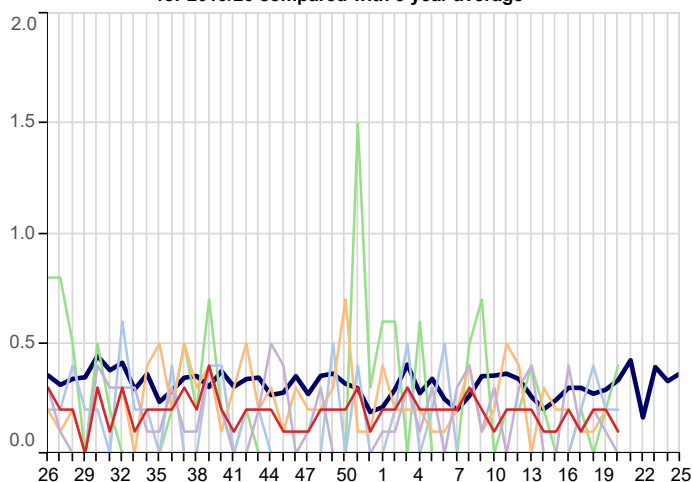


Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

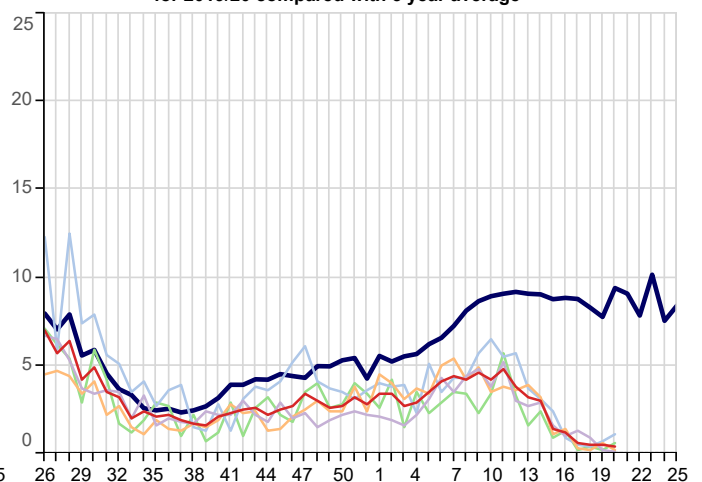


5. Skin Contagions

Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



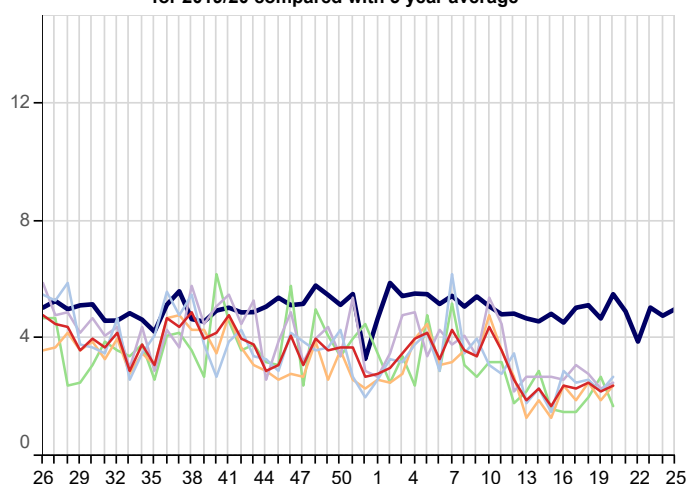
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



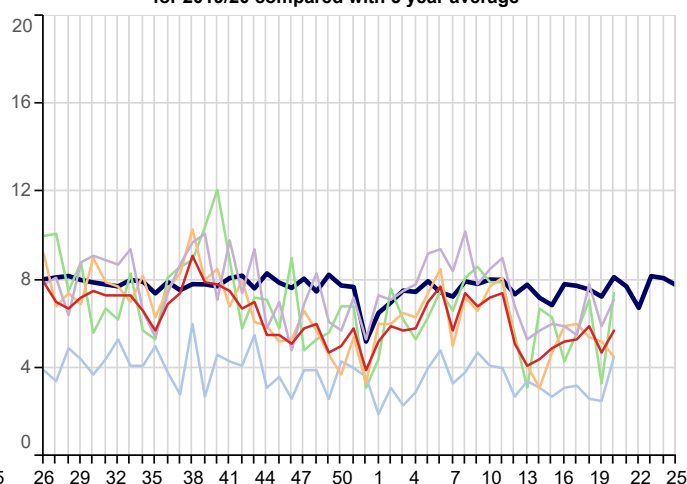
5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

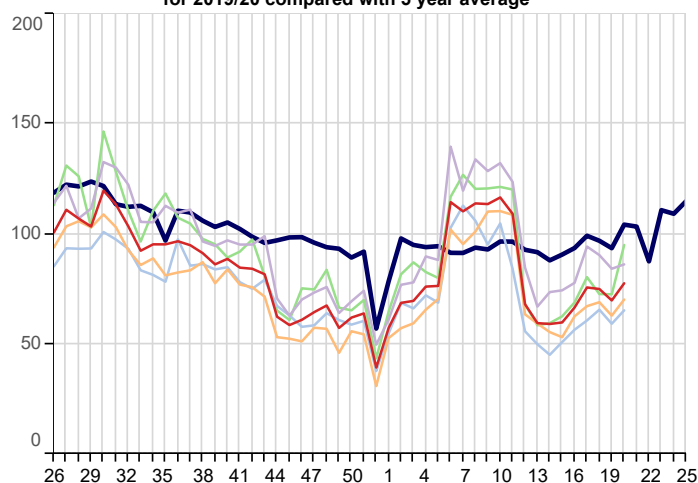
Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



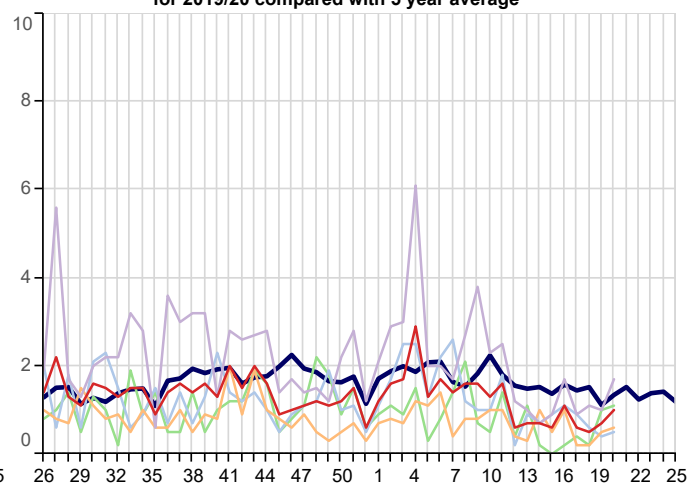
Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



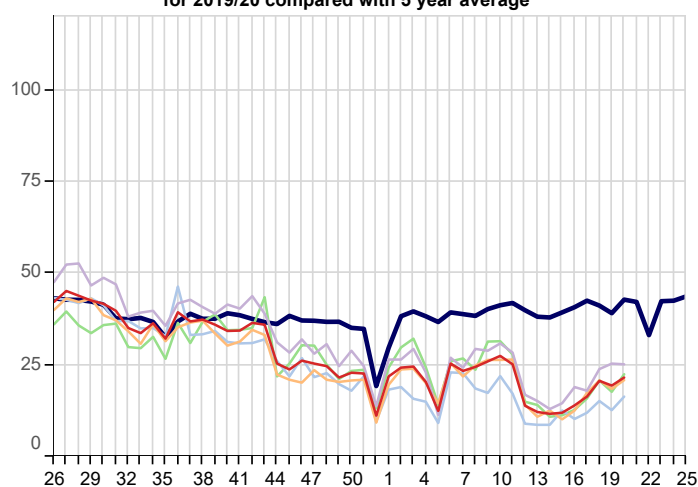
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



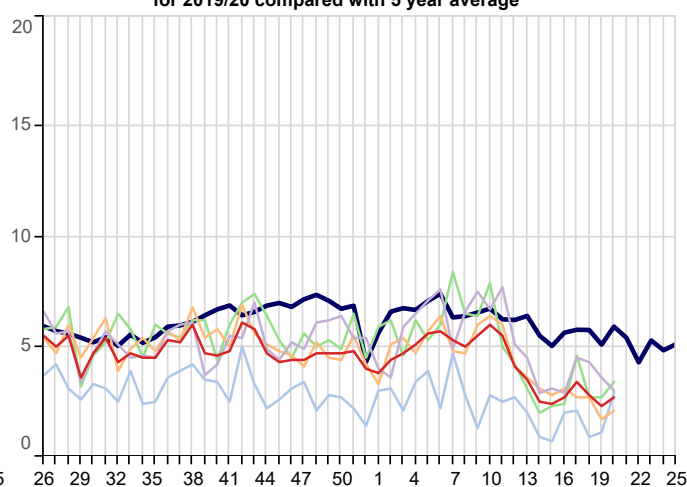
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



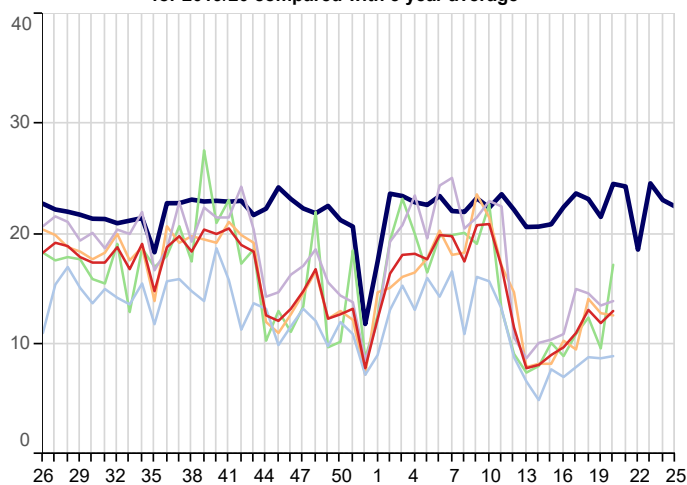
Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



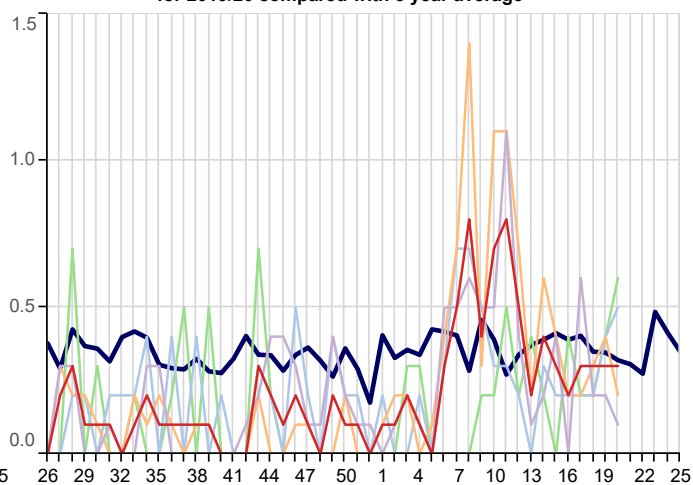
6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

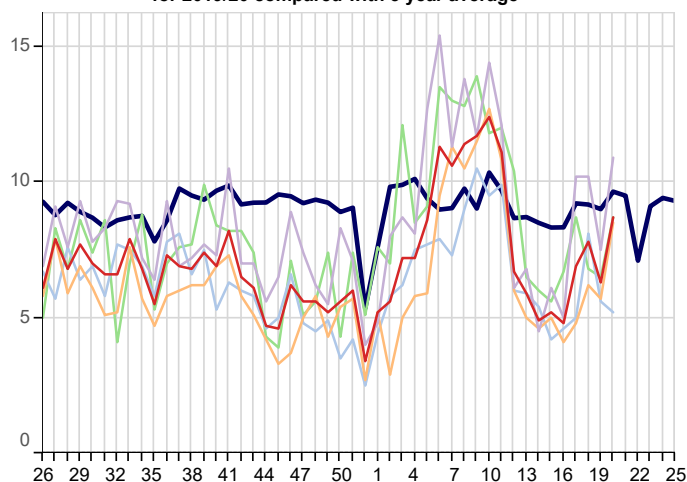
Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

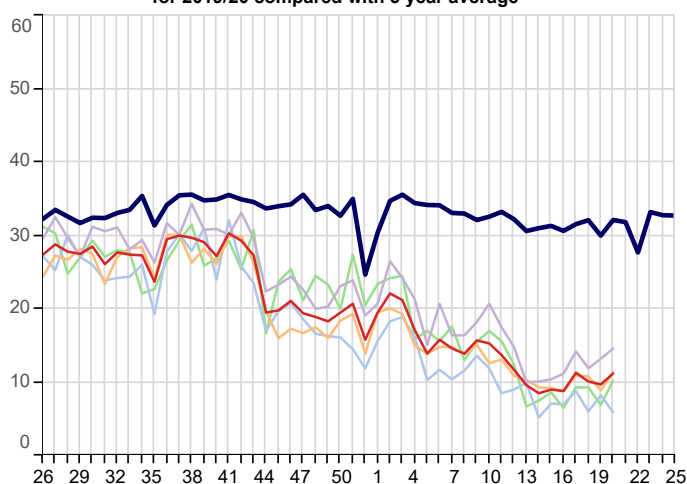


Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending		11/05/2020 17/05/2020		04/05/2020 10/05/2020		27/04/2020 03/05/2020		20/04/2020 26/04/2020	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	12.5	404	10.2	337	13.8	437	22.4	706		
Asthma	8.4	271	7.1	233	7.9	250	8.0	253		
Bronchitis	11.0	355	10.7	353	14.1	447	15.1	476		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.1	4	0.2	5	0.2	5	0.1	4		
Chickenpox	0.4	12	0.5	15	0.5	15	0.6	20		
Common Cold	5.4	174	5.5	182	6.1	192	6.7	212		
Conjunctival Disorders	9.2	298	9.0	297	9.2	292	9.4	297		
Herpes Simplex	2.4	77	2.2	71	2.5	80	2.3	72		
Herpes Zoster	5.7	184	4.7	154	5.9	185	5.3	167		
Impetigo	2.7	87	2.3	76	2.8	90	3.4	106		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.2	7	0.2	6	0.1	4	0.2	7		
Influenza-like illness	1.7	54	2.1	69	3.1	99	3.9	123		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	3.4	111	3.0	97	3.4	107	2.7	85		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	0.4	14	0.1	4	0.3	10	0.4	13		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	16.1	519	16.3	535	21.1	668	21.6	678		
Measles	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.3	10	0.3	11	0.3	8	0.3	9		
Mumps	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.2	6	0.3	8		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	6.1	197	4.7	153	5.8	183	6.0	189		
Otitis Media Acute	5.9	191	6.4	209	7.7	244	6.6	209		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	13.0	421	11.9	390	13.1	414	11.0	345		
Pleurisy	0.5	17	0.8	25	1.2	38	0.5	15		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	2.8	92	2.6	86	2.6	81	2.1	67		
Respiratory System Diseases	85.6	2,765	77.6	2,553	96.5	3,050	104.8	3,296		
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	1.0	31	0.7	22	0.5	17	0.6	18		
Sinusitis	8.6	279	7.6	249	10.8	341	9.4	295		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	77.6	2,508	69.8	2,294	75.0	2,372	75.7	2,381		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	0.0	1	0.2	6	0.3	8	0.1	3		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	8.7	280	6.3	208	7.8	245	6.9	218		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	72.7	2,349	67.2	2,208	84.6	2,674	75.8	2,385		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	21.6	699	19.4	637	20.7	655	16.4	516		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	13.2	428	12.9	424	14.8	469	15.4	486		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	37.0	1,196	35.6	1,171	44.6	1,409	44.2	1,392		
Urinary Tract Infections	11.2	363	9.7	319	10.1	319	11.3	354		
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	9	0.1	2	0.1	4	0.2	6		
Whooping Cough	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.0	1		
Practice Count		312		315		304		305		
Denom		3,230,549		3,288,045		3,161,217		3,146,088		

FURTHER INFORMATION:

About the report

Winter focus

The first two pages of data within this report focus on Influenza-Like Illness, in order to provide information about the on set of seasonal influenza and early warning of any epidemic.

Rate calculation

Each weekly incidence rate is presented per 100,000 population. All presentations are for males and females, and for all age groups, unless otherwise stated.

The denominator used for this report is taken from our most recent extract of data from GP practice systems, and includes all patients currently registered with eligible practices. The denominator varies week-on-week as patients register and deregister; it may also be the case that all patients from an individual practice are excluded because of problems with the data extraction from that practice in a specific week. As stated above, patients who have withheld consent for data-sharing are excluded.

In addition to the national rate, we present data for the four NHS England regions: North; Midlands and East; South; and London.

Five-year averages

Weekly rates are set against the five-year average, calculated from data for the calendar years 2014-2018. Previously we reported against a ten-year average. The change to a five-year average was made because longer-term trends in the incidence of disease have led to weekly rates for certain diseases becoming increasingly divergent from their ten-year average. The use of five-year averages lessens this effect and enables more meaningful comparison.

Threshold calculation for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

We are now using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) to calculate threshold and intensity levels for Influenza-Like Illness. MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculates thresholds and intensity levels based on the pre and post epidemic values. This allows us to report the severity of ILI against multiple thresholds, rather than a simple comparison with the five-year average as the wide variation in ILI year on year, especially during the seasonal peak, makes the average less representative.

In addition to the All Ages thresholds, we have also calculated thresholds for three age bands: those aged under 15, 15-64 year olds and those aged 65 and over. ILI incidence rates vary among different age groups, and the age-specific thresholds allow us to highlight epidemics where ILI disproportionately affects a particular age group.

This methodology is used by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to standardise reporting of influenza activity across Europe, and is also in use by Public Health England. Full details of the methodology can be found in: Vega *et al.* (2012) Influenza surveillance in Europe: establishing epidemic thresholds by the moving epidemic method. Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses 7(4), 546–558. For ease of graphical representation, the final threshold (Very High) is not included in Graph A, page 2, but it is part of Table 3, page 3.

Both the *all-ages* thresholds and the *age-specific* thresholds are shown in Table 2, page 3. Ten years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2006/07- 2016/17 excluding 2009/10).

About the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

What we do

The RCGP RSC was established in 1957, with the current name in use since 2009. The Centre 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 is an active research and surveillance unit that collects and monitors data; its most important research is the surveillance of influenza and the monitoring of vaccine effectiveness.

The RSC data and analytics hub is housed in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey.

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

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc>

Our data extraction process and information governance

Data are extracted twice weekly from practice systems by Wellbeing data management on the RCGP's behalf. Patients who have withheld consent for data sharing are excluded from the extraction process.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the RCGP data and analytics hub in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey. Both Wellbeing data management and the University of Surrey are Registered and compliant with the Data Protection Act and fully compliant with all relevant NHS Digital data information governance best practice.

What the data is used for

The RCGP RSC has been providing reports weekly about health and disease, called the Weekly Returns Service (WRS) since 1964. 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 Public Health England. The bulletin can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/syndromic-surveillance-summary>

In addition to the WRS, the data is 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. Full details can be found on our website:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc>

For further information

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

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