



# RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

## Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... **09/2020**  
 Week Starting - Ending..... **24/02/2020 - 01/03/2020**  
 No. of Practices..... **286**  
 Population..... **2,878,525**

## National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : was unchanged at **62.7** in week 8 compared with **61.0** in week 9.
- **Asthma** : decreased a little from **13.5** in week 8 to **12.9** in week 9.
- **Common Cold** : was unchanged at **85.8** in week 8 compared with **88.2** in week 9.
- **Influenza Like illness** : increased from **6.7** in week 8 to **8.4** in week 9.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased a little from **301.3** in week 8 to **311.5** in week 9.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased a little from **43.5** in week 8 to **41.8** in week 9 in the London region, decreased from **80.8** in week 8 to **76.5** in week 9 in the North region, was unchanged at **58.4** in week 8 compared with **58.6** in week 9 in the South region, and decreased a little from **68.9** in week 8 to **66.1** in week 9 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : decreased a little from **8.8** in week 8 to **8.5** in week 9 in the London region, decreased from **15.7** in week 8 to **14.8** in week 9 in the North region, was unchanged at **14.9** in week 8 compared with **14.6** in week 9 in the South region, and decreased from **13.3** in week 8 to **11.1** in week 9 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : increased from **99.2** in week 8 to **114.4** in week 9 in the London region, decreased from **81.8** in week 8 to **77.7** in week 9 in the North region, was unchanged at **78.2** in week 8 compared with **79.3** in week 9 in the South region, and was unchanged at **91.8** in week 8 compared with **92.5** in week 9 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza Like illness** : increased from **9.7** in week 8 to **10.5** in week 9 in the London region, increased from **5.8** in week 8 to **7.9** in week 9 in the North region, increased from **6.6** in week 8 to **8.9** in week 9 in the South region, and increased from **4.2** in week 8 to **5.0** in week 9 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from **264.6** in week 8 to **288.5** in week 9 in the London region, was unchanged at **336.4** in week 8 compared with **339.4** in week 9 in the North region, was unchanged at **286.8** in week 8 compared with **294.6** in week 9 in the South region, and was unchanged at **327.8** in week 8 compared with **335.4** in week 9 in the Midlands And East region.

## Comment:

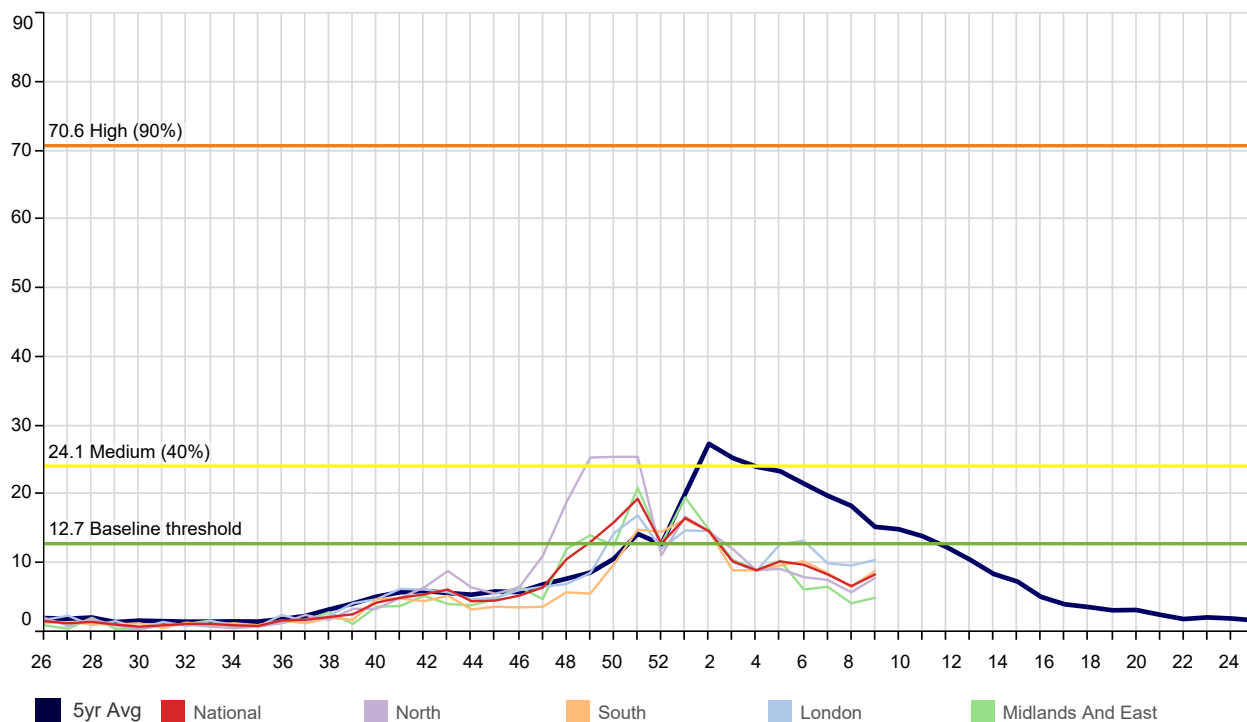
Presentations of respiratory diseases have increased this week, but remain below seasonal levels for this time of year.

This Weekly Return does not include a virology update.

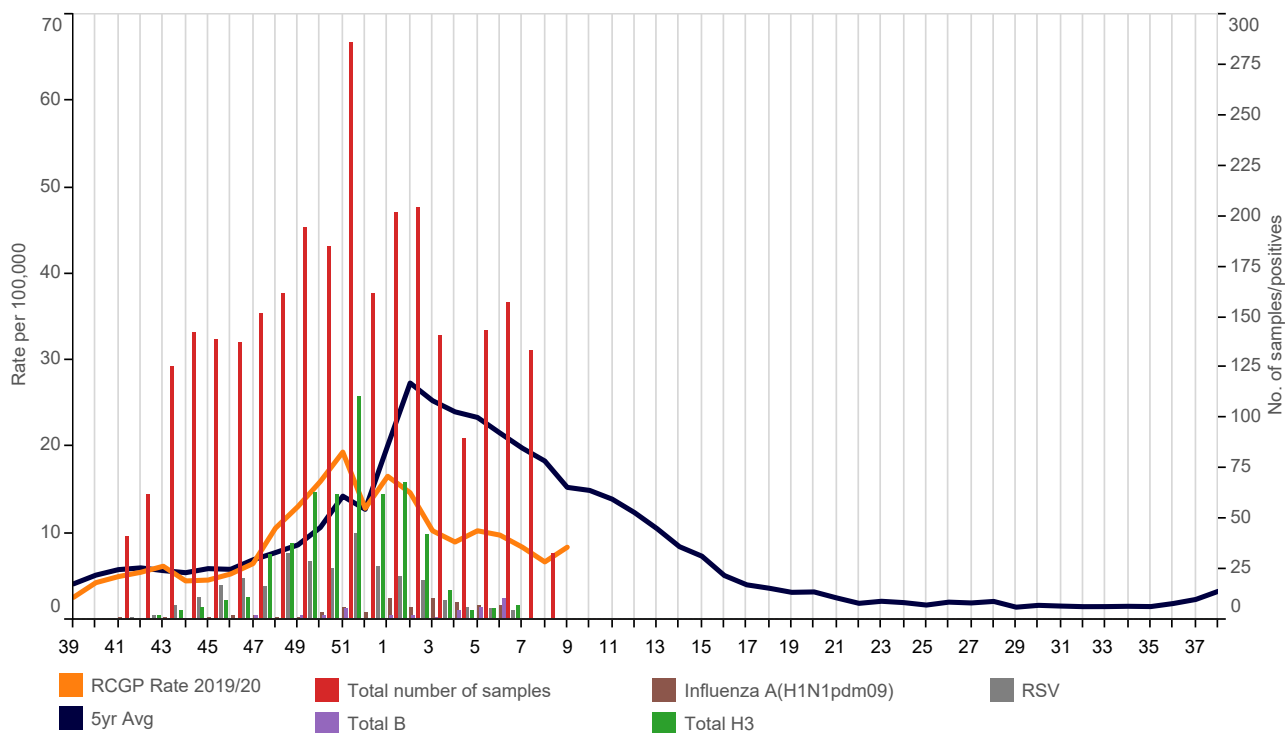
## Winter Focus 2019/20

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

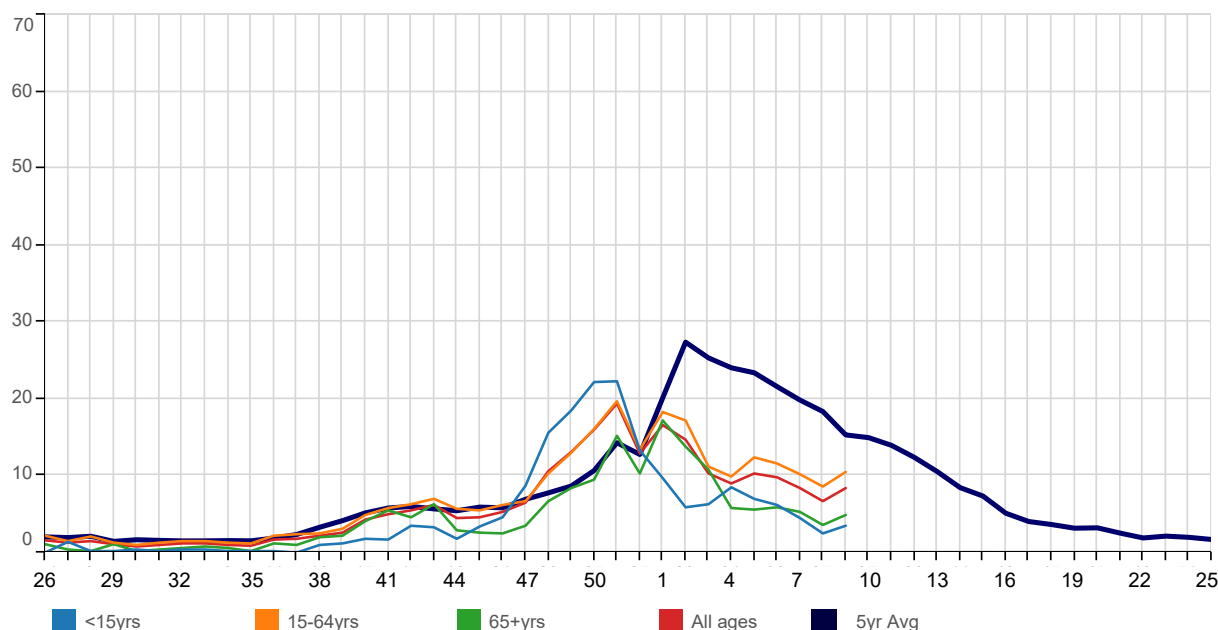
### (A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2019/20\*



### (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\***

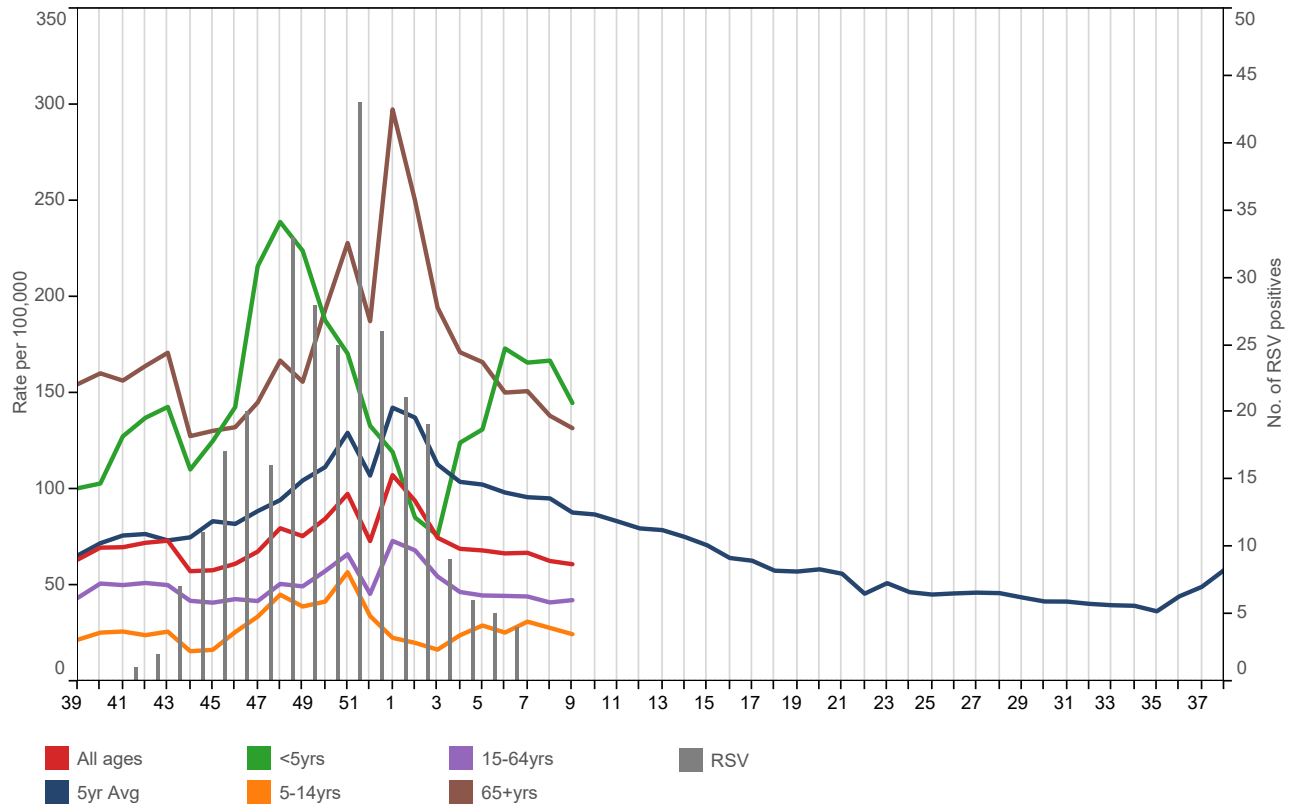
This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

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												
15-64yrs	12.4	11.6	10.2	8.6	10.5												
65+yrs	5.6	5.9	5.3	3.6	4.9												
All ages	10.3	9.8	8.4	6.7	8.4												

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	3.8	277.5	London	10.5	41.8
1-4yrs	2.4	117.6	North	7.9	76.5
5-14yrs	3.9	24.6	South	8.9	58.6
15-24yrs	11.7	19.7	Midlands And East	5.0	66.1
25-44yrs	10.3	33.3	National	8.4	61.0
45-64yrs	10.2	63.5			
65-74yrs	7.6	106.1			
75-84yrs	1.2	143.0			
85+yrs	3.0	205.7			
All ages	8.4	61.0			

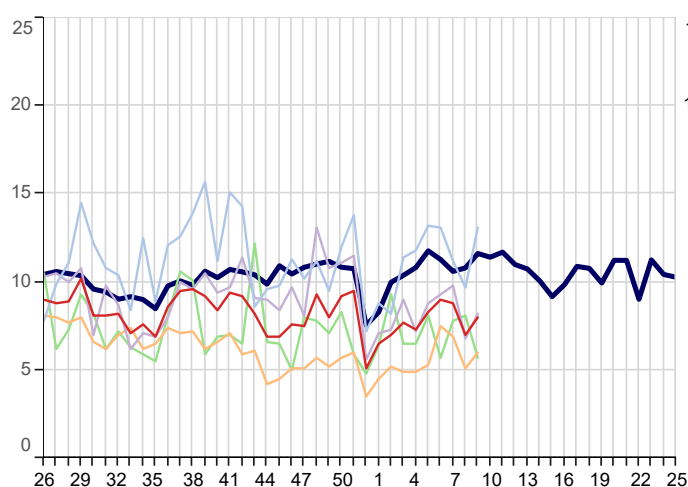
**(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2019/2020 by age group\*****Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis
<5yrs	2.6	144.9
5-14yrs	3.9	24.6
15-64yrs	10.5	42.4
65+yrs	4.9	131.8
All ages	8.4	61.0

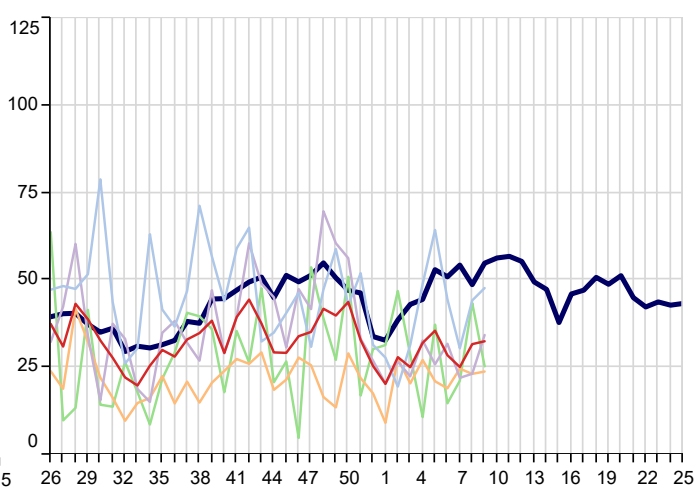
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

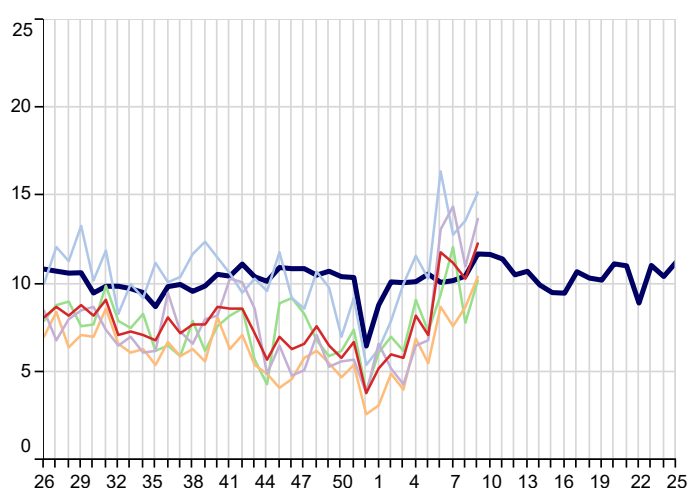
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



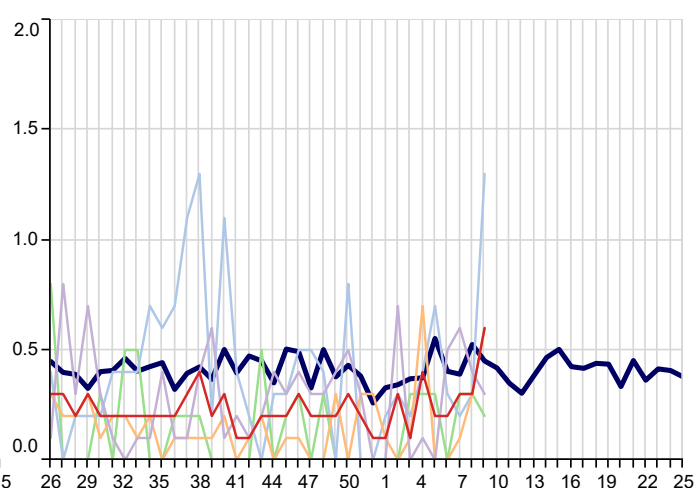
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



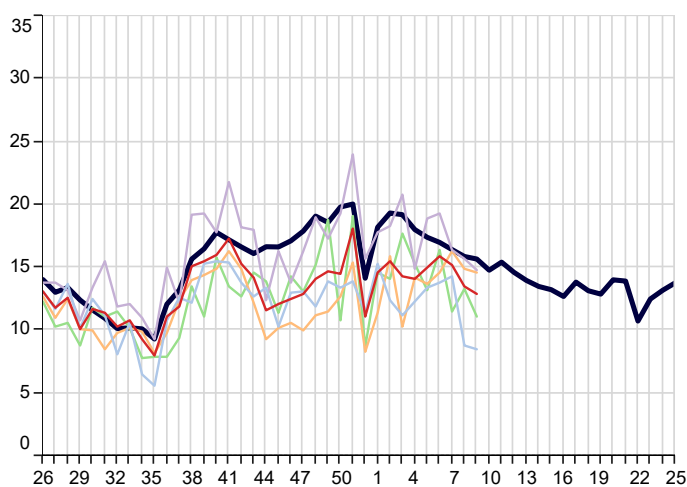
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



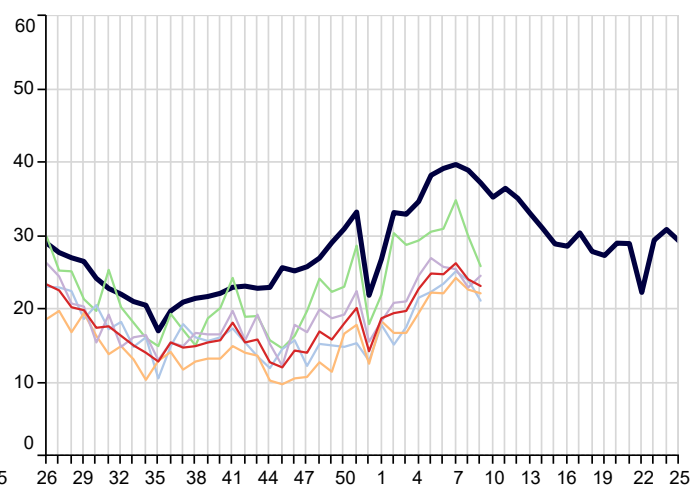
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

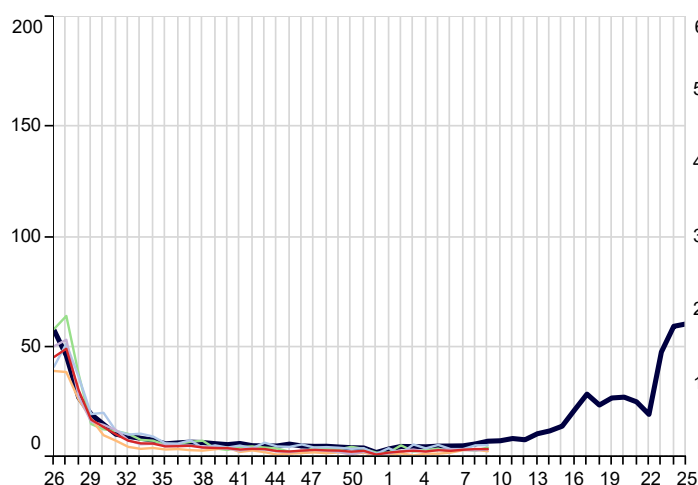
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



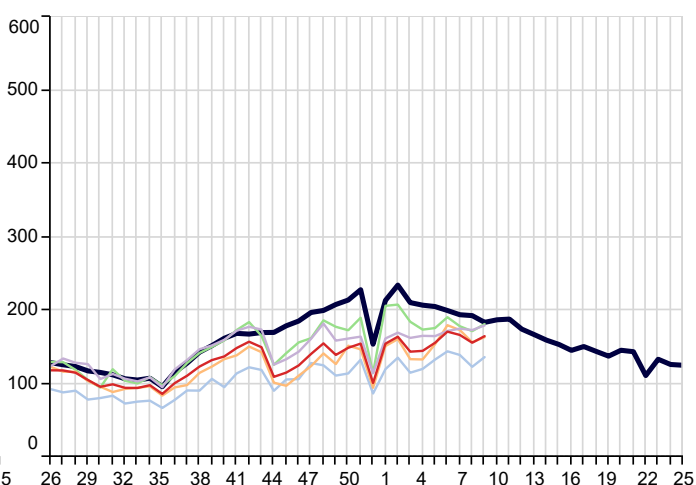
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



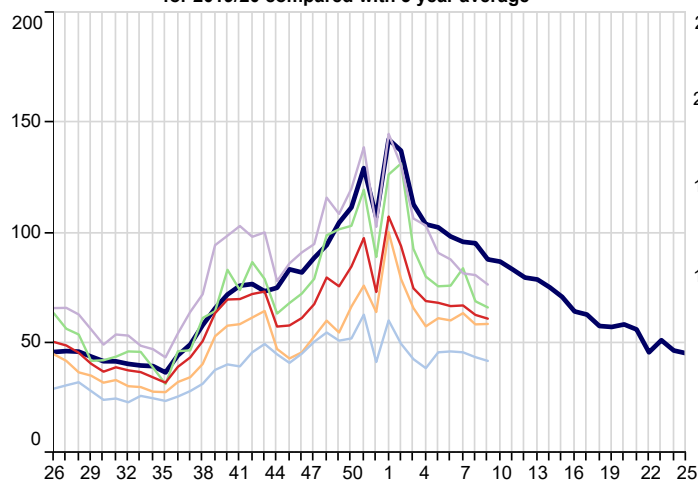
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



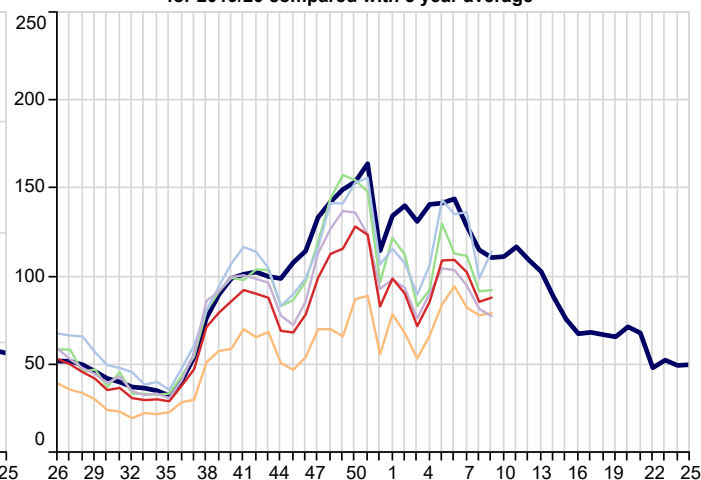
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

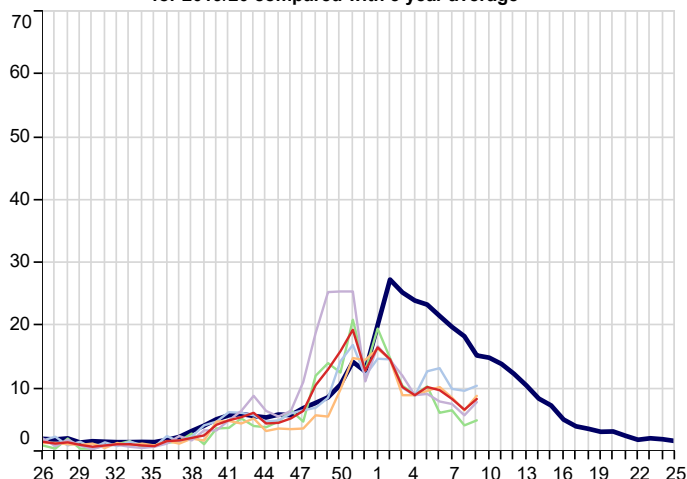
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



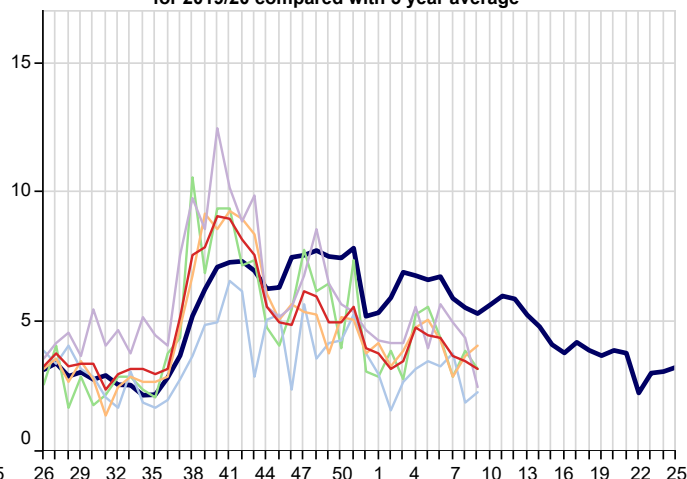
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



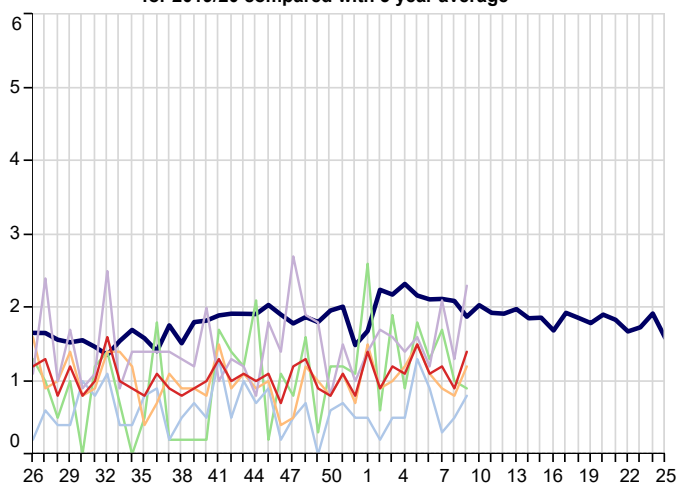
**Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



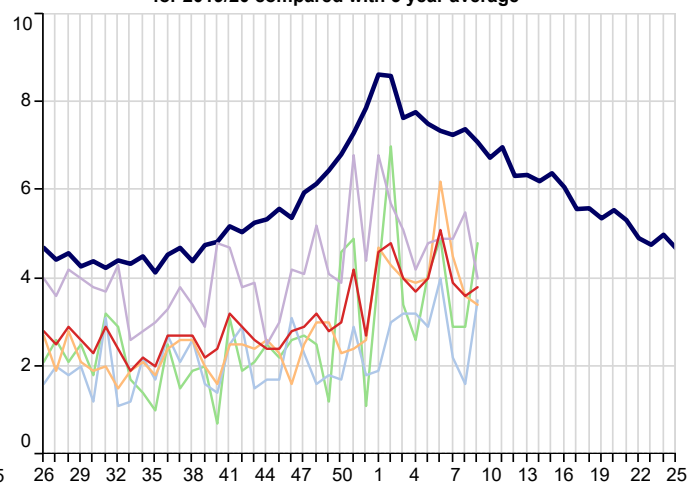
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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



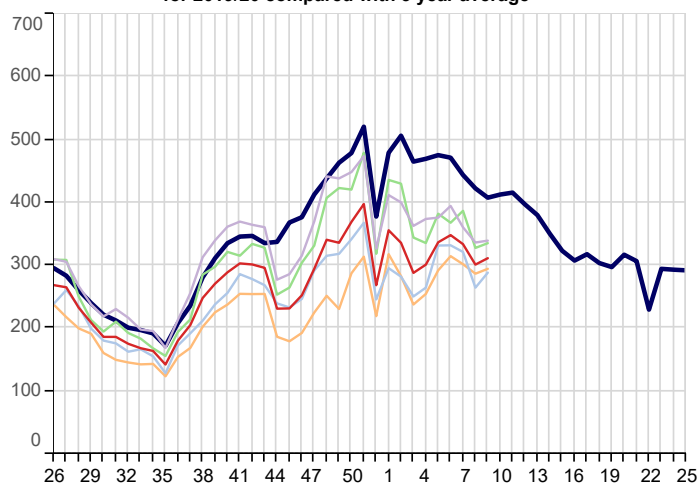
**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



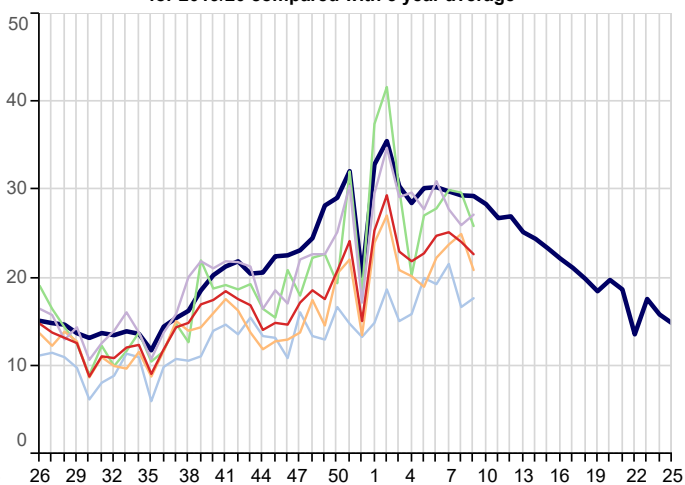
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

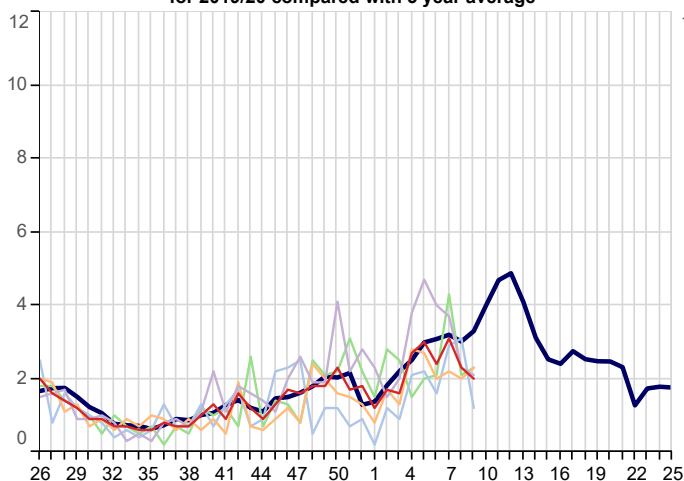
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



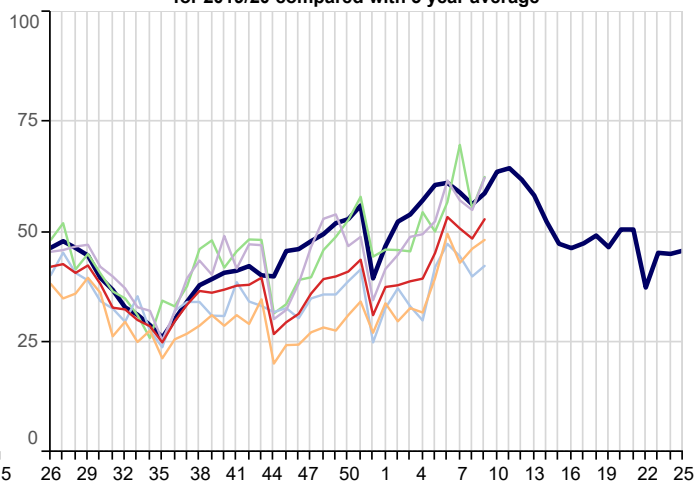
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



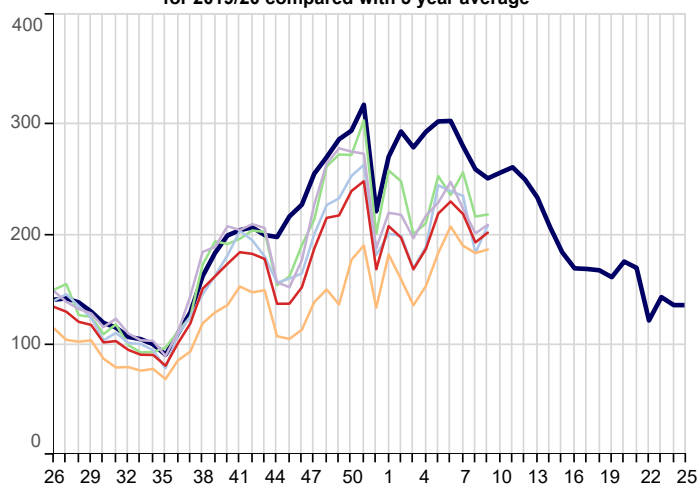
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



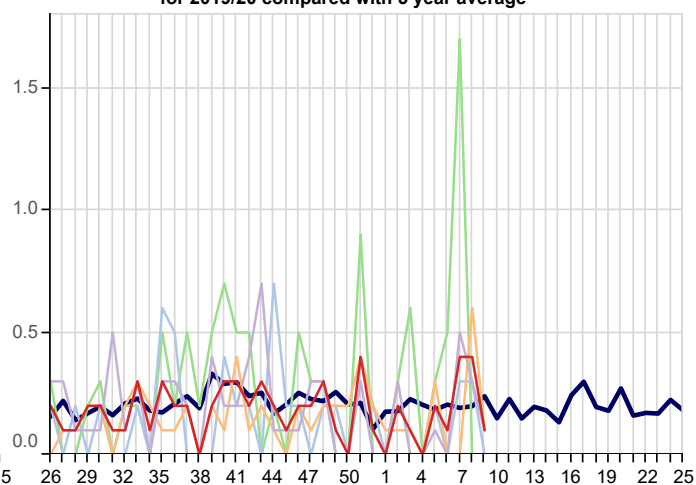
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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

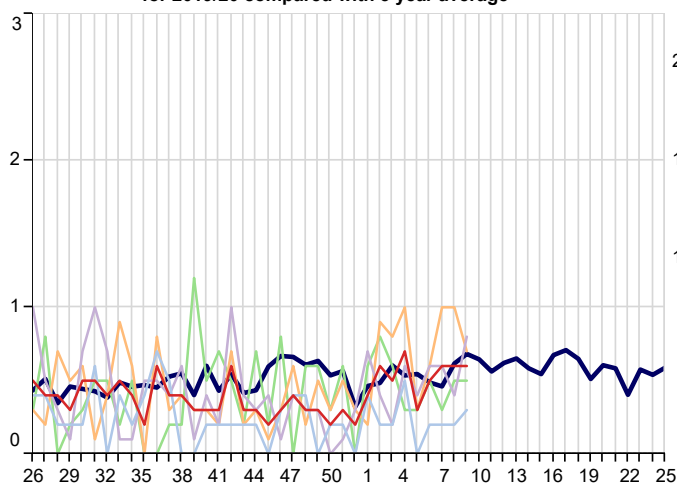




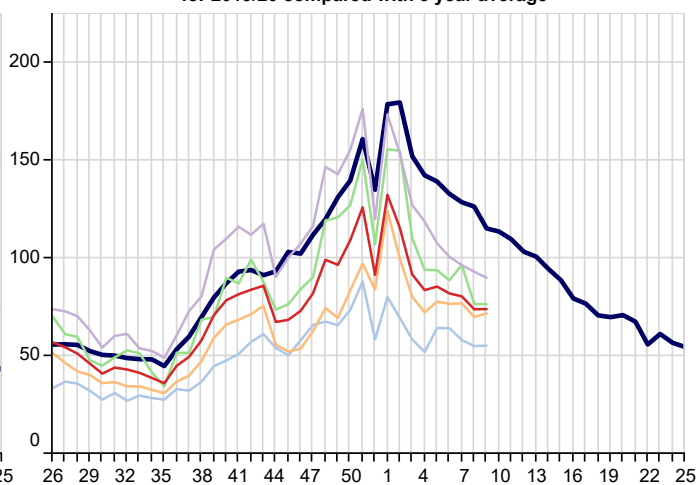
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

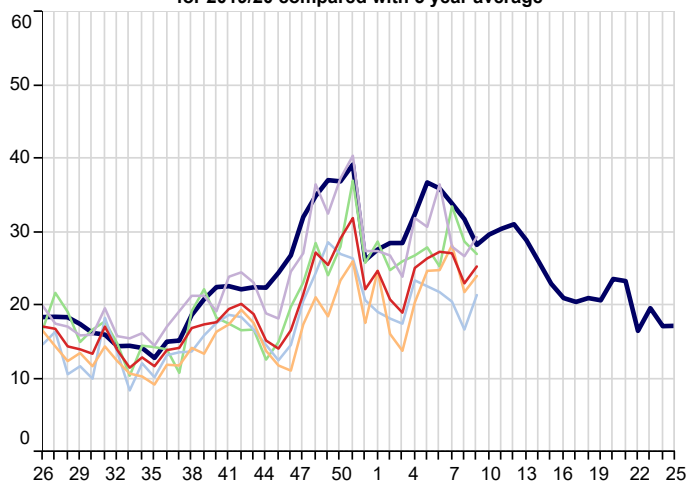
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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



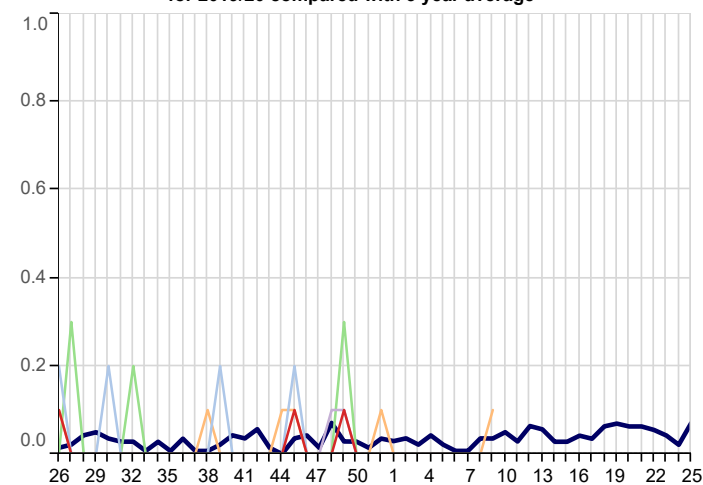
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



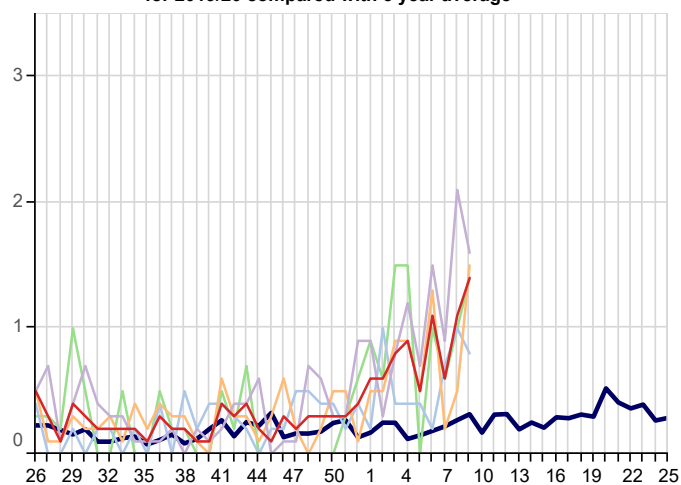
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

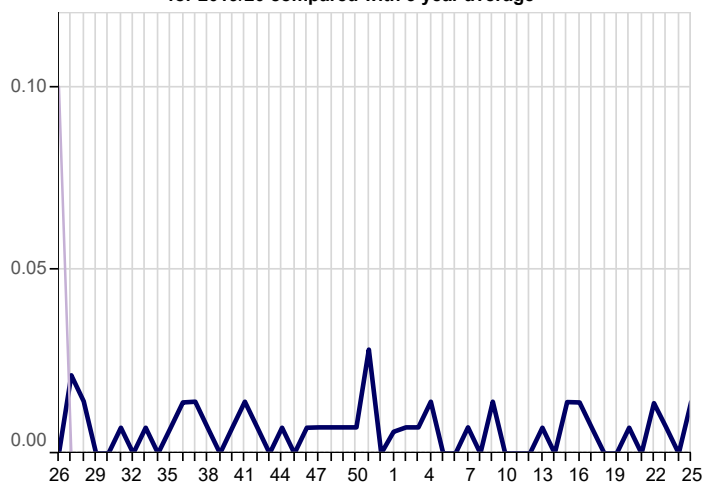
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



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

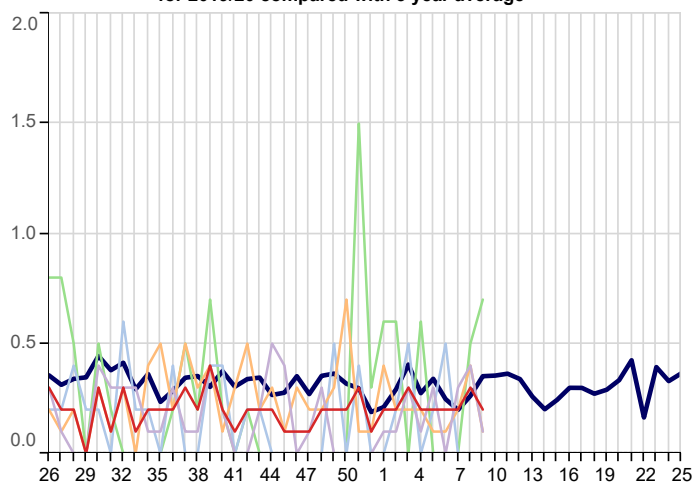


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average

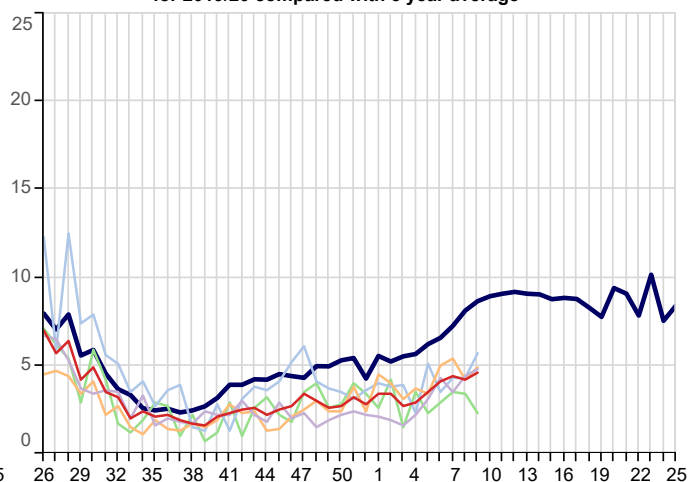


## 5. Skin Contagions

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



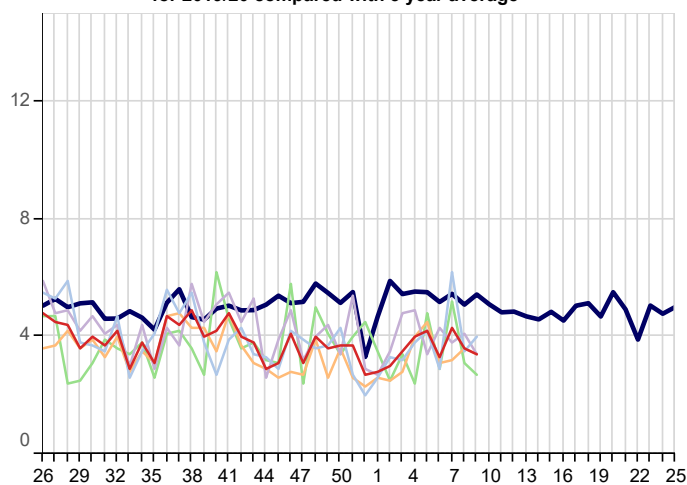
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



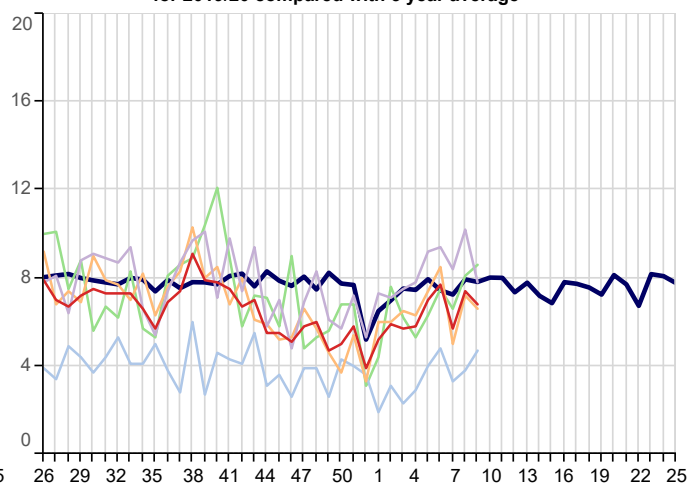
## 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

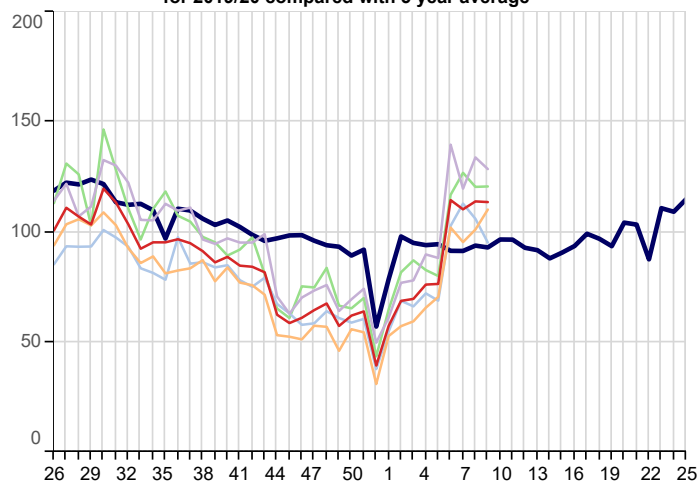
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



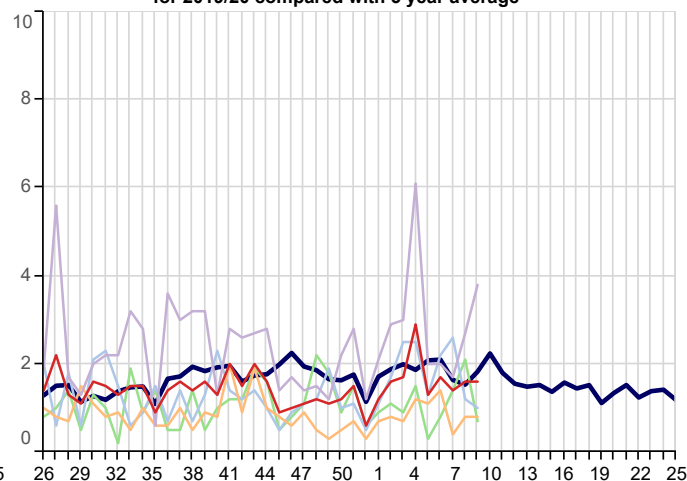
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



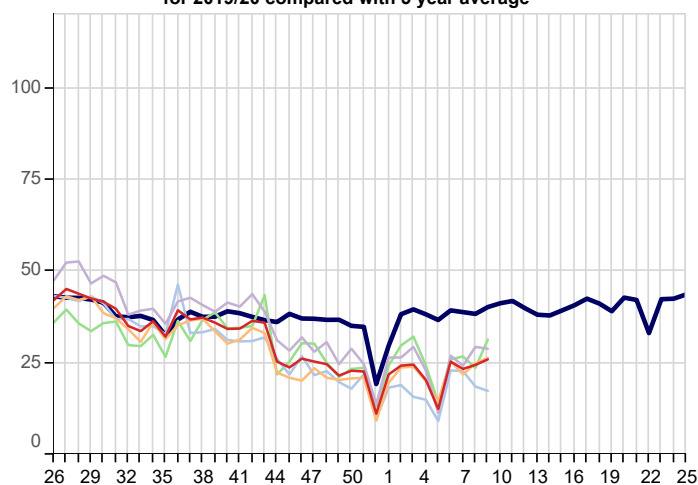
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



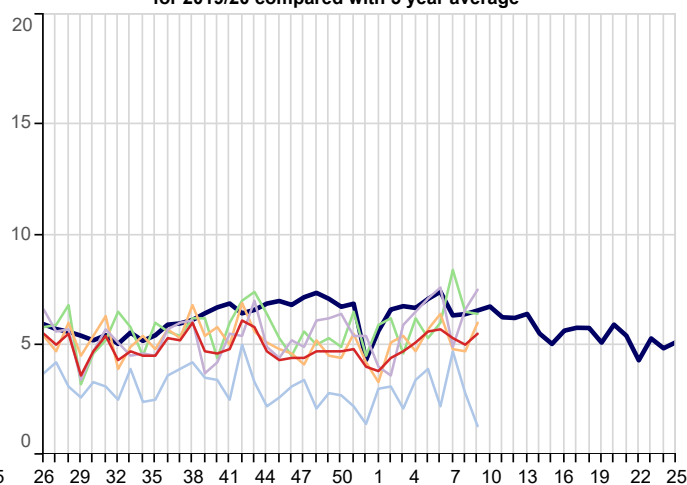
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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



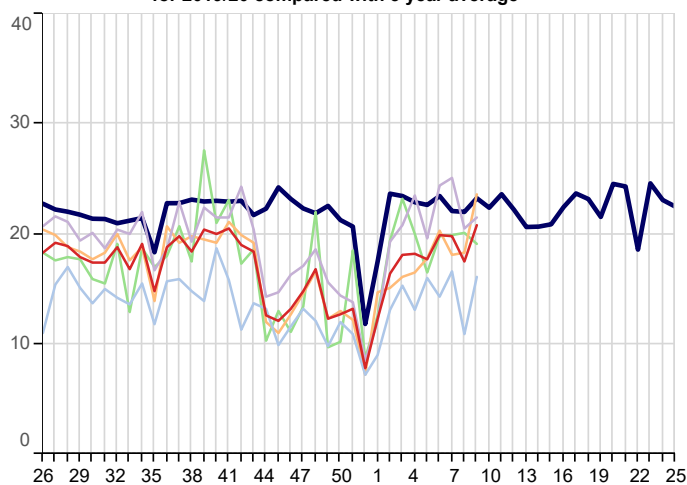
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



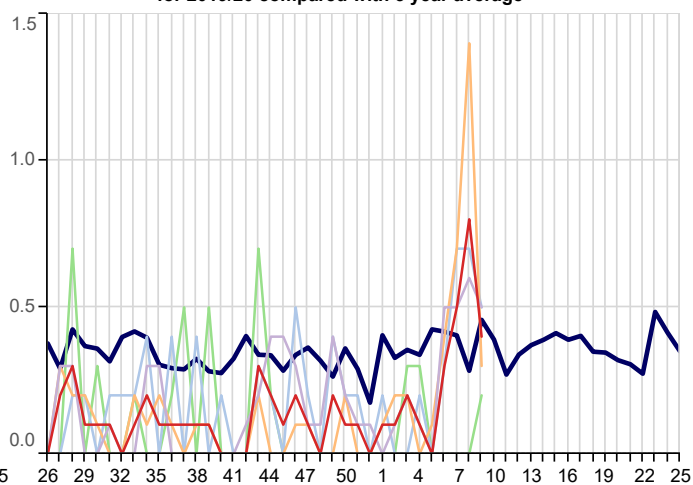
## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

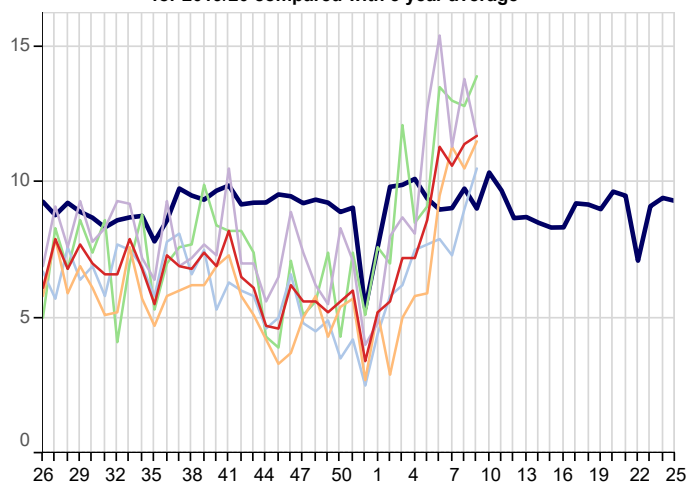
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



**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

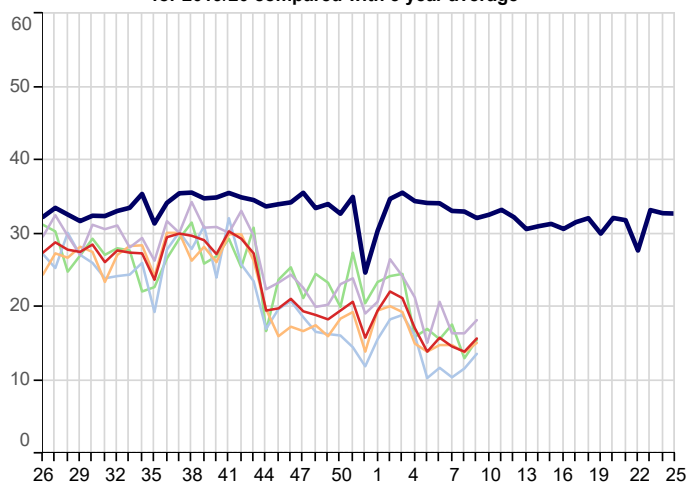


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2019/20 compared with 5 year average



## 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		24/02/2020 01/03/2020		17/02/2020 23/02/2020		10/02/2020 16/02/2020		03/02/2020 09/02/2020	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	3.6	105	3.6	94	3.3	82	2.8	69		
Asthma	12.9	370	13.5	354	15.2	377	15.9	391		
Bronchitis	61.0	1,757	62.7	1,640	67.0	1,664	66.7	1,636		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	5	0.3	9	0.2	4	0.2	4		
Chickenpox	4.6	133	4.2	109	4.4	109	4.1	101		
Common Cold	88.2	2,538	85.8	2,245	102.6	2,548	109.6	2,690		
Conjunctival Disorders	23.2	668	24.1	631	26.3	654	24.8	609		
Herpes Simplex	3.4	98	3.6	95	4.3	108	3.3	82		
Herpes Zoster	6.8	197	7.4	193	5.7	142	7.7	190		
Impetigo	5.5	158	5.0	132	5.3	131	5.7	139		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.6	18	0.6	15	0.6	15	0.5	12		
Influenza-like illness	8.4	241	6.7	175	8.4	209	9.8	240		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	8.0	230	7.0	183	8.8	218	9.0	221		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	3.2	91	3.5	92	3.7	91	4.4	109		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	74.1	2,132	74.0	1,936	80.6	2,001	82.1	2,014		
Measles	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.4	11	0.8	21	0.5	13	0.3	8		
Mumps	1.4	39	1.1	30	0.6	14	1.1	26		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	12.3	353	10.3	269	11.2	279	11.8	289		
Otitis Media Acute	25.3	729	23.0	602	27.1	673	27.3	669		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	20.8	598	17.5	458	19.8	493	19.9	488		
Pleurisy	1.4	40	0.9	24	1.2	30	1.1	27		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	3.8	109	3.6	93	3.9	96	5.1	126		
Respiratory System Diseases	311.5	8,967	301.3	7,880	333.8	8,291	348.2	8,546		
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	1.6	47	1.6	42	1.4	35	1.7	41		
Sinusitis	22.7	653	24.1	631	25.2	626	24.8	608		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	113.6	3,270	113.9	2,979	110.3	2,739	114.5	2,810		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	2.0	58	2.3	61	3.1	76	2.4	60		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	11.7	337	11.4	298	10.6	263	11.3	278		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	164.8	4,743	155.8	4,074	166.4	4,134	170.9	4,194		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	26.0	747	24.5	642	23.4	582	25.4	623		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	52.9	1,524	48.5	1,268	50.8	1,263	53.4	1,310		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	201.9	5,813	193.0	5,047	218.8	5,434	230.2	5,650		
Urinary Tract Infections	15.7	451	13.9	363	14.6	362	15.8	387		
Viral Hepatitis	0.6	17	0.3	9	0.3	7	0.2	5		
Whooping Cough	0.1	2	0.4	10	0.4	11	0.1	2		
<b>Practice Count</b>		<b>286</b>		<b>269</b>		<b>260</b>		<b>258</b>		
<b>Denom</b>		<b>2,878,525</b>		<b>2,615,238</b>		<b>2,484,075</b>		<b>2,454,201</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:

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