



# RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

## Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 16/2020  
 Week Starting - Ending..... 13/04/2020 - 19/04/2020  
 No. of Practices..... 302  
 Population..... 3,089,736

## National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **19.0** in week 15 to **15.1** in week 16.
- **Asthma** : increased from **8.0** in week 15 to **8.5** in week 16.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **10.3** in week 15 to **8.9** in week 16.
- **Influenza Like illness** : increased from **3.7** in week 15 to **3.8** in week 16.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from **105.4** in week 15 to **101.8** in week 16.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **12.6** in week 15 to **7.7** in week 16 in the London region, decreased from **28.7** in week 15 to **22.8** in week 16 in the North region, decreased from **16.4** in week 15 to **12.2** in week 16 in the South region, and increased from **16.4** in week 15 to **17.5** in week 16 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from **7.5** in week 15 to **12.7** in week 16 in the London region, decreased from **10.1** in week 15 to **8.7** in week 16 in the North region, decreased from **8.2** in week 15 to **7.2** in week 16 in the South region, and increased from **4.5** in week 15 to **6.7** in week 16 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **12.6** in week 15 to **8.8** in week 16 in the London region, decreased from **13.4** in week 15 to **11.2** in week 16 in the North region, decreased from **7.9** in week 15 to **7.6** in week 16 in the South region, and decreased from **8.6** in week 15 to **8.0** in week 16 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from **2.0** in week 15 to **1.7** in week 16 in the London region, increased from **2.7** in week 15 to **3.2** in week 16 in the North region, increased from **4.8** in week 15 to **5.4** in week 16 in the South region, and decreased from **4.7** in week 15 to **3.2** in week 16 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from **90.5** in week 15 to **99.7** in week 16 in the London region, decreased from **128.1** in week 15 to **123.8** in week 16 in the North region, decreased from **94.7** in week 15 to **86.9** in week 16 in the South region, and decreased from **111.2** in week 15 to **104.4** in week 16 in the Midlands And East region.

## Comment:

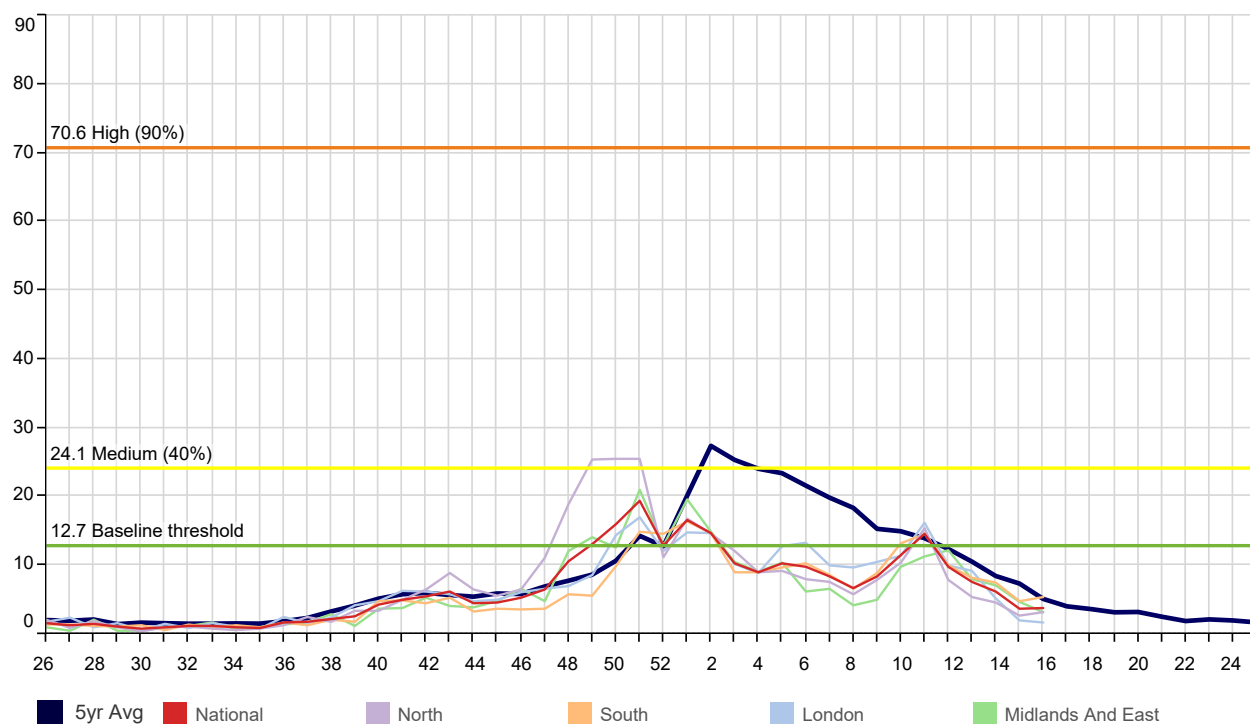
Presentations of respiratory diseases have decreased this week, and remain well below seasonal levels for this time of year, probably due to the current lockdown.

This report includes a virology update.

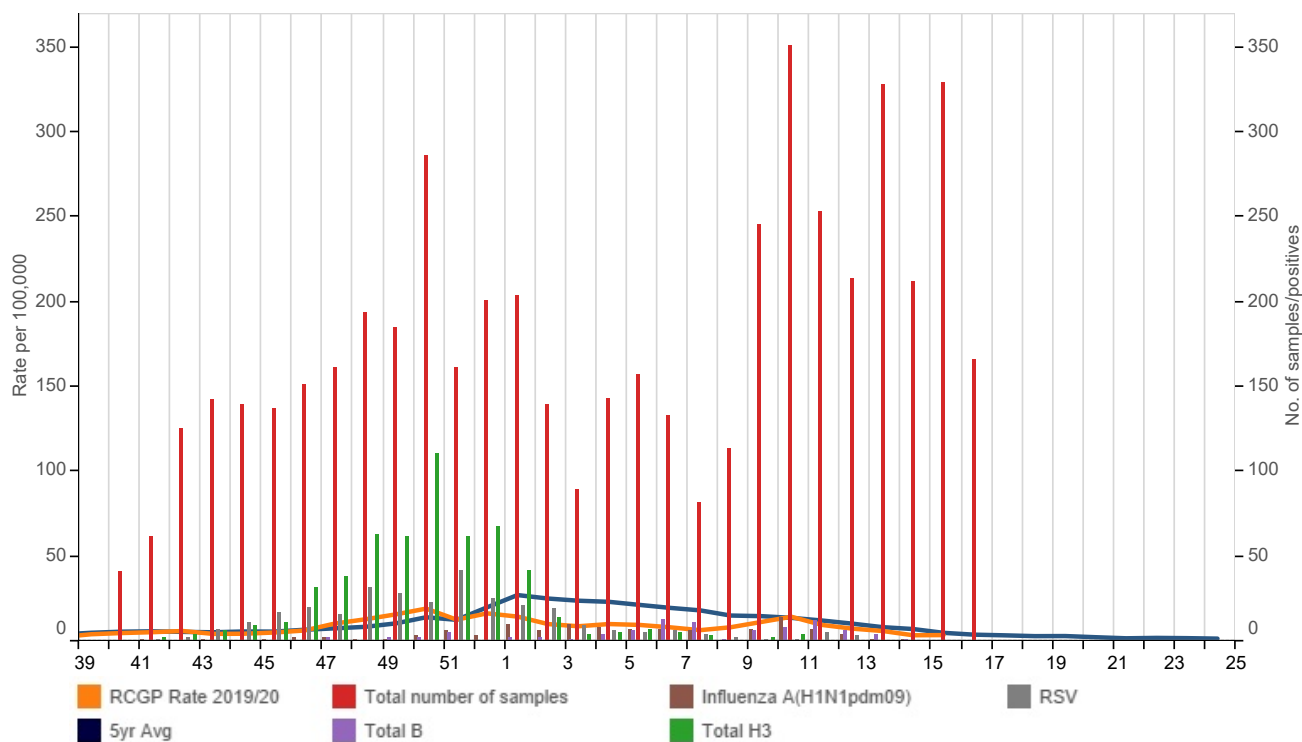
## Winter Focus 2019/20

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

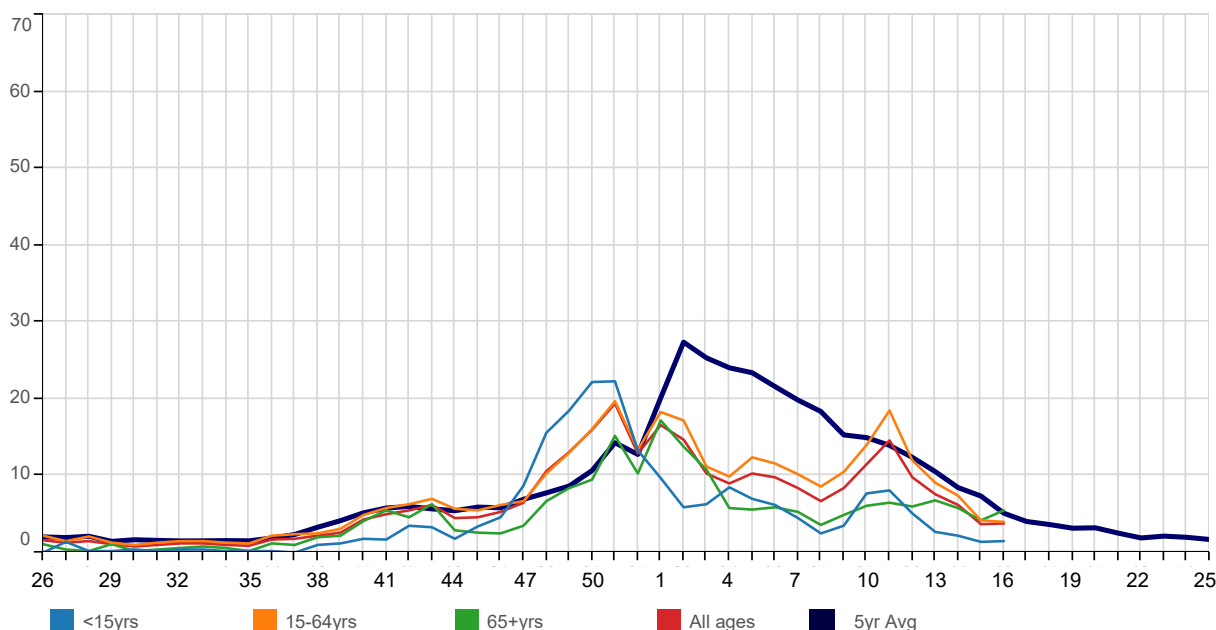
### (A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2019/20\*



### (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
<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				
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				
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				
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				

Table 2	Below Threshold <sup>1</sup>	Threshold to Medium <sup>2</sup>	Medium to High <sup>3</sup>	High to Very High <sup>4</sup>	Above Very High <sup>5</sup>
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 levels**

<sup>1</sup>Below baseline threshold

<sup>2</sup>baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile

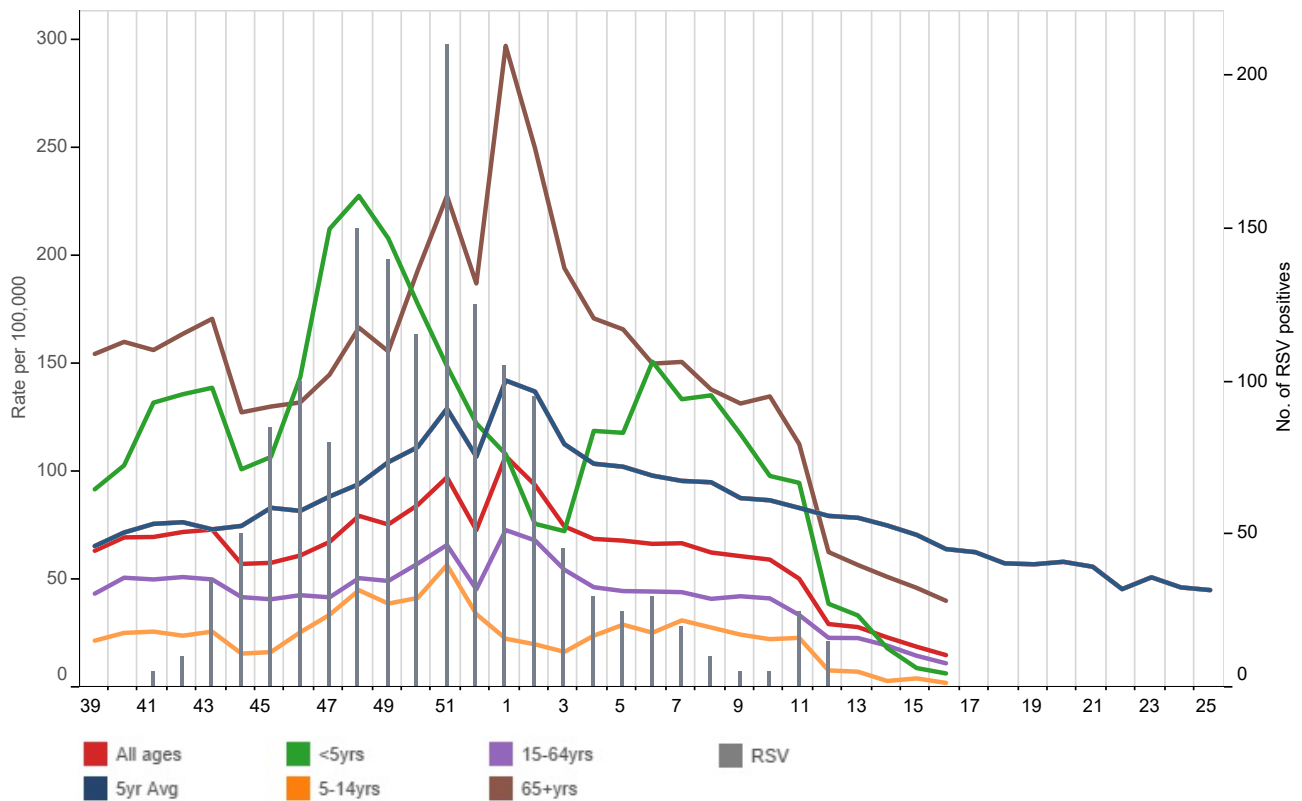
<sup>3</sup>40th to <90th percentile

<sup>4</sup>90th to <97.5th percentile

<sup>5</sup>97.5th+ percentile

**Weekly influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis	Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis
<1yr	0.0	7.3	London	1.7	7.7
1-4yrs	0.7	6.6	North	3.2	22.8
5-14yrs	1.9	2.2	South	5.4	12.2
15-24yrs	2.6	6.2	Midlands And East	3.2	17.5
25-44yrs	3.7	7.8	National	3.8	15.1
45-64yrs	4.9	17.4			
65-74yrs	3.4	29.2			
75-84yrs	5.5	39.8			
85+yrs	13.5	85.1			
All ages	3.8	15.1			

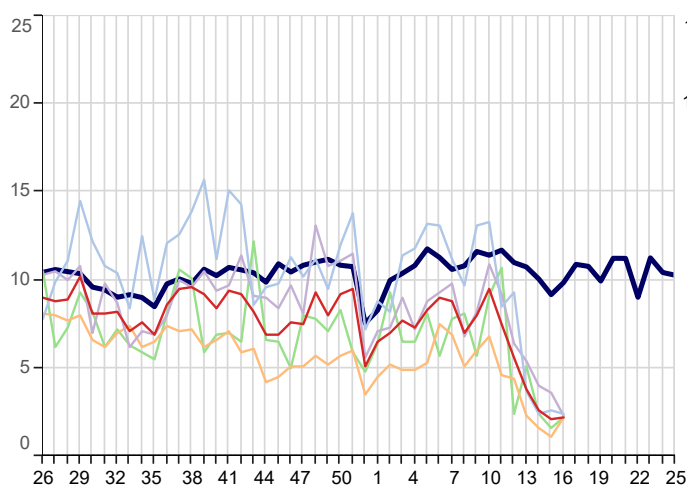
**(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group\*****Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis
<5yrs	0.6	6.7
5-14yrs	1.9	2.2
15-64yrs	4.0	11.3
65+yrs	5.5	40.3
All ages	3.8	15.1

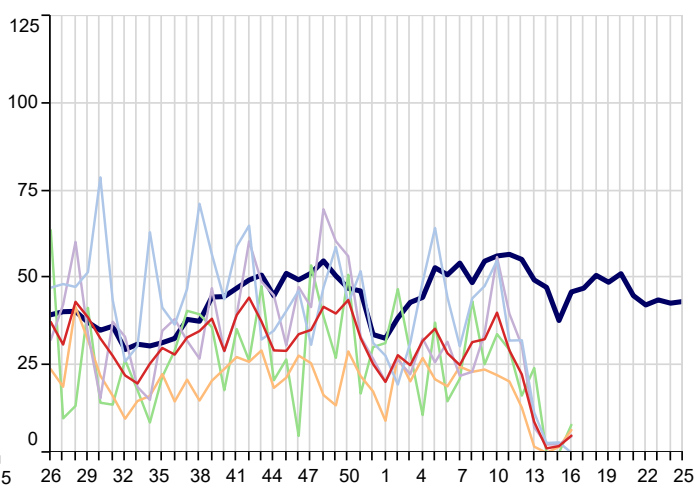
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

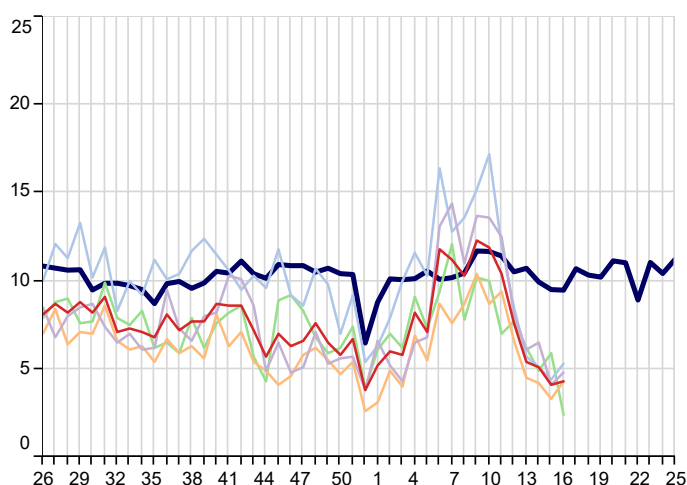
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



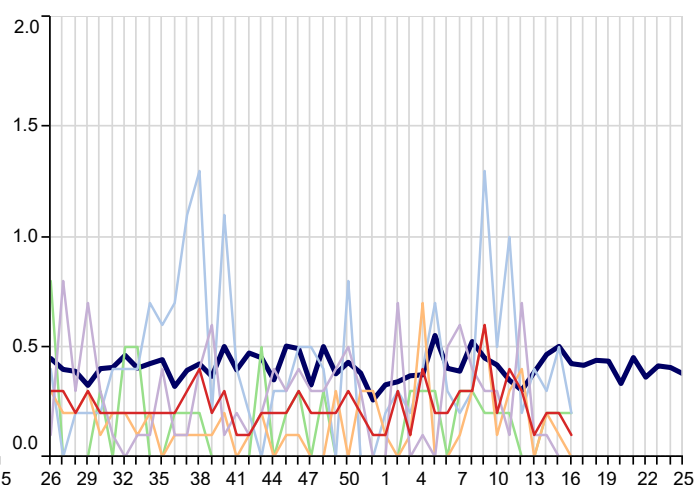
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



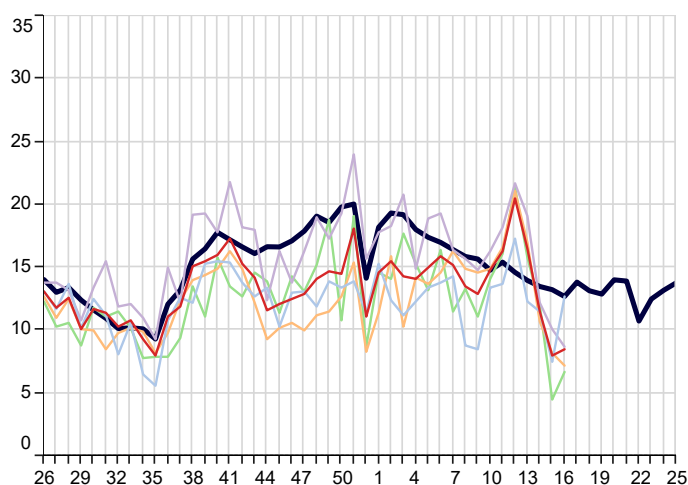
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



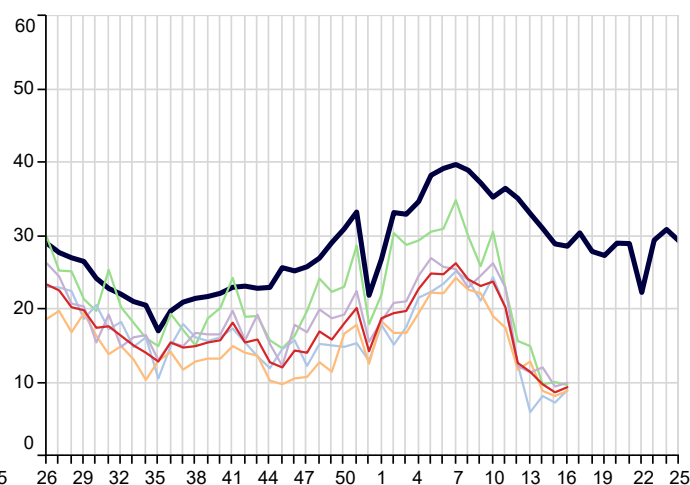
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

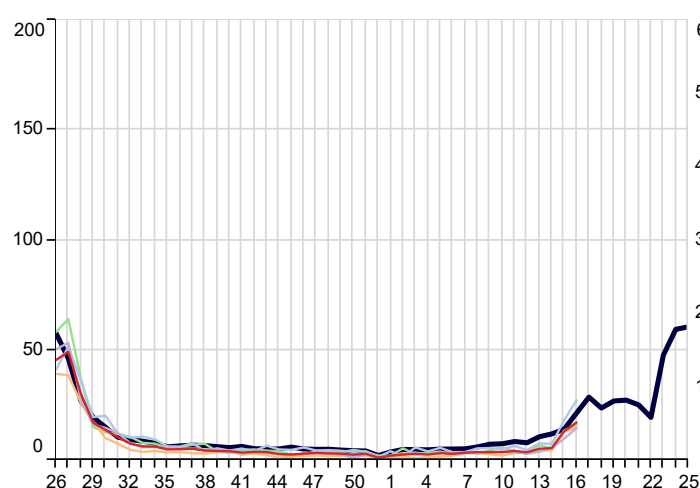
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



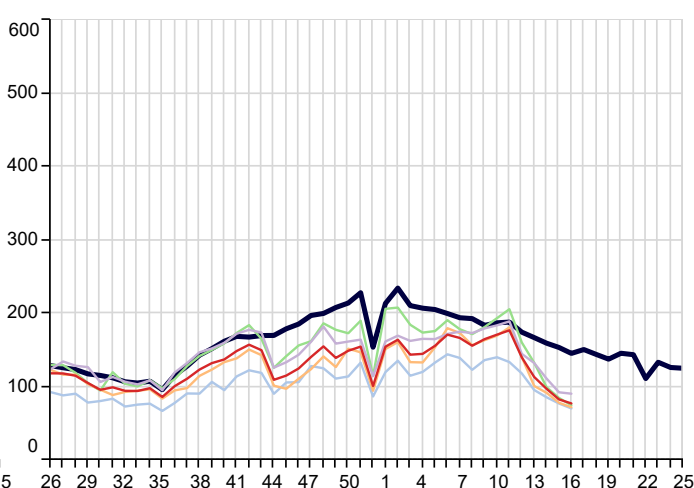
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



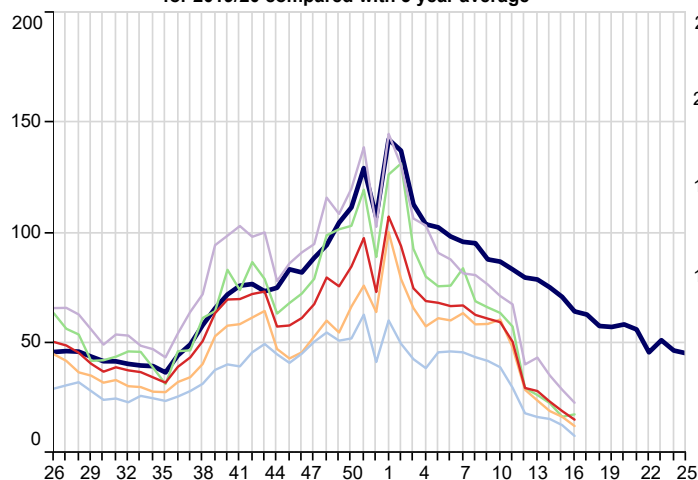
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



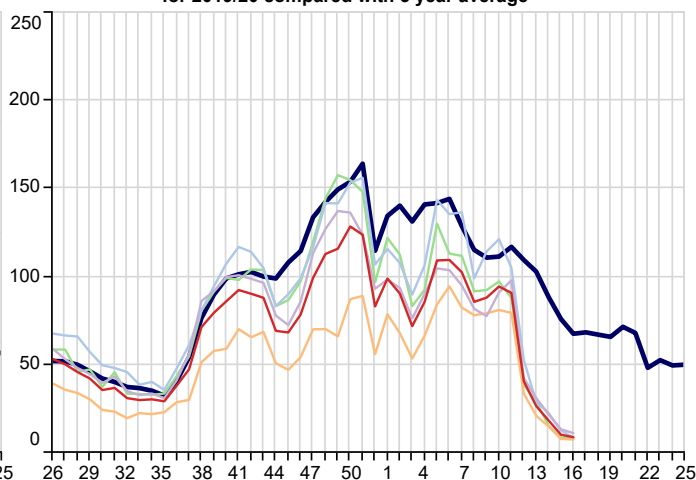
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

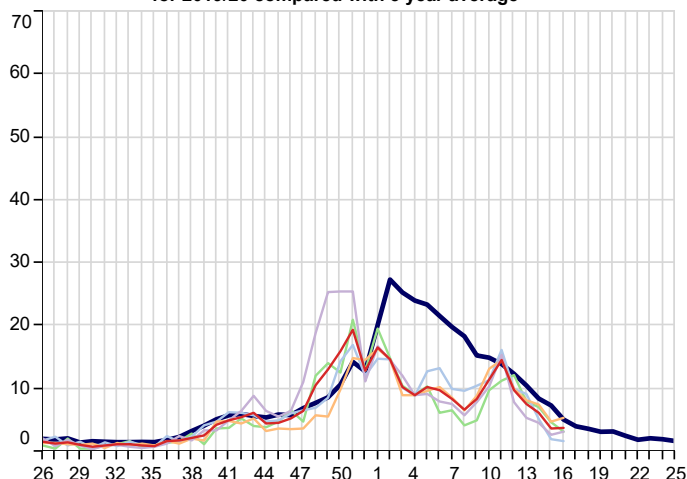
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



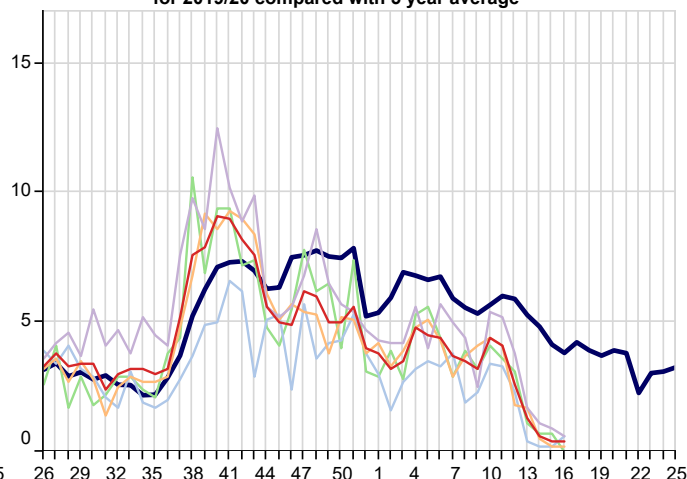
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



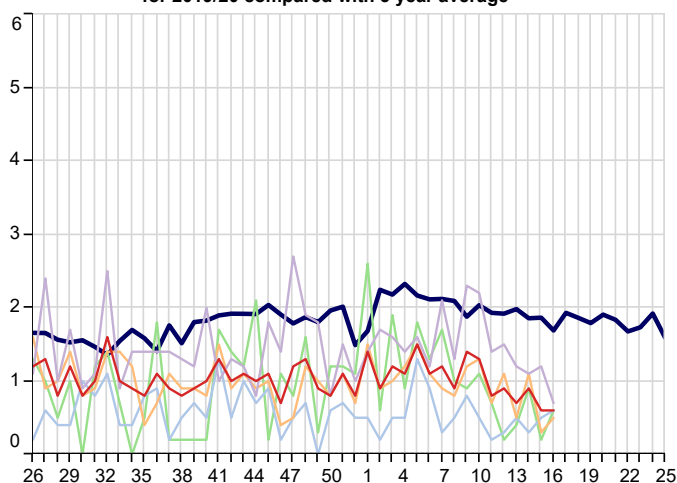
**Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



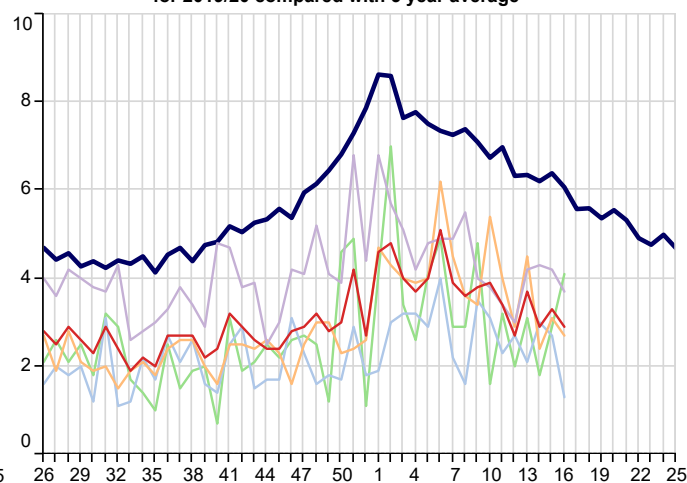
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



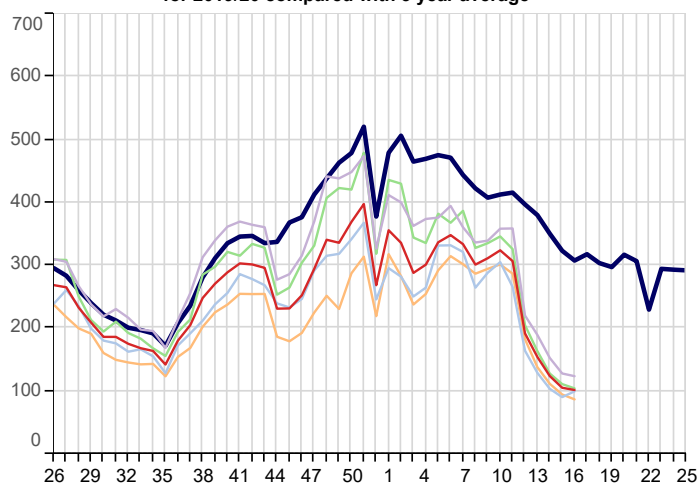
**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



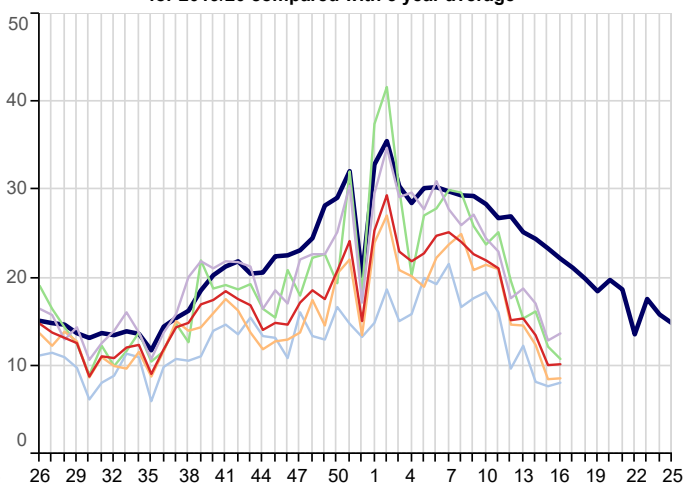
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

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

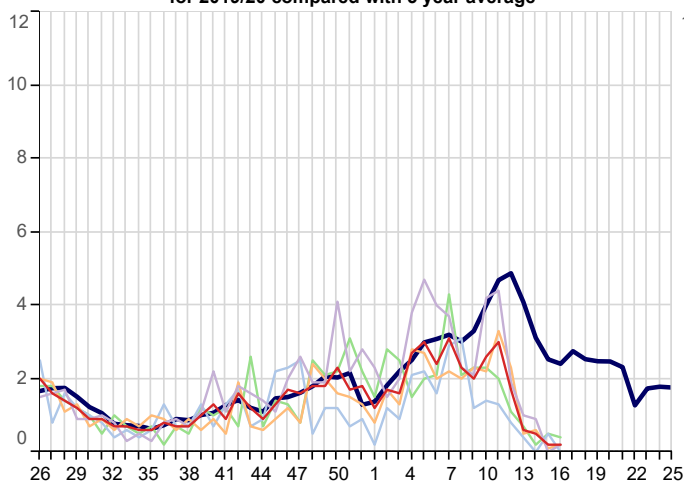
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



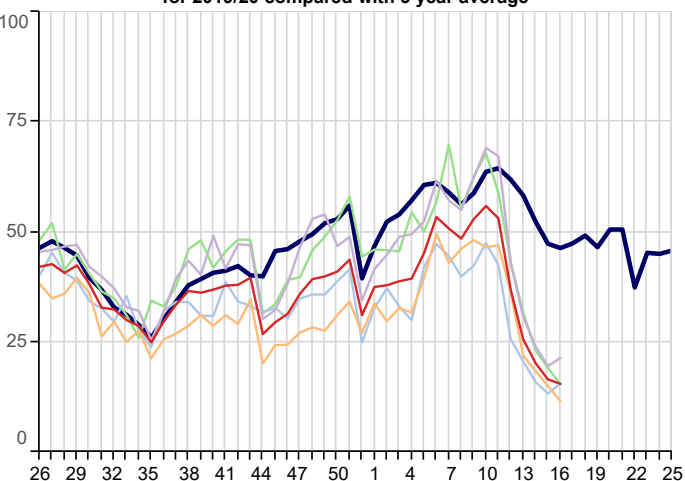
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



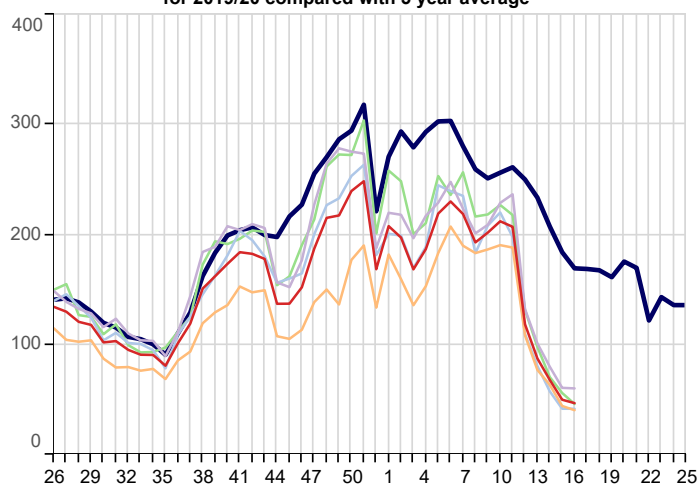
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



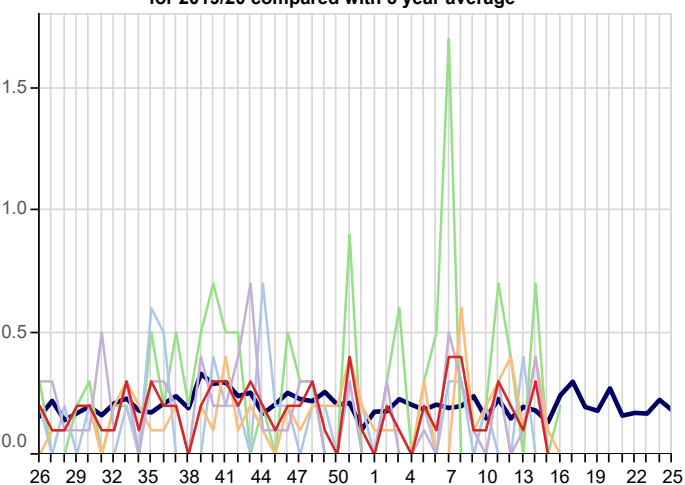
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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

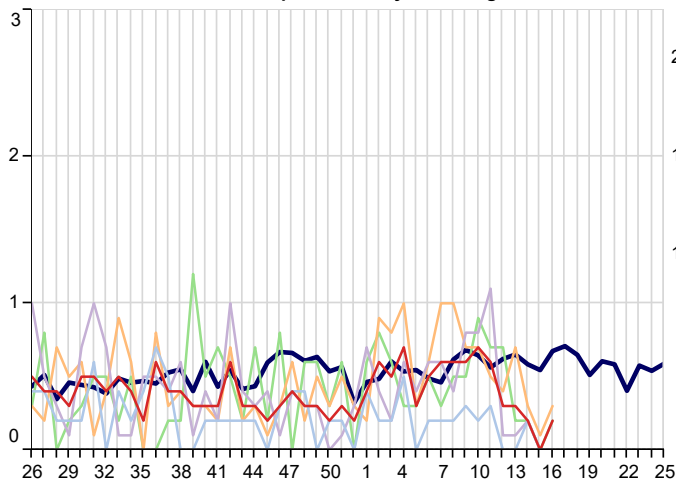




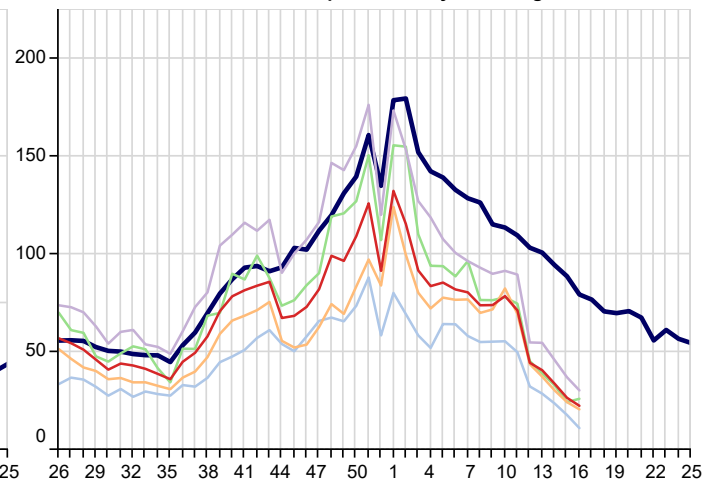
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

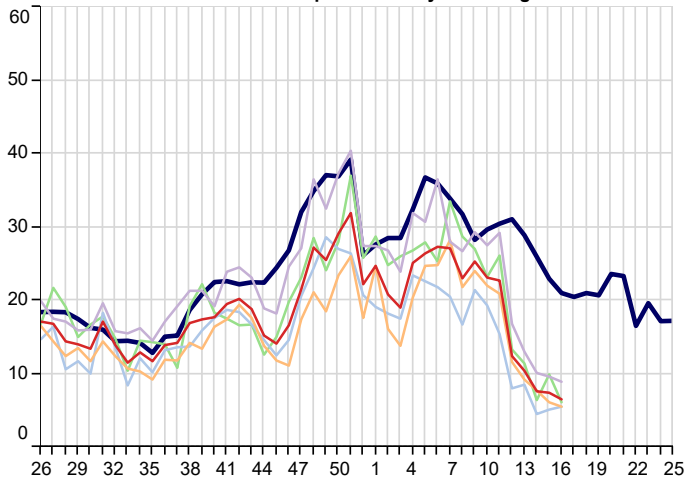
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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



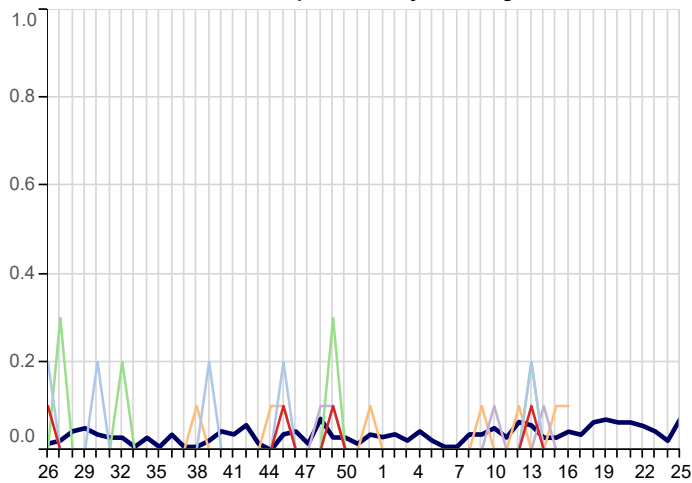
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



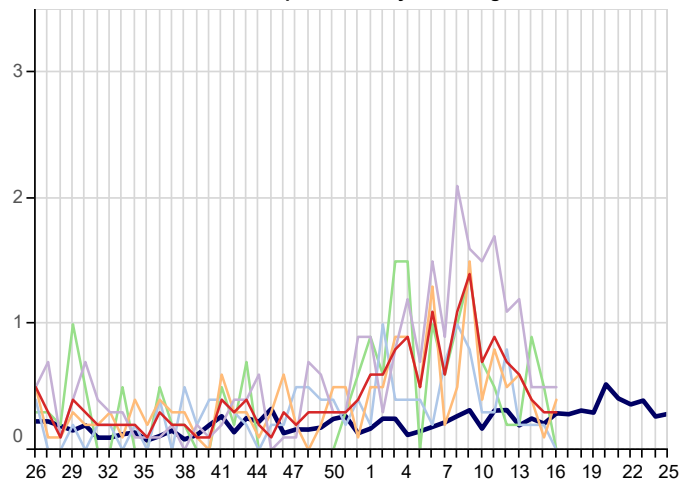
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

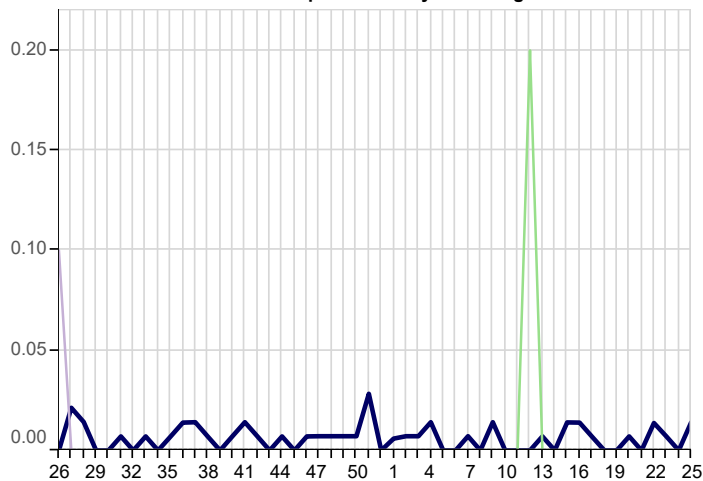
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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

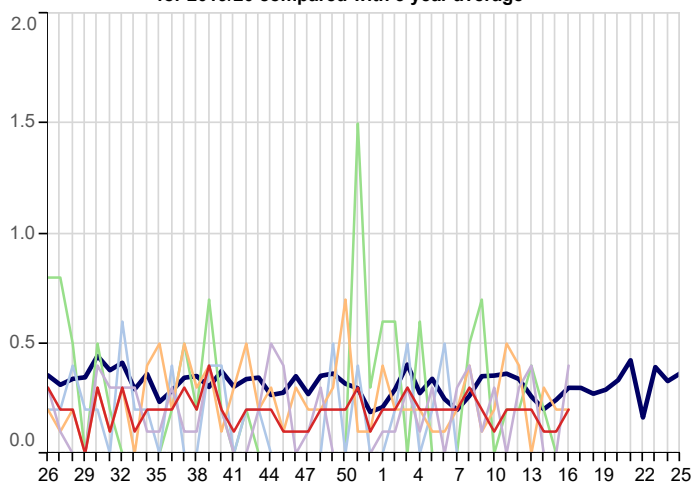


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

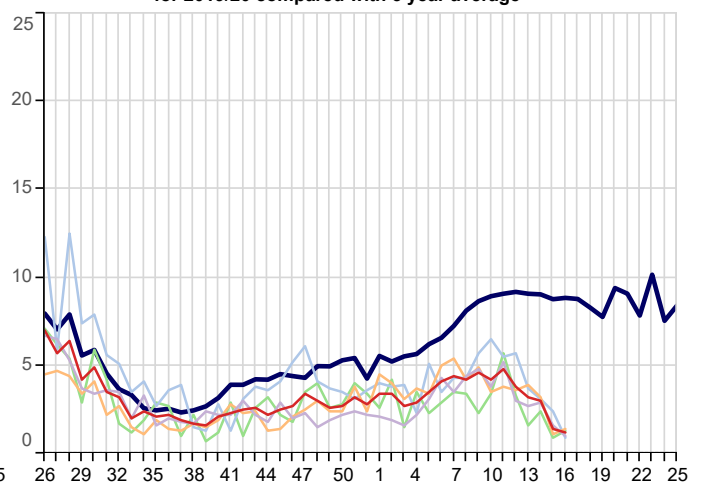


## 5. Skin Contagions

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



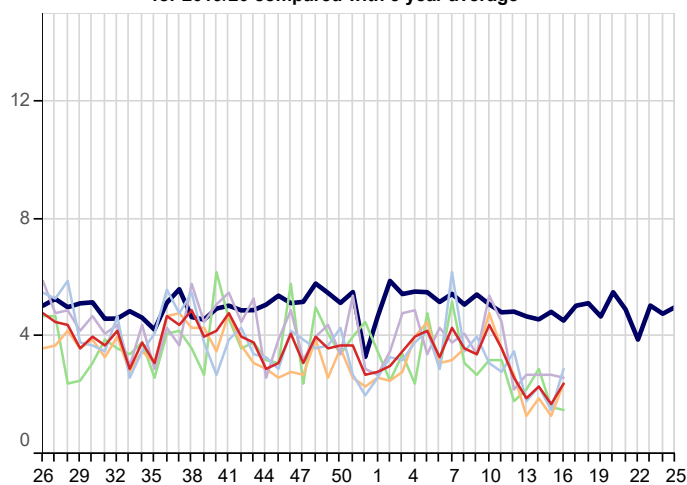
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



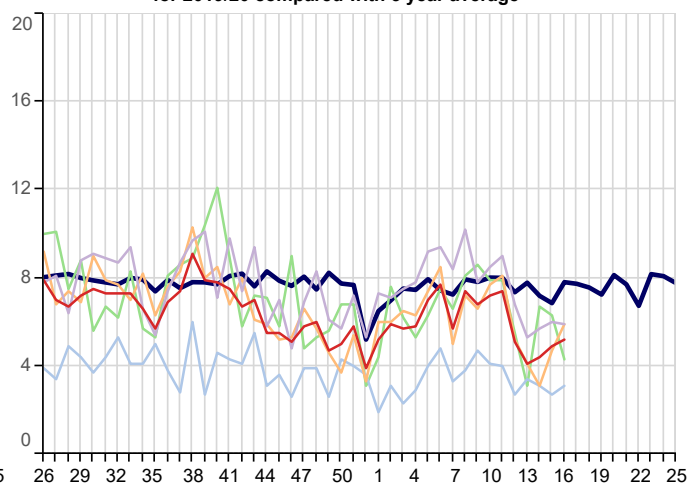
## 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

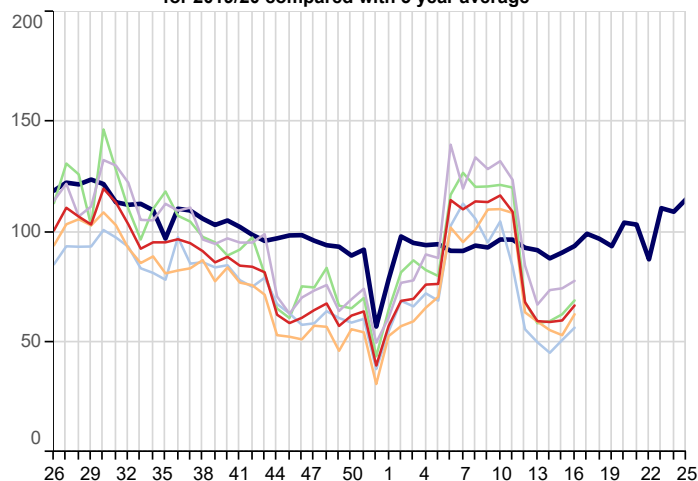
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



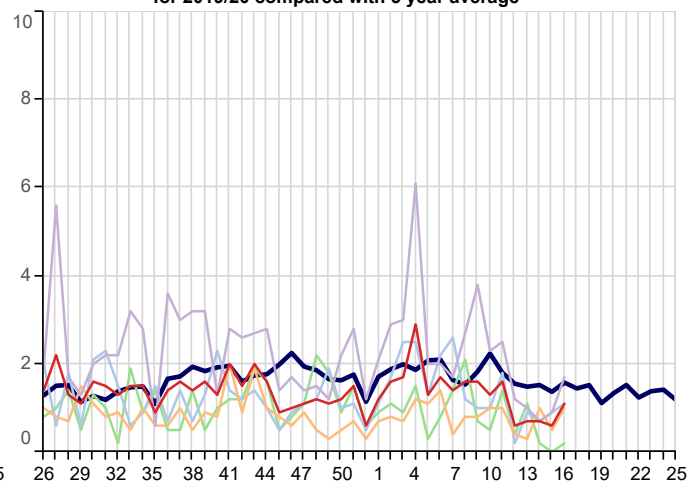
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



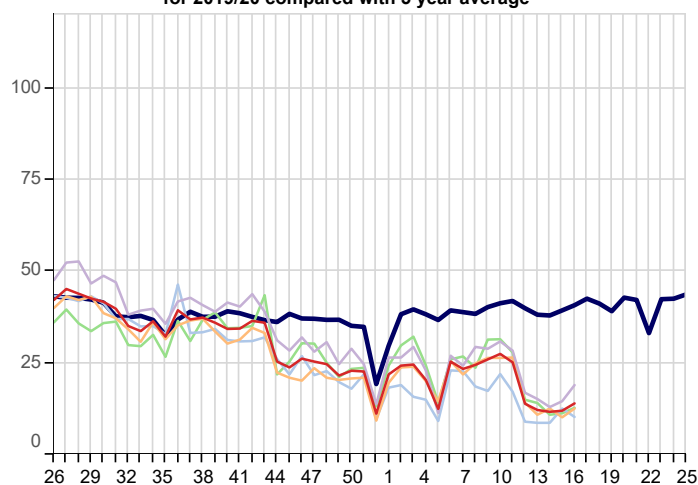
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



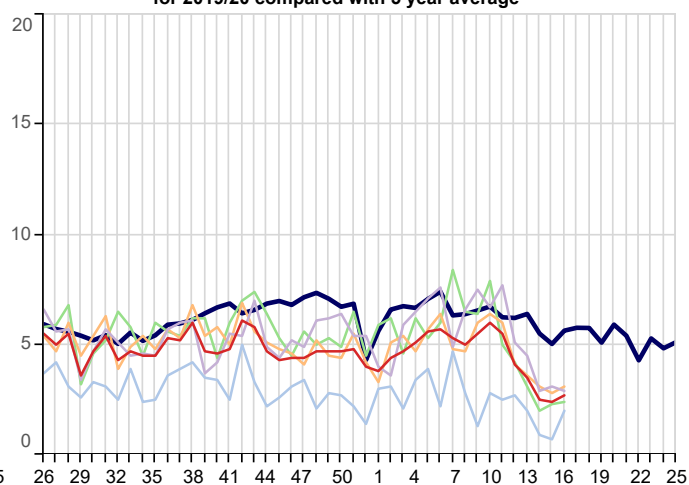
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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



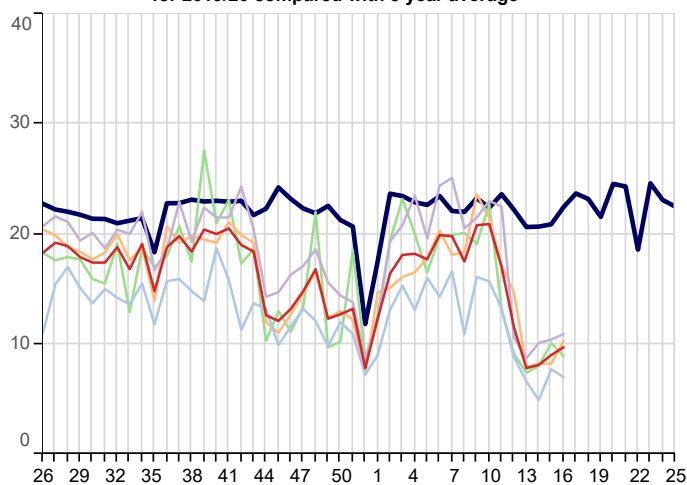
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



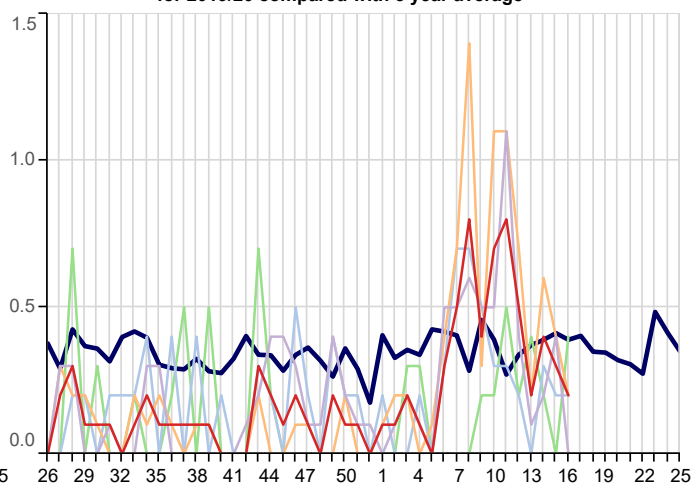
## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

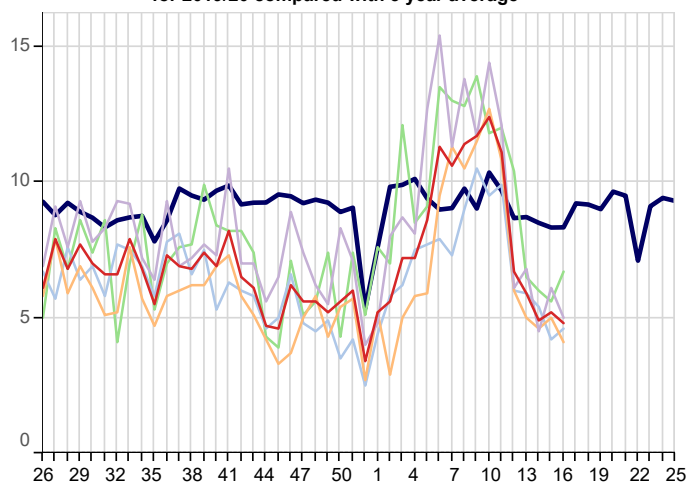
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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

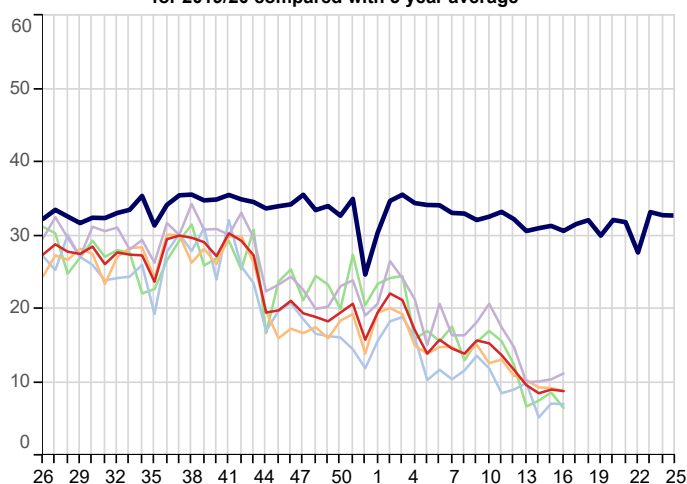


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



## 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		13/04/2020 19/04/2020		06/04/2020 12/04/2020		30/03/2020 05/04/2020		23/03/2020 29/03/2020	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	17.1	527	13.1	391	5.4	160	5.1	151		
Asthma	8.5	263	8.0	240	11.5	339	16.5	490		
Bronchitis	15.1	467	19.0	568	23.3	690	28.1	835		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	6	0.1	2	0.1	4	0.2	5		
Chickenpox	1.2	36	1.4	43	3.0	89	3.2	95		
Common Cold	8.9	274	10.3	309	18.4	545	26.6	790		
Conjunctival Disorders	9.4	289	8.7	259	9.8	289	11.5	342		
Herpes Simplex	2.4	75	1.7	52	2.3	69	1.9	57		
Herpes Zoster	5.2	160	4.9	147	4.4	130	4.1	123		
Impetigo	2.7	84	2.4	72	2.5	73	3.5	103		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.2	5	0.0	1	0.2	7	0.3	10		
Influenza-like illness	3.8	118	3.7	112	6.2	184	7.6	226		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	2.2	69	2.1	63	2.6	76	3.8	114		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	0.4	11	0.4	13	0.6	19	1.3	40		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	22.6	698	26.7	799	33.9	1,001	40.8	1,213		
Measles	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.1	2		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.2	6	0.3	9	0.4	12	0.2	5		
Mumps	0.3	9	0.3	8	0.4	13	0.6	19		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	4.3	133	4.1	123	5.1	151	5.4	161		
Otitis Media Acute	6.5	201	7.4	222	7.6	224	10.4	310		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	9.7	299	9.0	268	8.1	239	7.8	231		
Pleurisy	0.6	18	0.6	17	0.9	27	0.7	21		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	2.9	90	3.3	99	2.9	87	3.7	111		
Respiratory System Diseases	101.8	3,146	105.4	3,151	124.0	3,667	154.3	4,583		
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	1.1	33	0.6	18	0.7	22	0.7	22		
Sinusitis	10.2	316	10.1	301	13.5	398	15.4	458		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	66.6	2,058	59.8	1,789	59.1	1,746	59.5	1,768		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	0.2	7	0.2	6	0.5	15	0.6	19		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	4.8	149	5.2	157	4.9	146	5.9	174		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	77.1	2,382	82.6	2,471	97.0	2,866	113.2	3,362		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	14.0	432	12.0	358	11.7	346	12.2	361		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	15.5	480	16.5	494	20.2	596	25.6	759		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	46.9	1,450	50.0	1,496	68.0	2,010	87.5	2,600		
Urinary Tract Infections	8.8	272	9.0	270	8.5	251	9.6	285		
Viral Hepatitis	0.1	2	0.2	5	0.2	6	0.1	3		
Whooping Cough	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.3	10	0.1	4		
<b>Practice Count</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>295</b>		<b>289</b>		<b>290</b>		
<b>Denom</b>		<b>3,089,736</b>		<b>2,990,875</b>		<b>2,970,441</b>		<b>2,956,151</b>		

## 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:

RCGP Research & Surveillance Centre  
CIRC, First floor  
30 Euston Square  
London NW1 2FB  
Tel: +44 (0)203 188 7690

Medical Director: Professor Simon de Lusignan  
[MedicalDirectorRSC@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:MedicalDirectorRSC@rcgp.org.uk)

University of Oxford  
Nuffield Department of Primary  
Care Health Sciences  
Eagle House  
7 Walton Well Road  
Oxford OX2 6ED

University of Surrey  
Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing  
Guildford GU2 7XH  
Tel: +44 (0)1483 688293  
Practice Liaison Team:  
[practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1865 617284 / 7198

