



RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 12/2020
 Week Starting - Ending..... 16/03/2020 - 22/03/2020
 No. of Practices..... 285
 Population..... 2,878,025

National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **50.5** in week 11 to **29.5** in week 12.
- **Asthma** : increased from **16.3** in week 11 to **20.5** in week 12.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **90.9** in week 11 to **40.7** in week 12.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from **14.6** in week 11 to **9.8** in week 12.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from **306.9** in week 11 to **191.9** in week 12.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **29.6** in week 11 to **18.0** in week 12 in the London region, decreased from **67.5** in week 11 to **40.2** in week 12 in the North region, decreased from **47.9** in week 11 to **28.7** in week 12 in the South region, and decreased from **57.4** in week 11 to **29.4** in week 12 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from **13.7** in week 11 to **17.3** in week 12 in the London region, increased from **18.2** in week 11 to **21.7** in week 12 in the North region, increased from **16.6** in week 11 to **21.1** in week 12 in the South region, and increased from **16.1** in week 11 to **21.4** in week 12 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **105.1** in week 11 to **52.8** in week 12 in the London region, decreased from **98.0** in week 11 to **42.5** in week 12 in the North region, decreased from **79.5** in week 11 to **33.7** in week 12 in the South region, and decreased from **88.0** in week 11 to **38.7** in week 12 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from **16.2** in week 11 to **10.0** in week 12 in the London region, decreased from **15.4** in week 11 to **7.9** in week 12 in the North region, decreased from **14.6** in week 11 to **10.0** in week 12 in the South region, and increased from **11.3** in week 11 to **12.2** in week 12 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from **265.9** in week 11 to **164.3** in week 12 in the London region, decreased from **358.8** in week 11 to **220.3** in week 12 in the North region, decreased from **286.9** in week 11 to **182.6** in week 12 in the South region, and decreased from **326.0** in week 11 to **204.9** in week 12 in the Midlands And East region.

Comment:

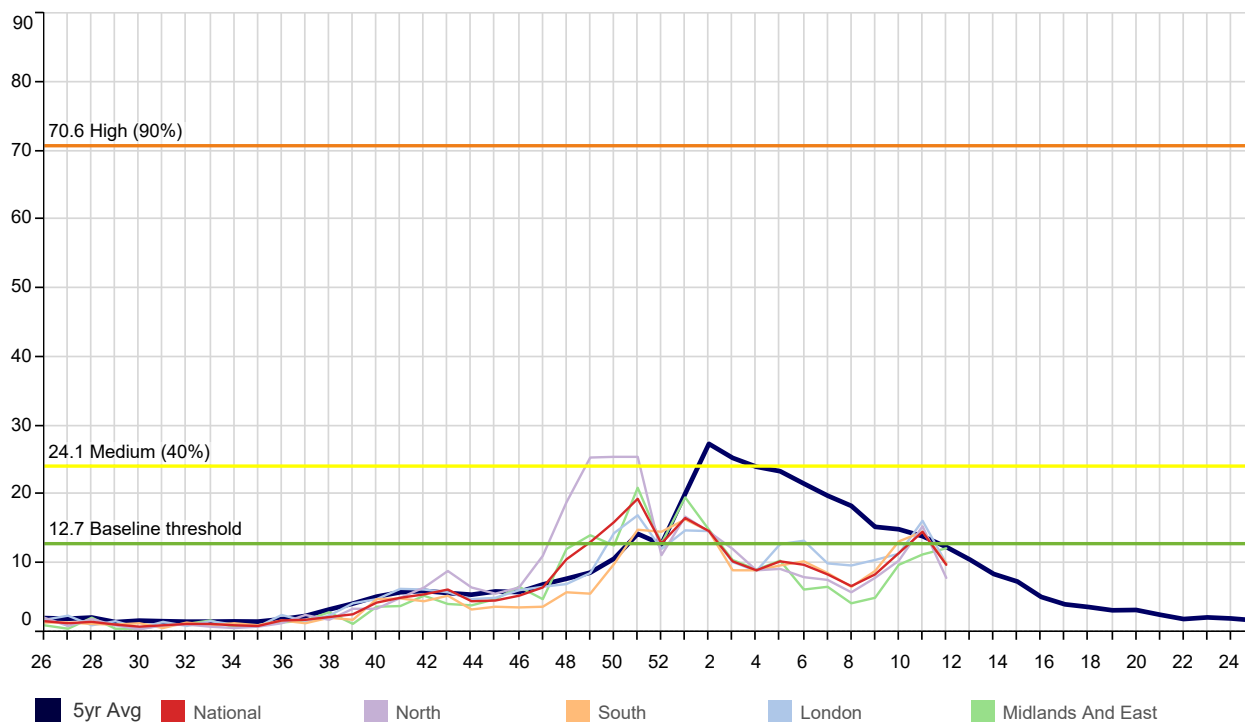
Presentations of respiratory diseases have decreased this week, and remain below seasonal levels for this time of year. While presentations of asthma have increased.

This Weekly Return does include a virology update.

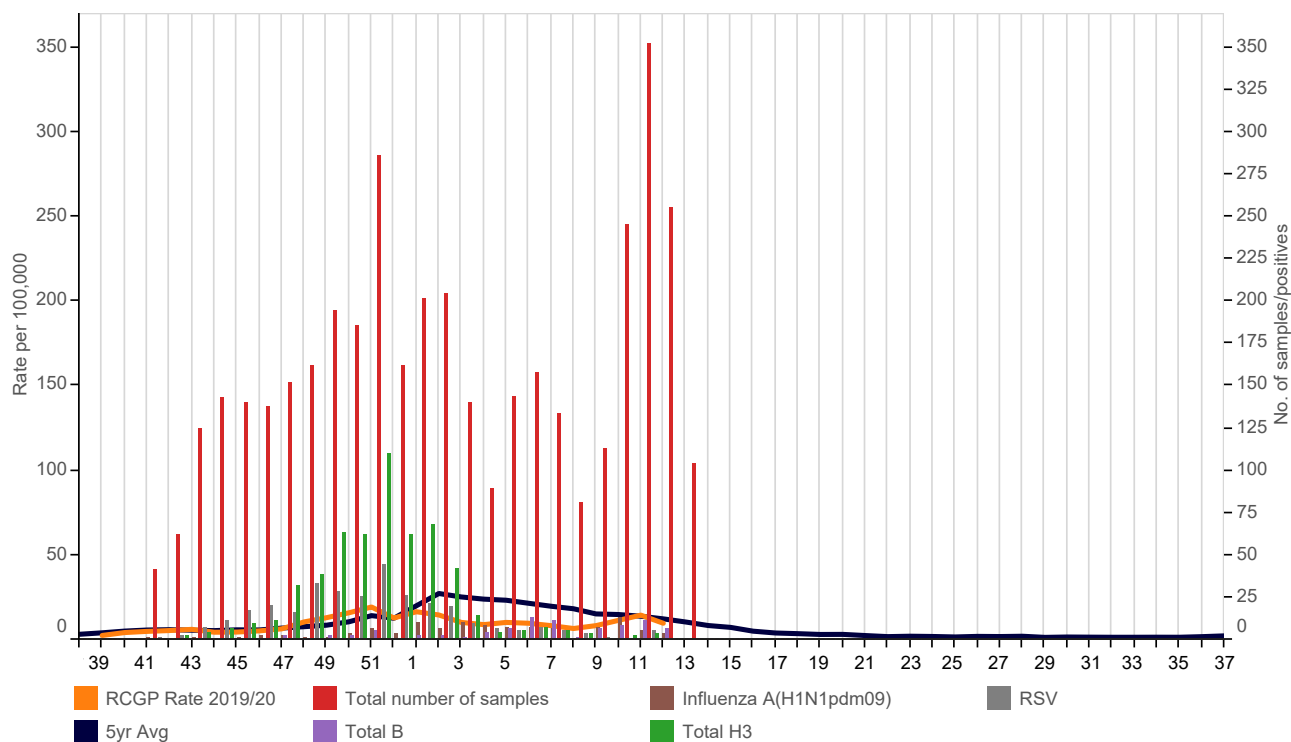
Winter Focus 2019/20

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

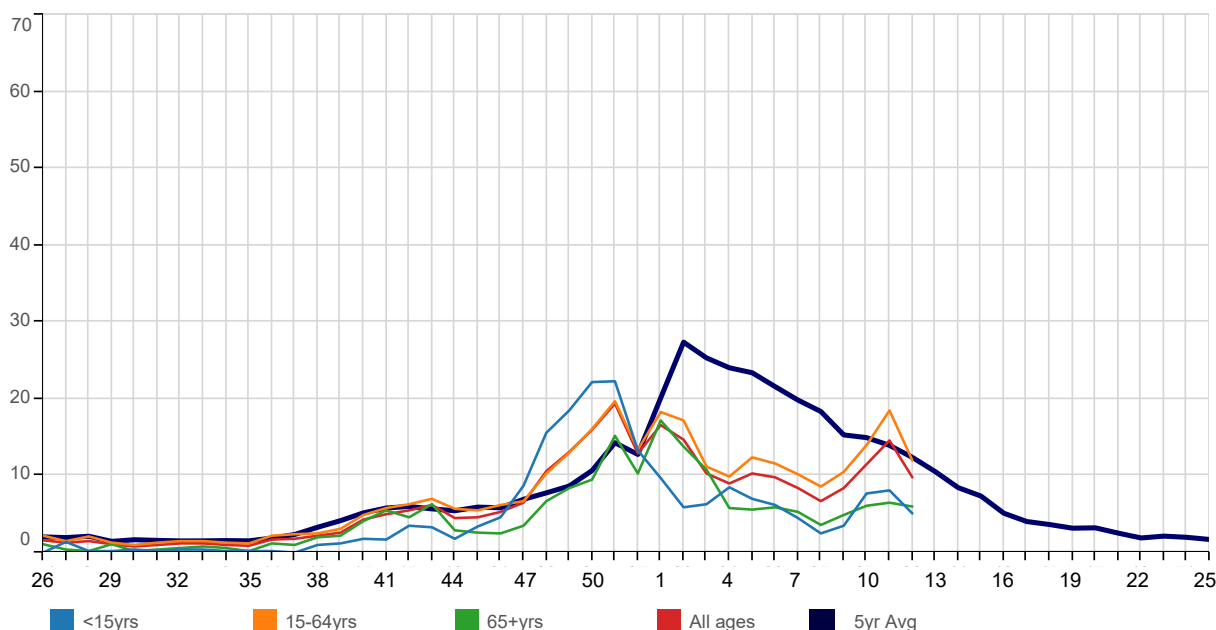
(A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2019/20*



(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.

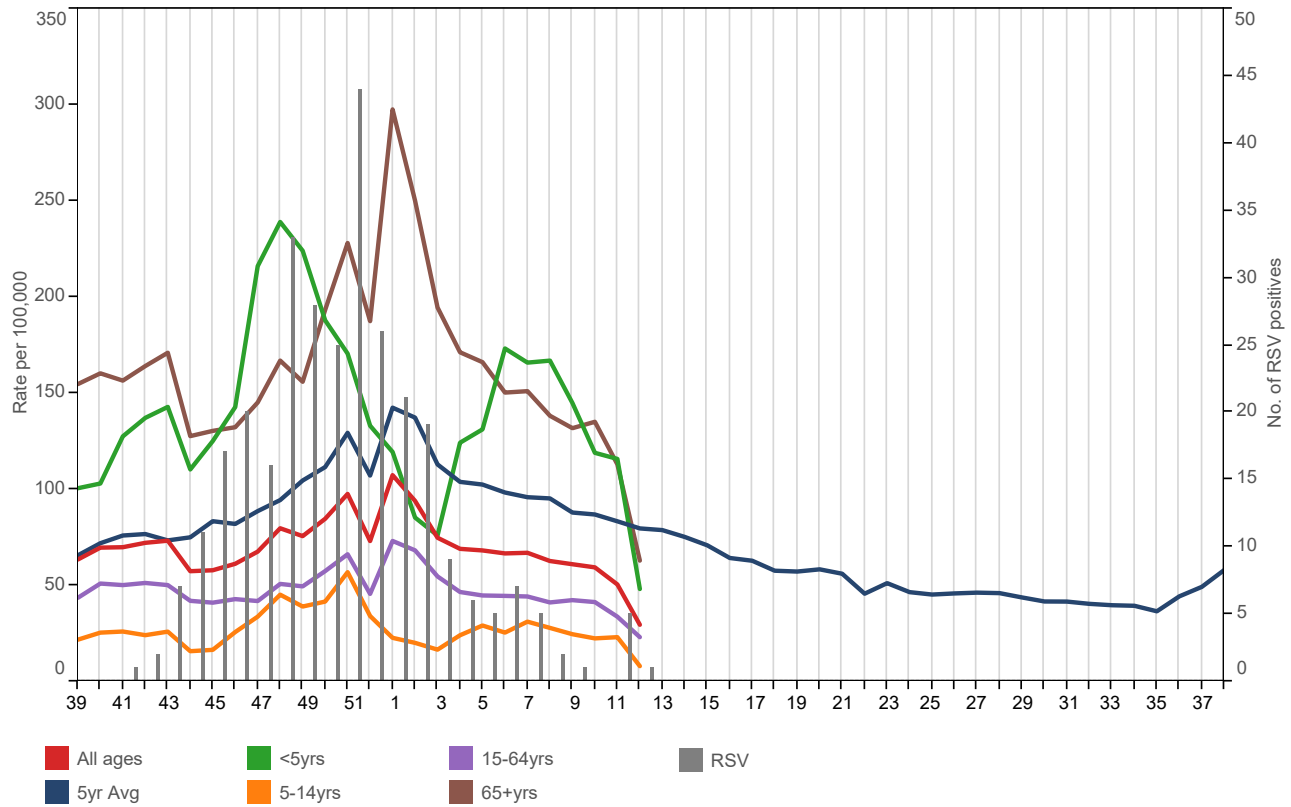
Table 1	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4
<15yrs	1.8	1.7	3.5	3.3	1.8	3.4	4.6	8.7	15.6	18.5	22.2	22.3	13.3	9.7	5.9	6.3	8.5
15-64yrs	4.9	5.8	6.3	7.0	5.7	5.5	6.2	6.7	10.3	13.0	16.1	19.7	13.4	18.3	17.2	11.2	9.9
65+yrs	4.1	5.5	4.6	6.3	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.5	6.7	8.4	9.5	15.2	10.3	17.2	13.8	10.8	5.8
All 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
<15yrs	7.0	6.2	4.5	2.5	3.5	7.7	8.1	5.1								
15-64yrs	12.4	11.6	10.2	8.6	10.5	14.0	18.5	12.0								
65+yrs	5.6	5.9	5.3	3.6	4.9	6.1	6.5	6.0								
All ages	10.3	9.8	8.4	6.7	8.4	11.5	14.6	9.8								

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	11.70	93.50	London	10.0	18.0
1-4yrs	9.50	38.90	North	7.9	40.2
5-14yrs	3.00	8.00	South	10.0	28.7
15-24yrs	7.00	7.60	Midlands And East	12.2	29.4
25-44yrs	12.00	19.90	National	9.8	29.5
45-64yrs	14.30	34.00			
65-74yrs	7.20	57.40			
75-84yrs	5.50	58.80			
85+yrs	3.00	94.50			
All ages	9.80	29.50			

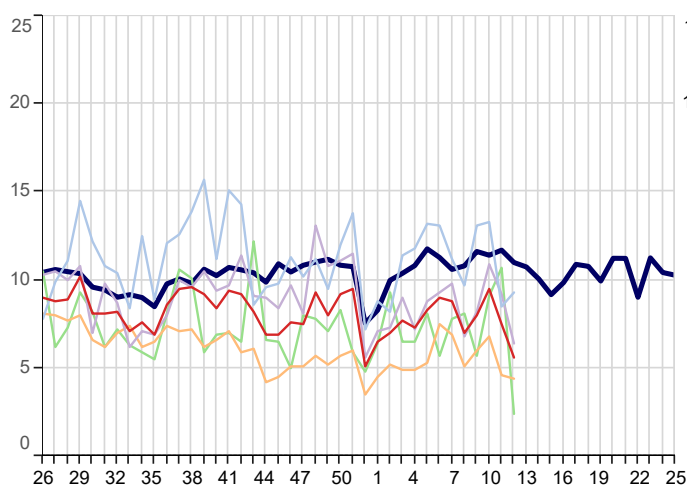
(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group***Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis
<5yrs	9.9	48.1
5-14yrs	3.0	8.0
15-64yrs	12.0	23.1
65+yrs	6.0	62.9
All ages	9.8	29.5

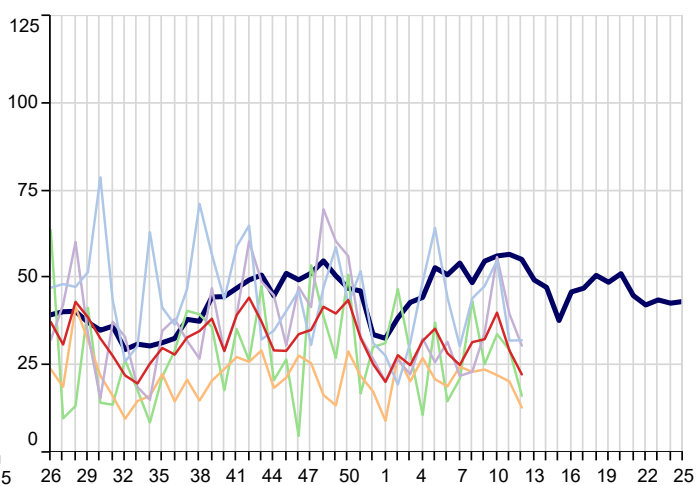
1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

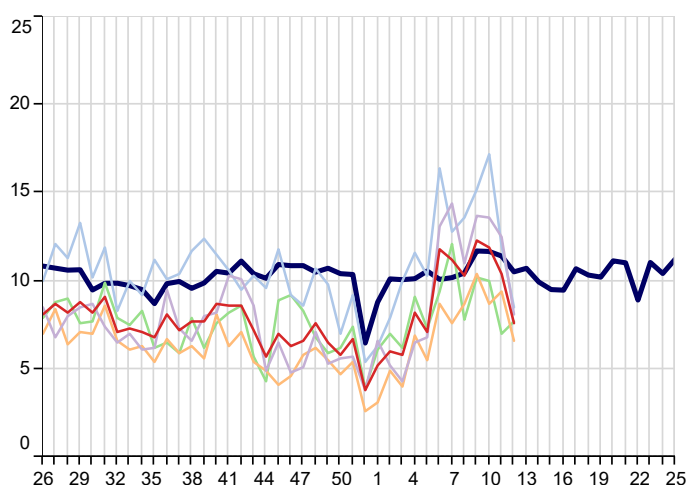
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



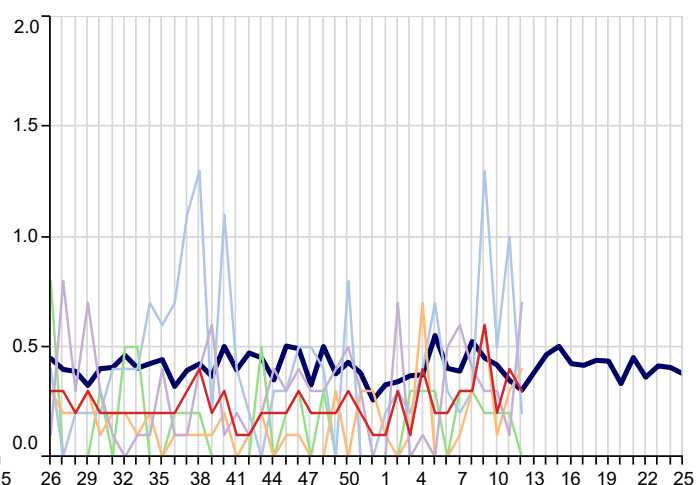
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



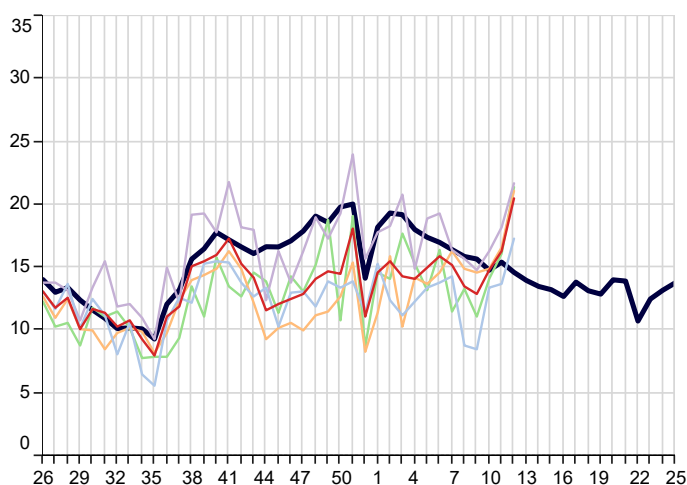
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



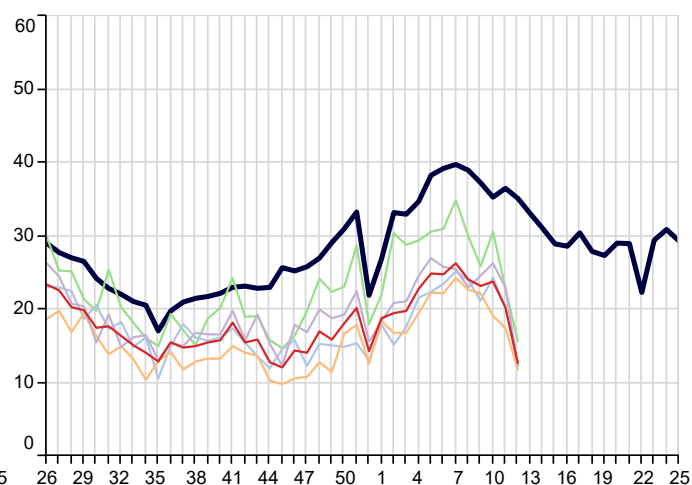
2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

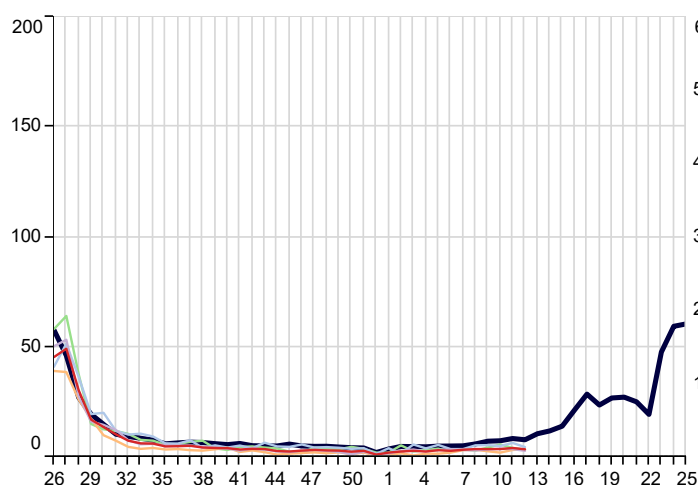
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



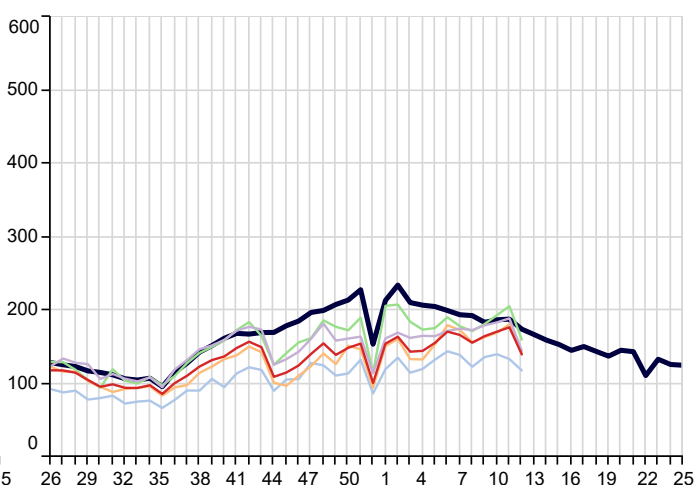
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



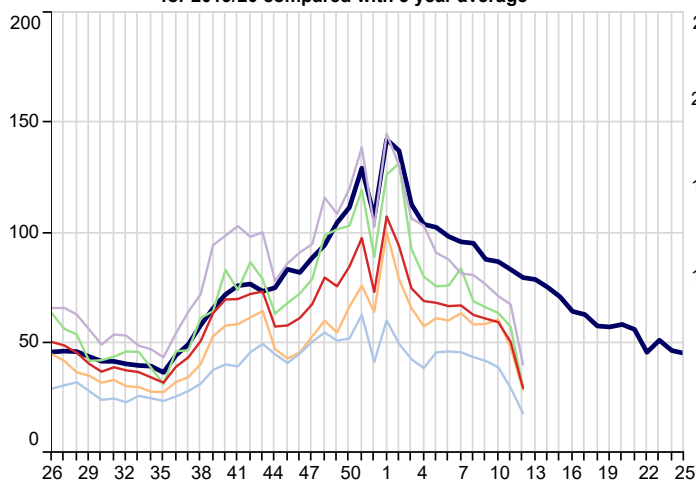
Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



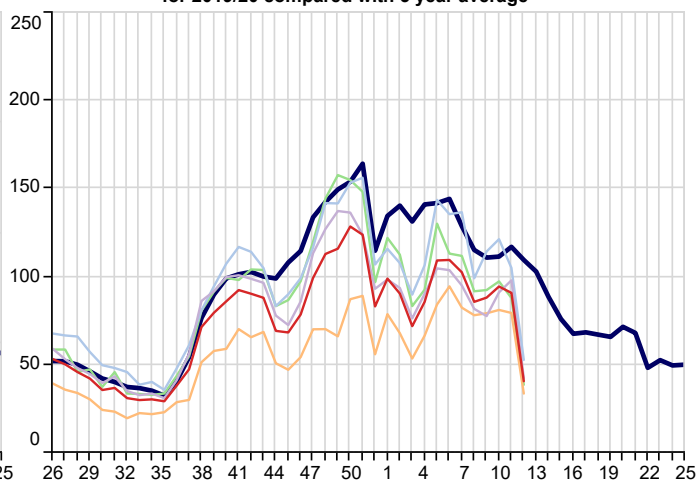
3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

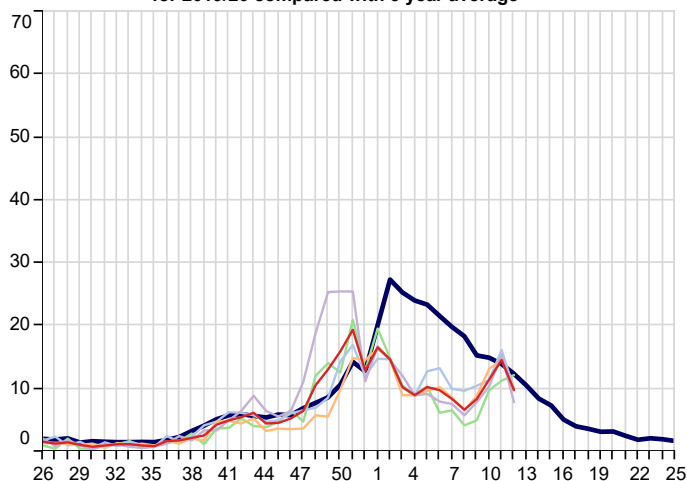
Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



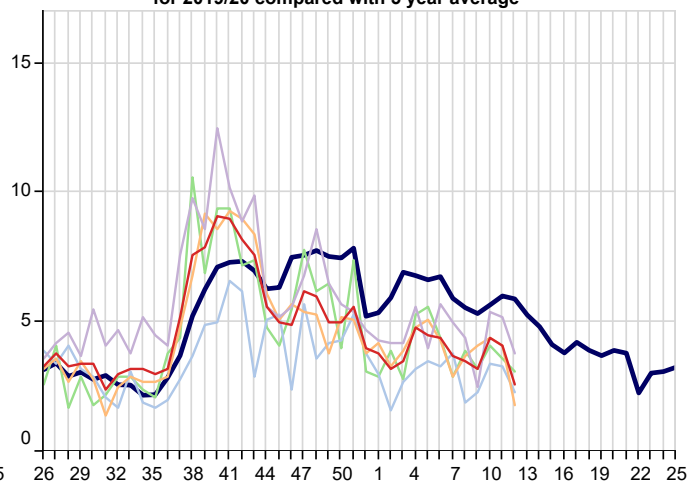
Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



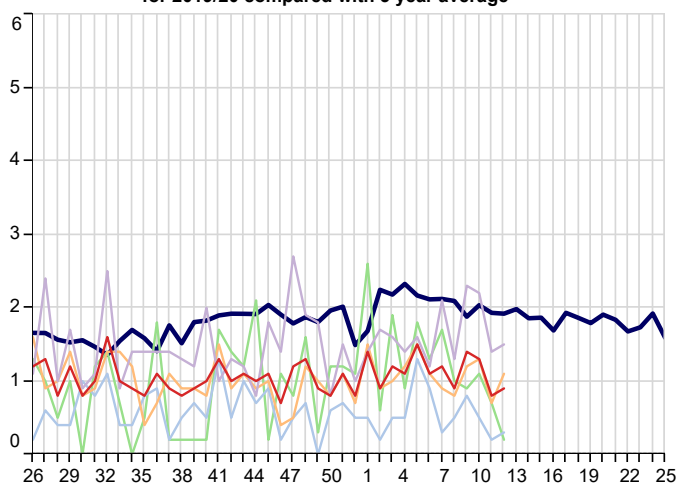
Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



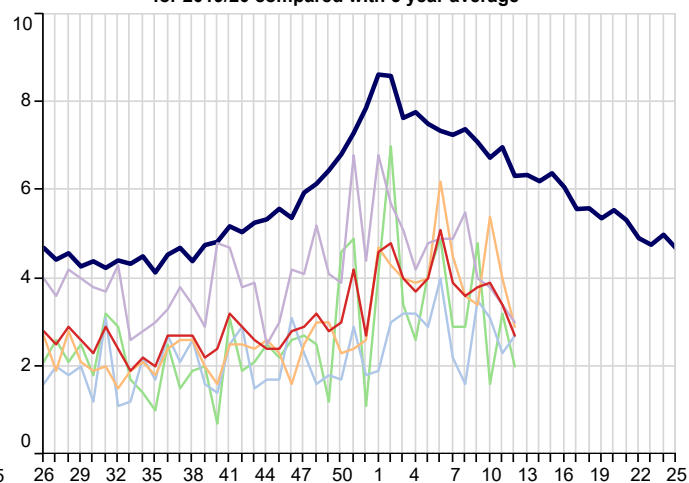
Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



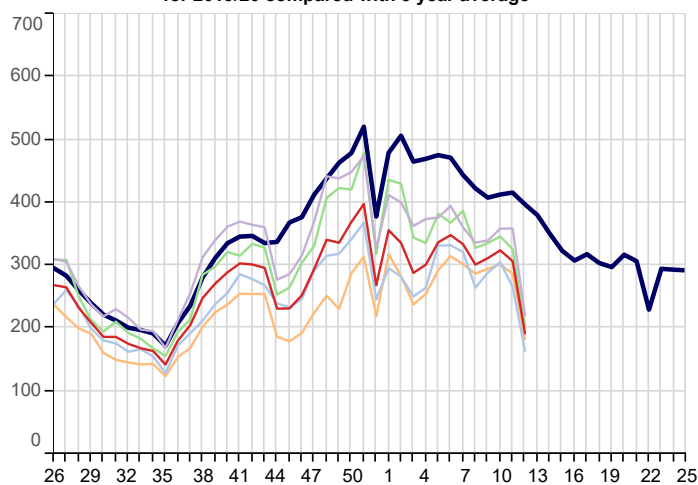
Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



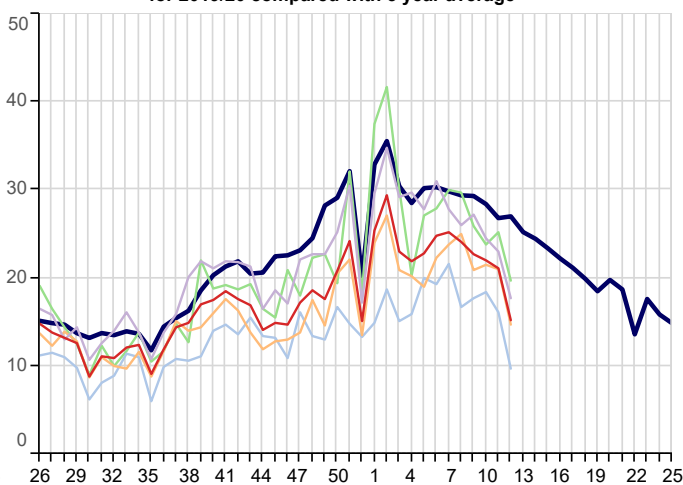
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

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

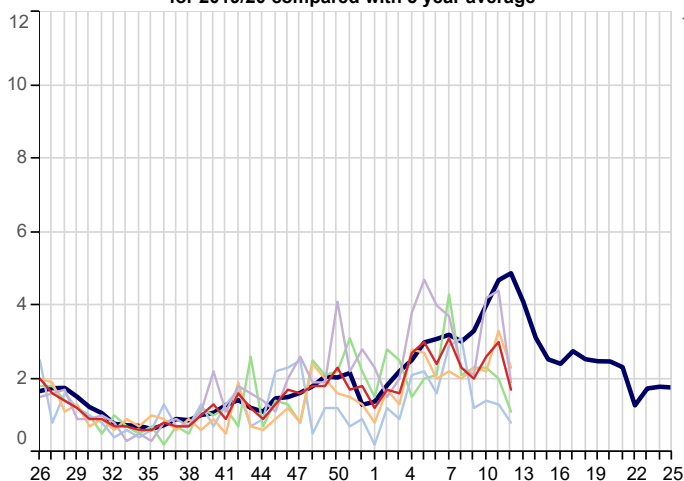
Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



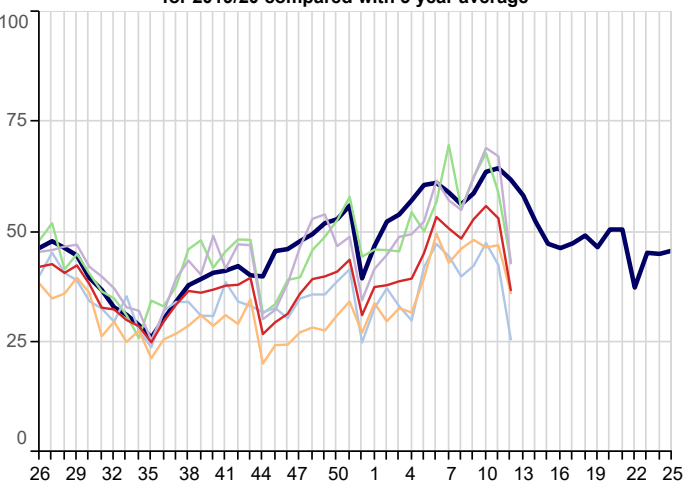
Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



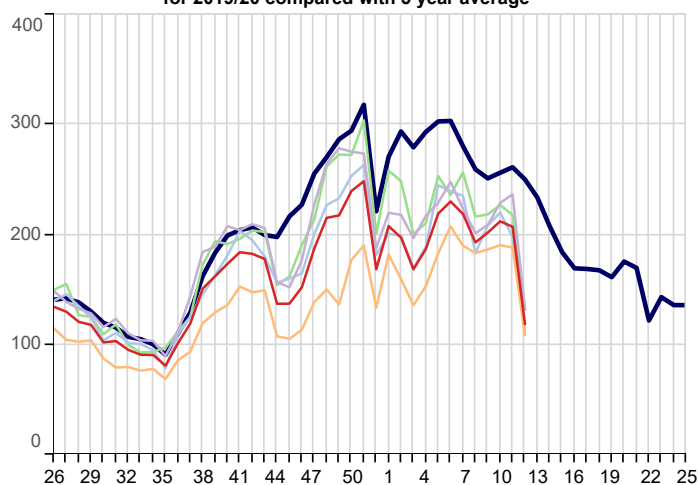
Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



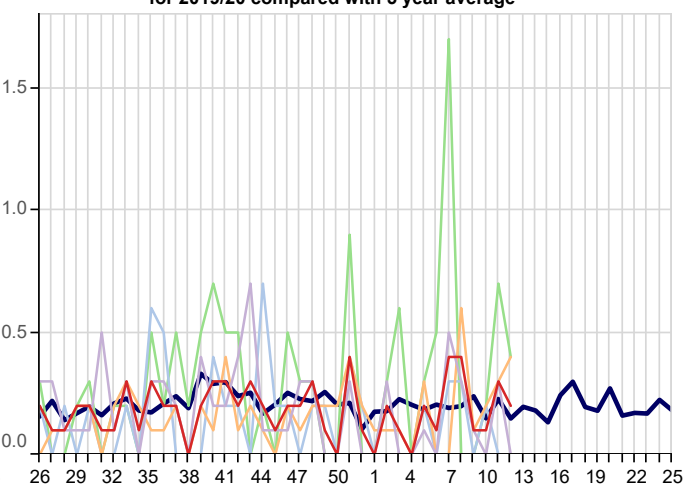
Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



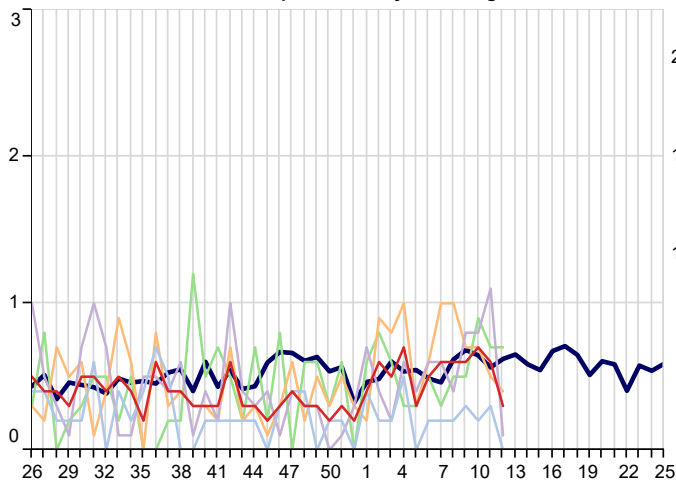
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



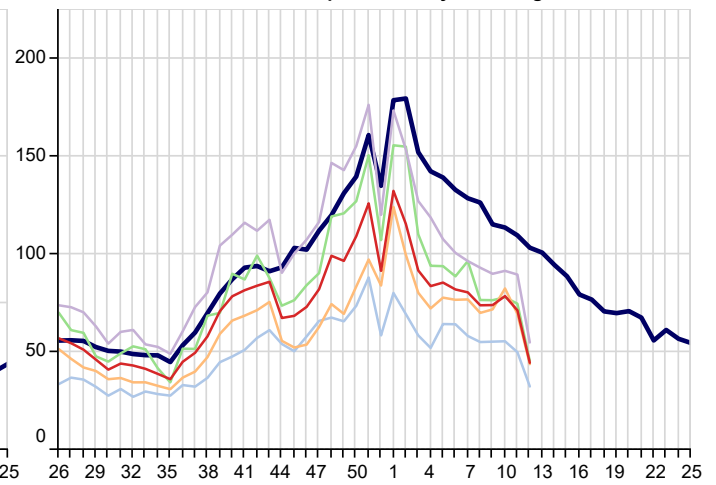
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

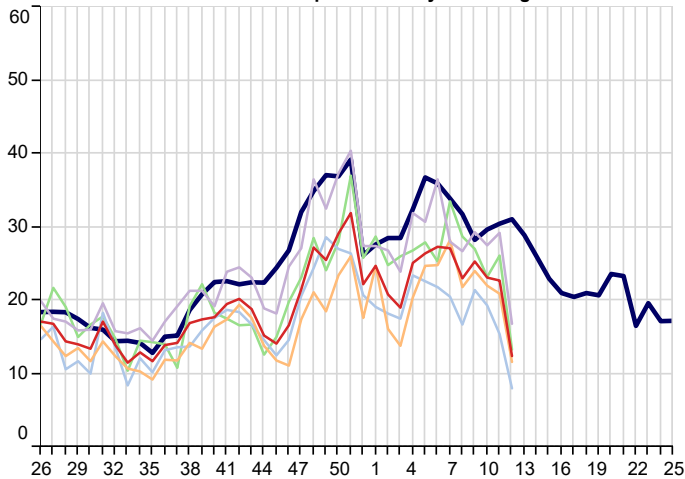
Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



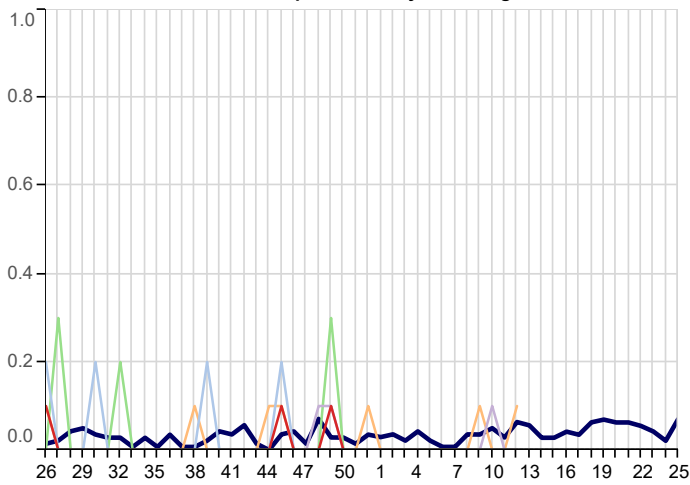
Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



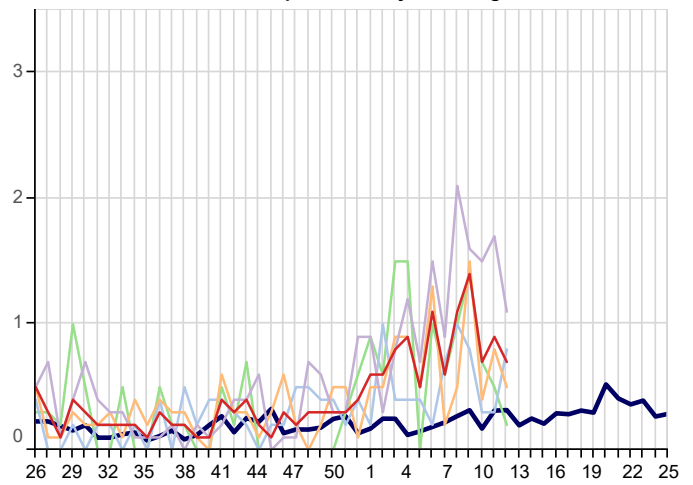
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

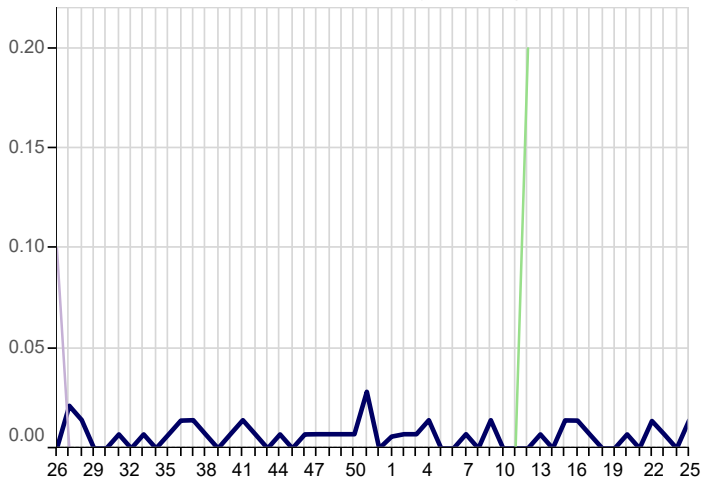
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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

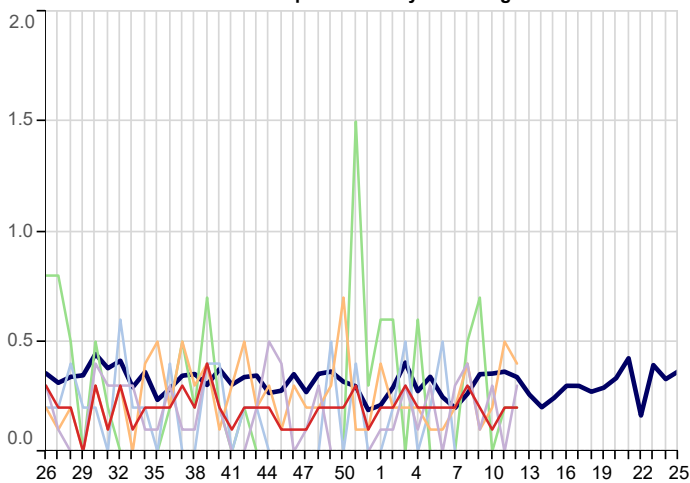


Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

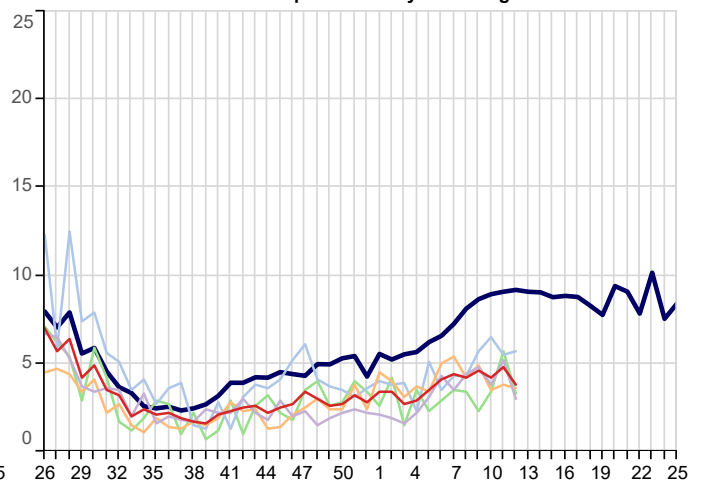


5. Skin Contagions

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



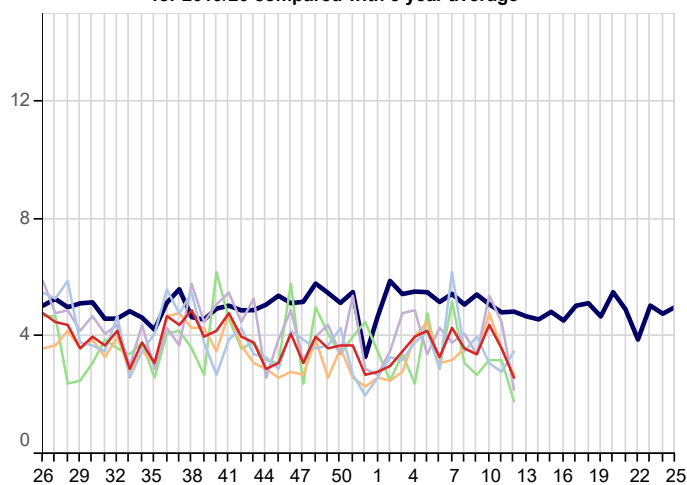
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



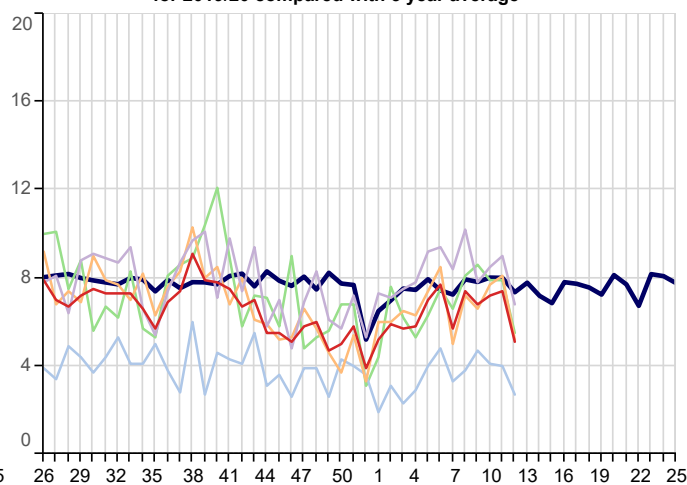
5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

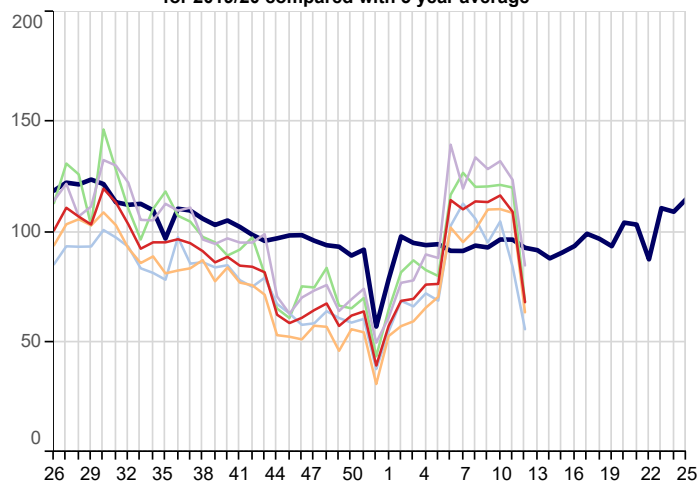
Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



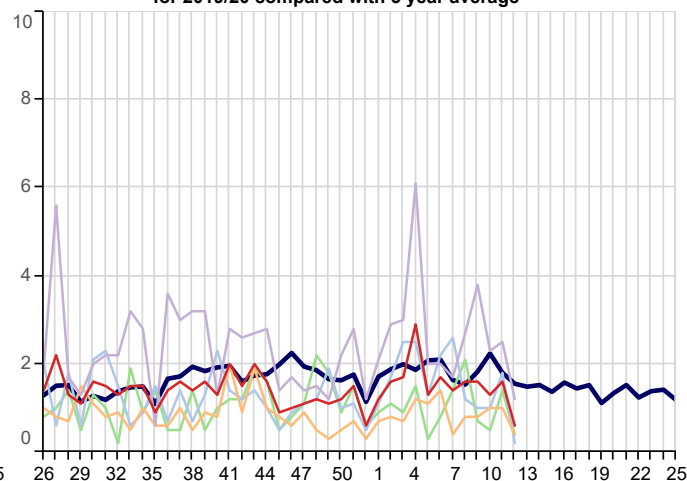
Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



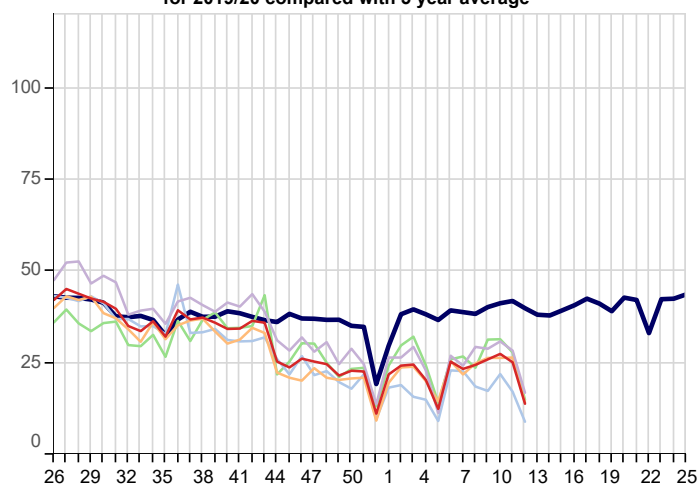
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



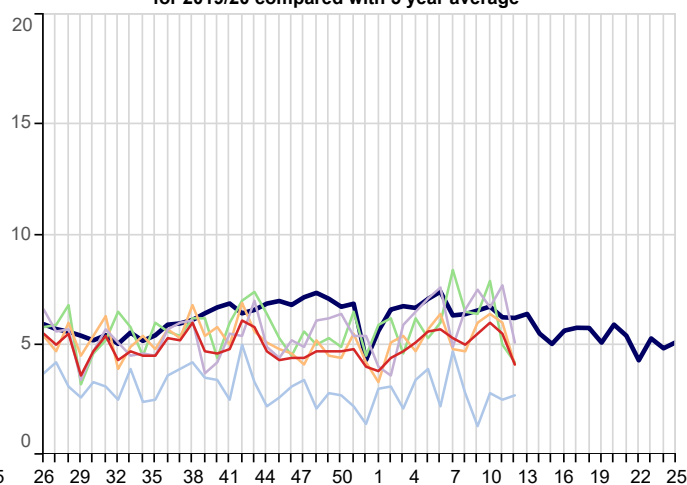
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



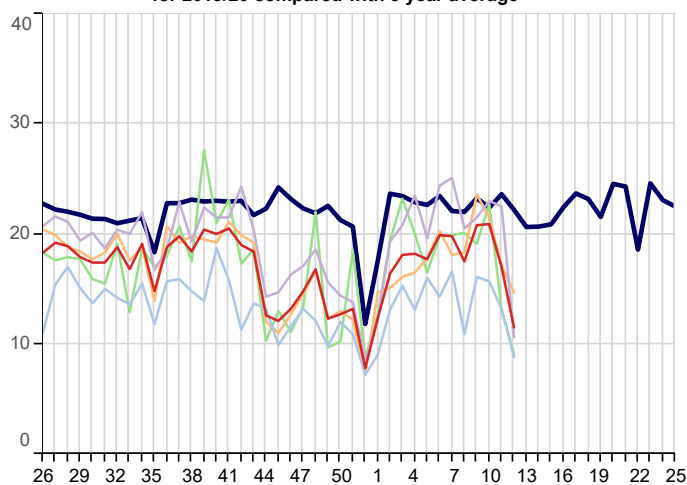
Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



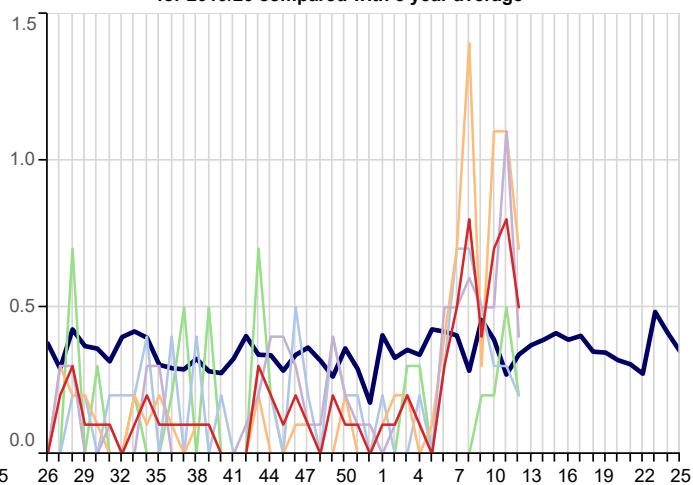
6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

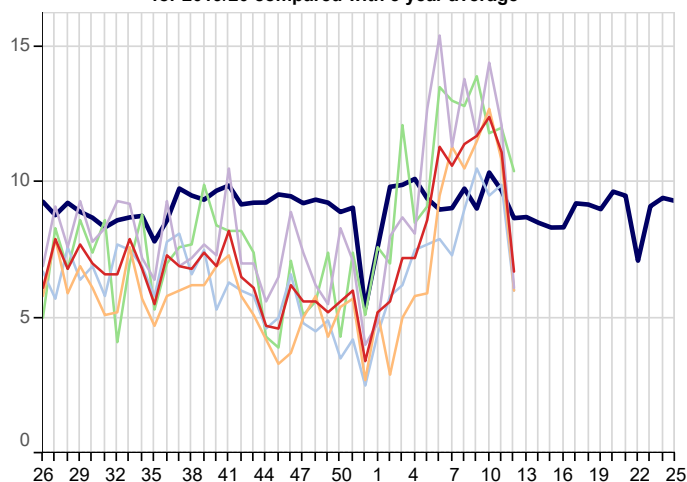
Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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

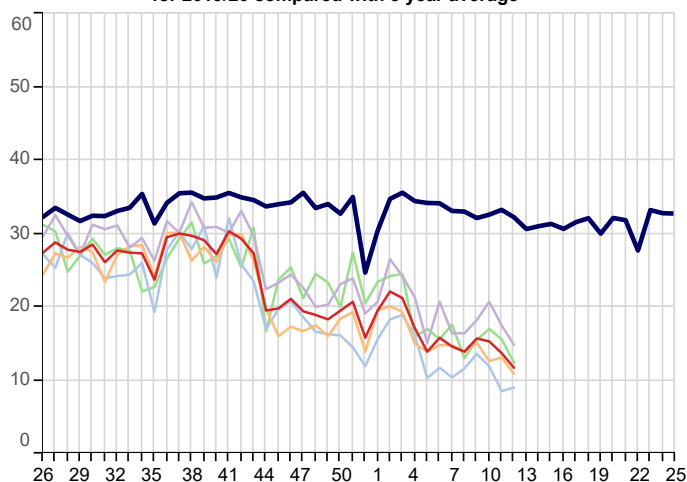


Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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		16/03/2020 22/03/2020		09/03/2020 15/03/2020		02/03/2020 08/03/2020		24/02/2020 01/03/2020	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	3.5	101	4.1	117	3.6	104	3.6	105		
Asthma	20.5	590	16.3	465	14.8	423	12.9	370		
Bronchitis	29.5	850	50.5	1,439	59.4	1,693	61.0	1,757		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	7	0.2	6	0.1	4	0.2	5		
Chickenpox	3.8	110	4.8	137	4.2	119	4.6	133		
Common Cold	40.7	1,172	90.9	2,589	94.5	2,693	88.2	2,538		
Conjunctival Disorders	12.7	365	20.3	579	23.8	679	23.2	668		
Herpes Simplex	2.6	74	3.6	103	4.4	124	3.4	98		
Herpes Zoster	5.1	148	7.4	212	7.2	206	6.8	197		
Impetigo	4.1	118	5.5	158	6.0	171	5.5	158		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	8	0.6	18	0.7	19	0.6	18		
Influenza-like illness	9.8	282	14.6	417	11.5	329	8.4	241		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	5.6	162	7.5	215	9.5	272	8.0	230		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	2.6	76	4.1	118	4.4	126	3.2	91		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	44.6	1,284	71.4	2,035	78.7	2,244	74.1	2,132		
Measles	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	1		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.5	13	0.8	24	0.7	19	0.4	11		
Mumps	0.7	19	0.9	25	0.7	20	1.4	39		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	7.6	218	10.4	296	11.9	339	12.3	353		
Otitis Media Acute	12.4	358	22.7	646	23.1	657	25.3	729		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	11.5	332	17.0	485	20.9	595	20.8	598		
Pleurisy	0.9	26	0.8	22	1.3	38	1.4	40		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	2.7	78	3.4	96	3.9	112	3.8	109		
Respiratory System Diseases	191.9	5,524	306.9	8,742	324.0	9,234	311.5	8,967		
Rubella	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	0.6	16	1.6	46	1.3	36	1.6	47		
Sinusitis	15.2	438	21.1	602	22.0	627	22.7	653		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	68.1	1,959	109.2	3,110	116.6	3,324	113.6	3,270		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.7	49	3.0	85	2.6	73	2.0	58		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	6.7	193	11.1	317	12.4	352	11.7	337		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	139.9	4,026	176.8	5,038	170.9	4,871	164.8	4,743		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	13.9	401	25.2	719	27.5	783	26.0	747		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	36.8	1,058	53.1	1,512	55.9	1,593	52.9	1,524		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	118.6	3,412	207.2	5,904	212.2	6,047	201.9	5,813		
Urinary Tract Infections	11.7	337	13.7	389	15.3	435	15.7	451		
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	10	0.4	11	0.2	7	0.6	17		
Whooping Cough	0.2	6	0.3	8	0.1	4	0.1	2		
Practice Count		285		281		281		286		
Denom		2,878,025		2,848,945		2,849,878		2,878,525		

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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