



Royal College of  
General Practitioners  
Research and Surveillance Centre

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

### Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year.....04/2019  
Week Starting - Ending.....21/01/2019 - 27/01/2019  
No. of Practices.....239  
Population.....2399130

#### National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **101.1** in week 3 to **90.6** in week 4.
- **Asthma** : was unchanged at **17.3** in week 3 compared with **17.8** in week 4.
- **Common Cold** : increased from **114.4** in week 3 to **127.5** in week 4.
- **Influenza-Like illness** : decreased from **19.6** in week 3 to **17.5** in week 4.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : was unchanged at **370.3** in week 3 compared with **369.3** in week 4.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **70.0** in week 3 to **65.7** in week 4 in the London region, decreased from **125.2** in week 3 to **113.7** in week 4 in the North region, decreased from **90.4** in week 3 to **75.9** in week 4 in the South region, and decreased from **118.0** in week 3 to **107.0** in week 4 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : decreased from **17.1** in week 3 to **14.3** in week 4 in the London region, increased from **17.0** in week 3 to **19.9** in week 4 in the North region, increased a little from **18.2** in week 3 to **19.1** in week 4 in the South region, and decreased from **16.0** in week 3 to **15.0** in week 4 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : increased from **145.4** in week 3 to **167.2** in week 4 in the London region, increased from **123.0** in week 3 to **132.0** in week 4 in the North region, increased from **86.8** in week 3 to **100.6** in week 4 in the South region, and increased a little from **119.8** in week 3 to **125.1** in week 4 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza-Like illness** : was unchanged at **17.8** in week 3 compared with **18.1** in week 4 in the London region, decreased from **21.3** in week 3 to **18.4** in week 4 in the North region, was unchanged at **18.9** in week 3 compared with **18.4** in week 4 in the South region, and decreased from **20.1** in week 3 to **13.1** in week 4 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : was unchanged at **352.7** in week 3 compared with **358.2** in week 4 in the London region, was unchanged at **424.2** in week 3 compared with **415.7** in week 4 in the North region, was unchanged at **319.2** in week 3 compared with **326.1** in week 4 in the South region, and decreased from **402.5** in week 3 to **381.7** in week 4 in the Midlands And East region.

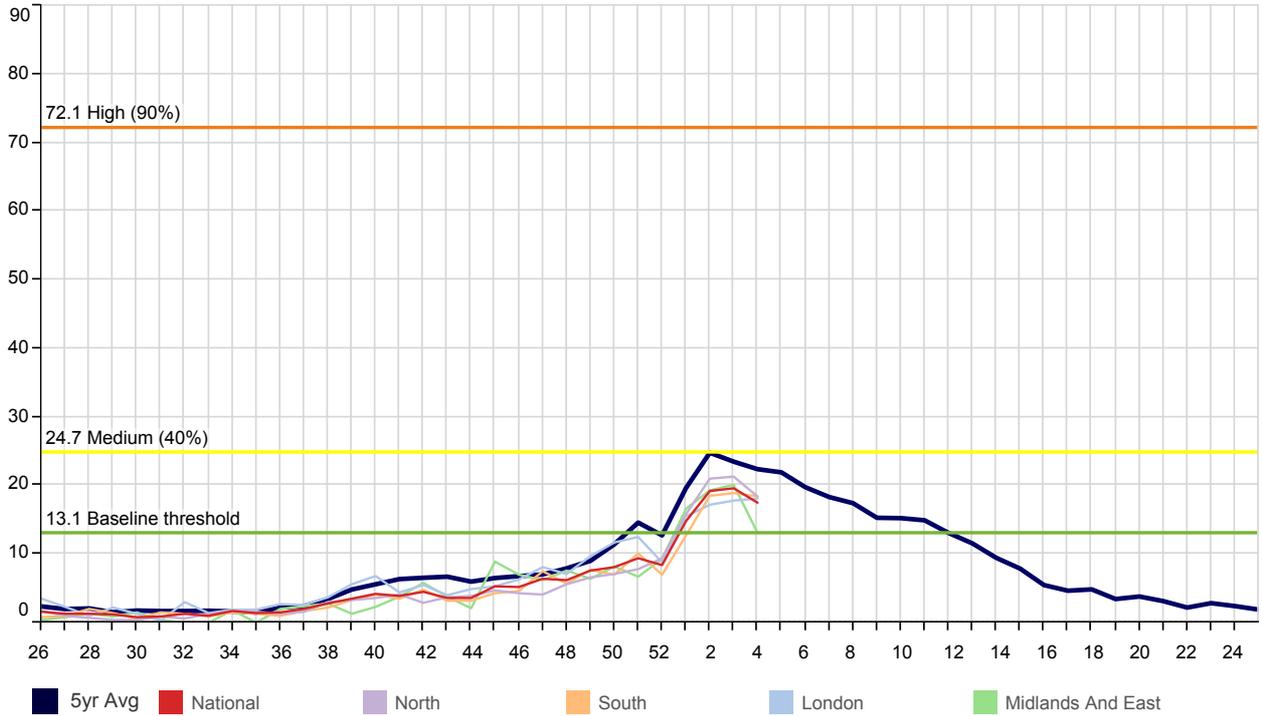
### Comment:

Presentations of respiratory and other monitored conditions decreased this week and are at or below those anticipated at this time of year.

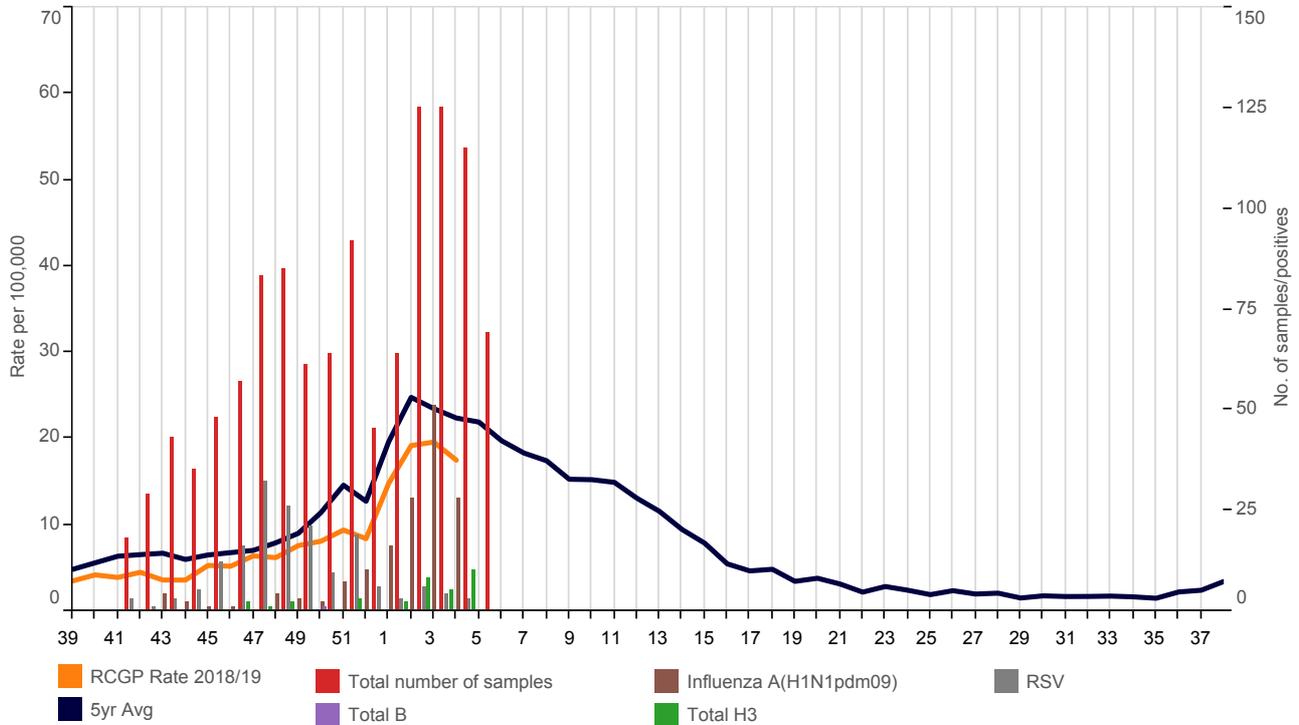
# Winter Focus 2018/19

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

## (A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2018/19\*

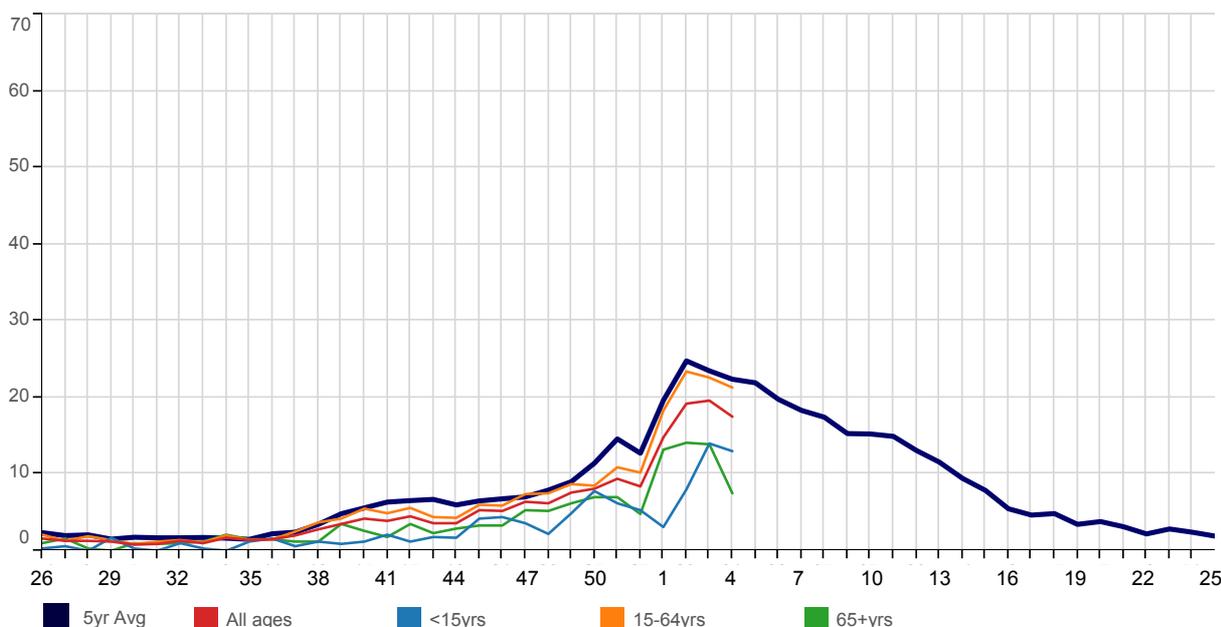


## (B) RCGP/PHE RSV and Influenza Virology Swab Surveillance 2018/19(all ages, gender & regions combined)\*



\* The thresholds used are the agreed RCGP/ Public Health England levels for 2018/19. The rolling average line(blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level.

**(C) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2018/2019 by age group\***



**(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2018/2019 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	1.2	2.1	1.2	1.8	1.7	4.2	4.4	3.6	2.2	4.9	7.8	6.2	5.3	3.1	8.0	14.0	13.0
15-64yrs	5.5	4.9	5.6	4.4	4.3	6.0	5.9	7.4	7.5	8.7	8.5	10.9	10.2	18.3	23.4	22.6	21.3
65+yrs	2.6	1.8	3.5	2.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	5.3	5.2	6.2	7.0	7.0	4.8	13.2	14.1	13.9	7.5
All ages	4.2	3.9	4.5	3.6	3.6	5.3	5.2	6.4	6.2	7.6	8.1	9.4	8.4	14.8	19.2	19.6	17.5

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<15yrs																
15-64yrs																
65+yrs																
All ages																

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	<10.8	10.8 to <16.5	16.5 to <50.4	50.4 to <82.4	82.4+
15-64	<14.6	14.6 to <28.9	28.9 to <69.6	69.6 to <102.7	102.7+
65+	<11.7	11.7 to <17.6	17.6 to <43.6	43.6 to <65.1	65.1+
All Ages	<13.1	13.1 to <24.7	24.7 to <72.1	72.1 to <115.6	115.6+

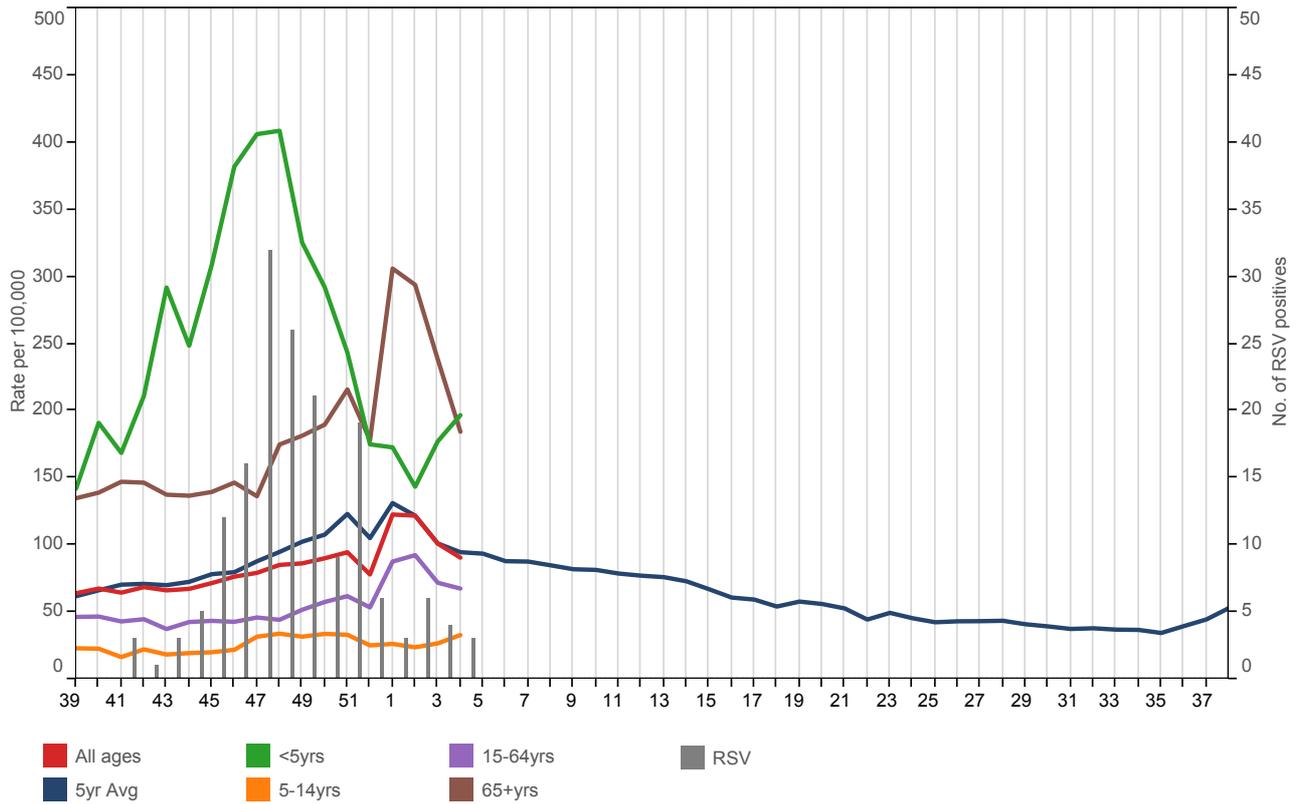
  

Threshold levels
<sup>1</sup> Below baseline threshold
<sup>2</sup> baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile
<sup>3</sup> 40th to <90th percentile
<sup>4</sup> 90th to <97.5th percentile
<sup>5</sup> 97.5th+ percentile

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

	Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis		Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<1yr	0.0	374.9	London	18.1	65.7
1-4yrs	19.5	159.8	North	18.4	113.7
5-14yrs	11.5	33.0	South	18.4	75.9
15-24yrs	16.4	22.9	Midlands And East	13.1	107.0
25-44yrs	24.1	55.0	National	17.5	90.6
45-64yrs	20.7	103.5			
65-74yrs	9.4	141.0			
75-84yrs	5.3	194.5			
85+yrs	5.4	335.6			
All ages	17.5	90.6			

**(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2018/2019 by age group\***



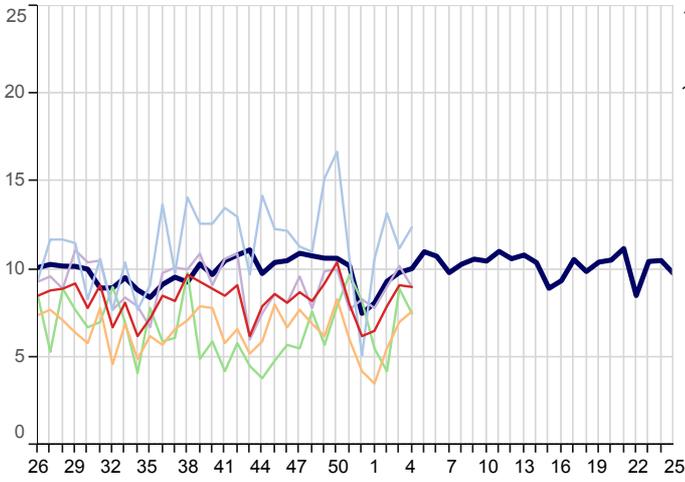
**Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<5yrs	16.1	196.8
5-14yrs	11.5	33.0
15-64yrs	21.3	67.6
65+yrs	7.5	184.5
All ages	17.5	90.6

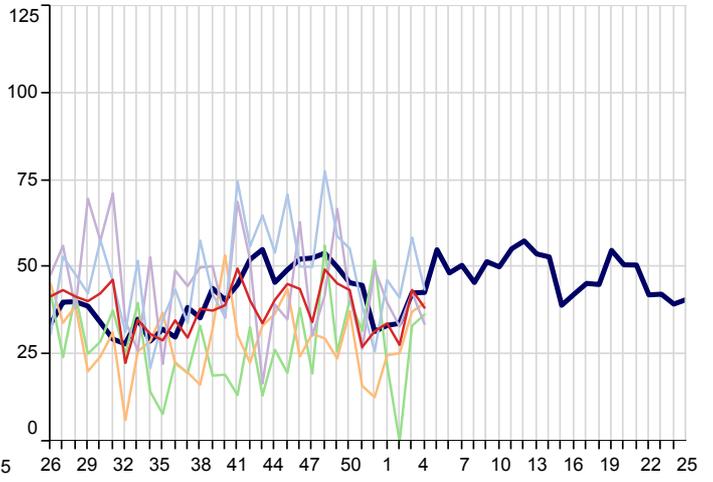
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

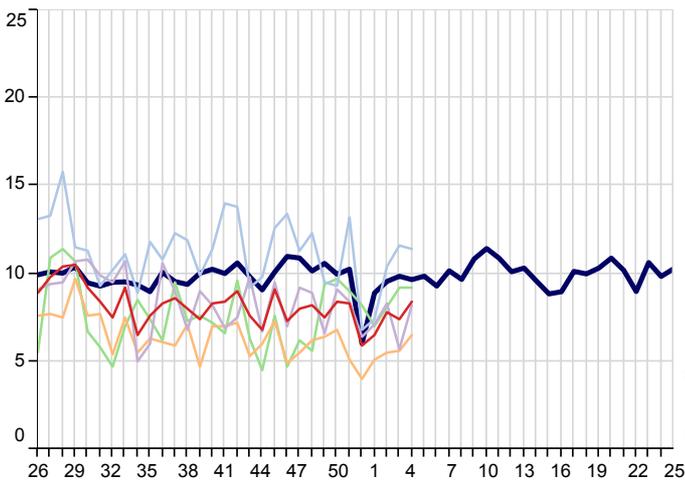
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



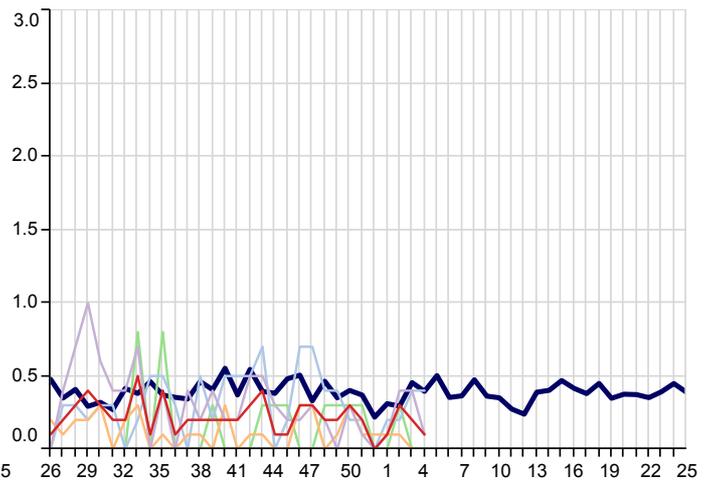
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



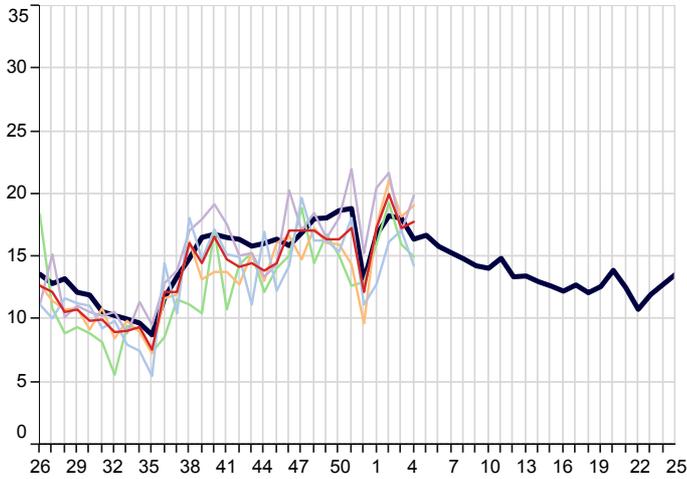
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



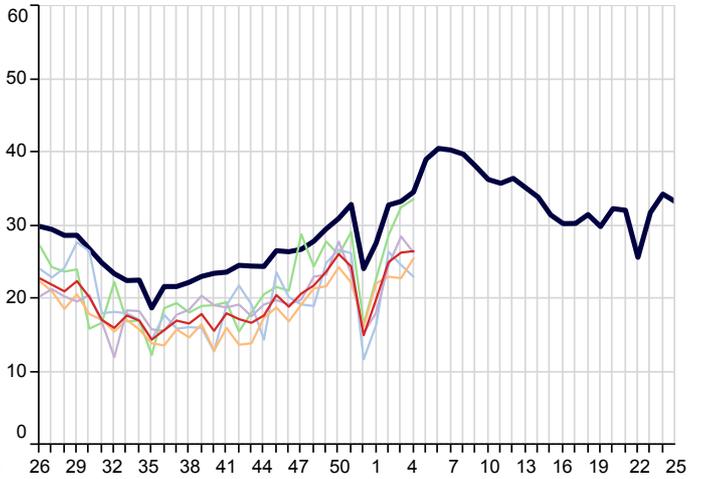
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

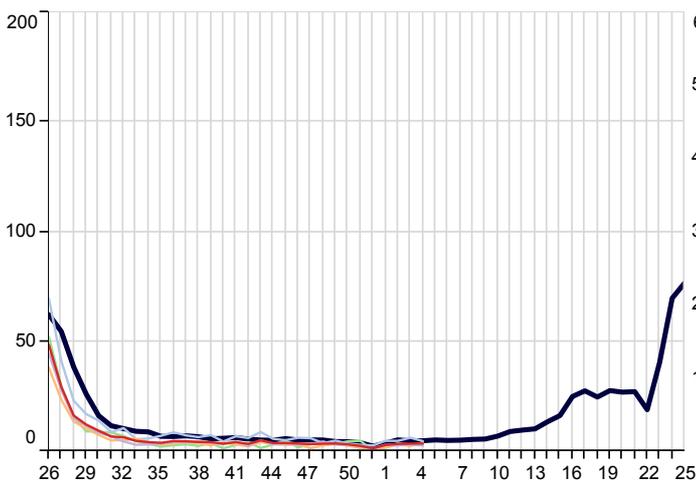
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



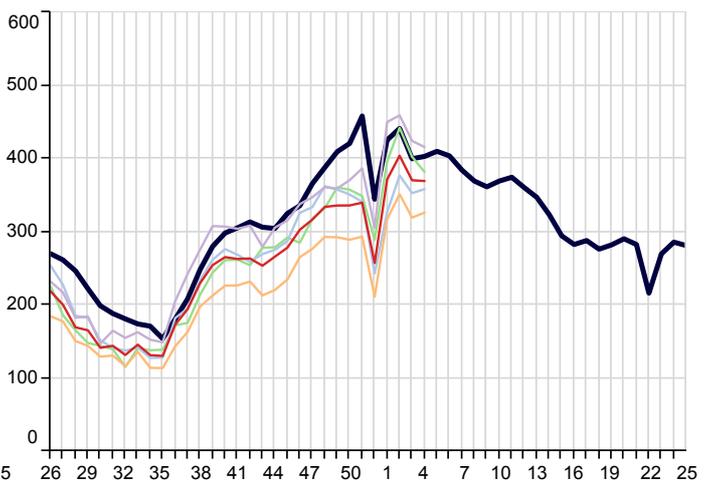
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



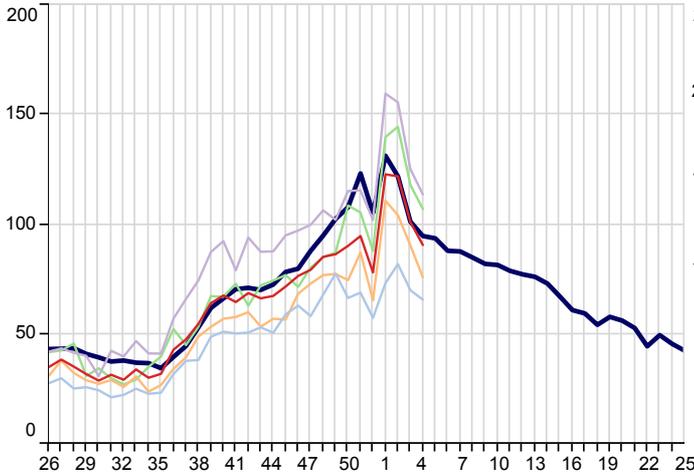
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



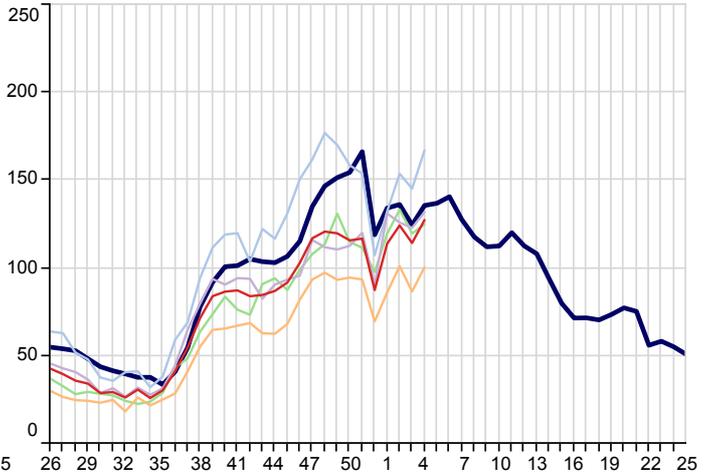
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

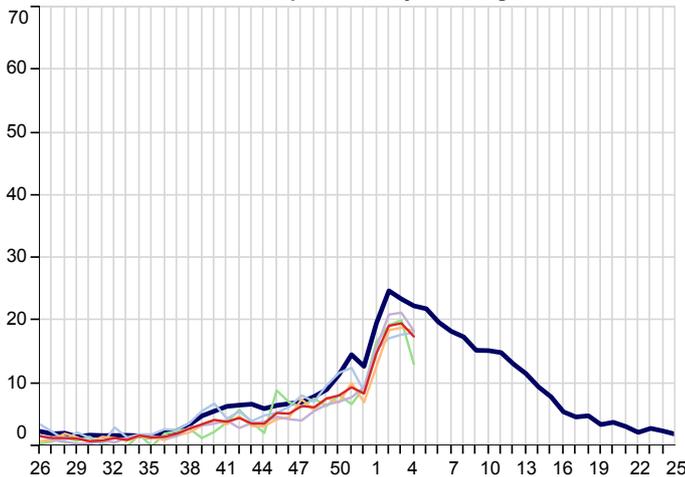
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



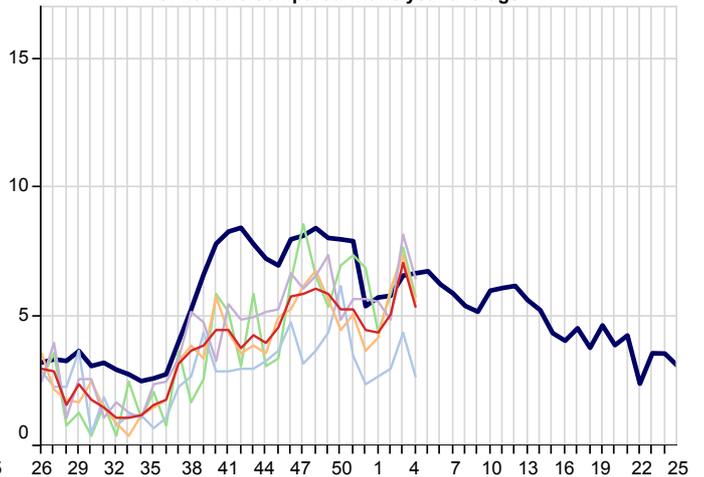
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



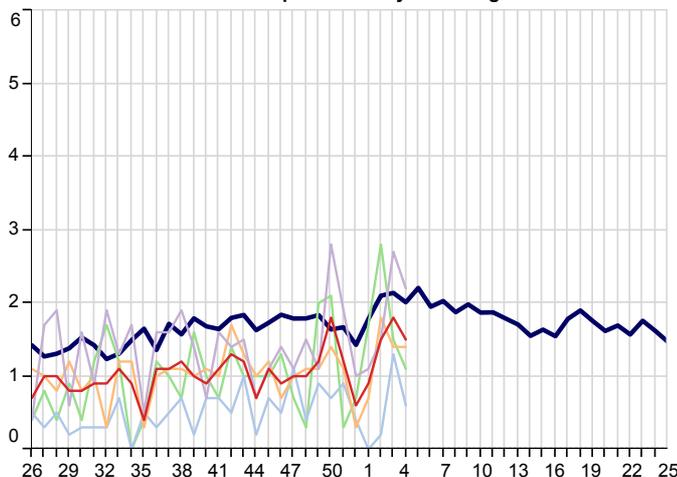
**Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



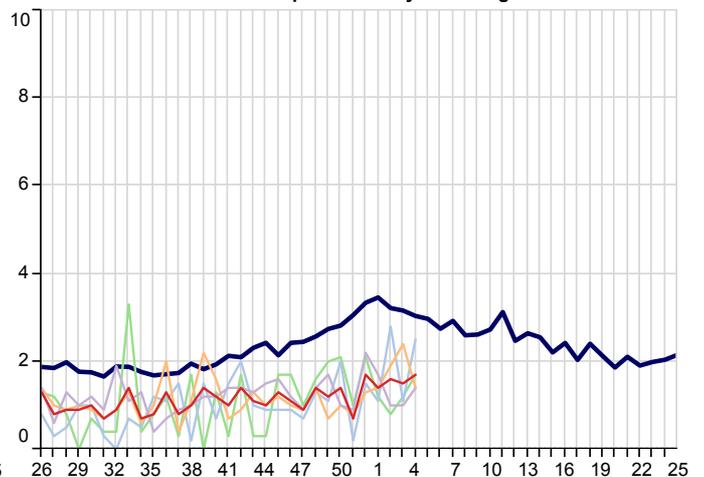
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



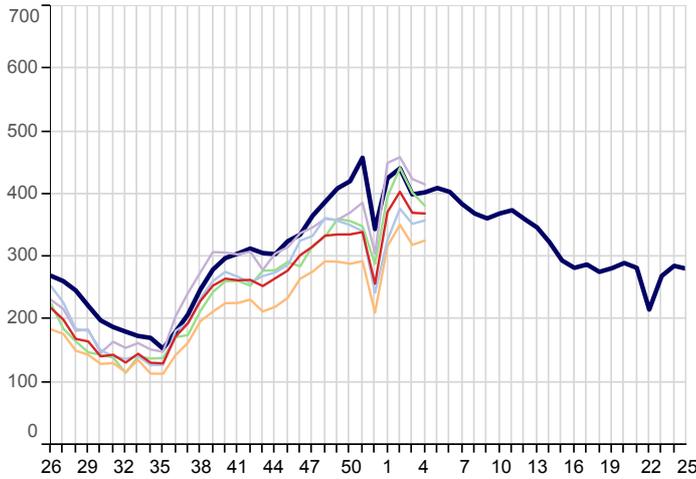
**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



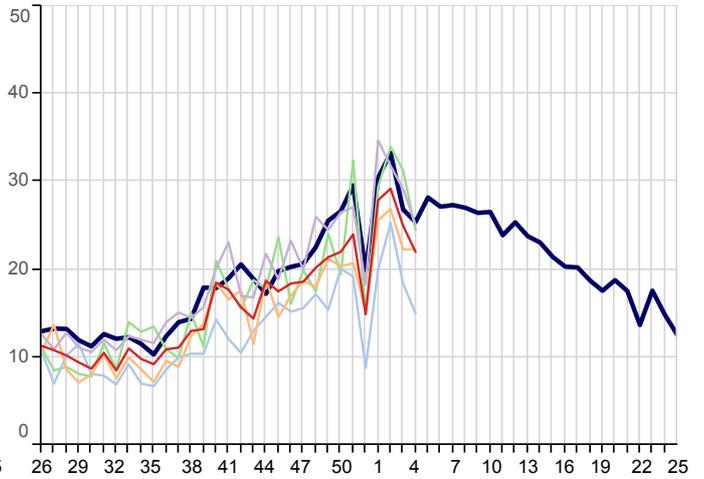
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

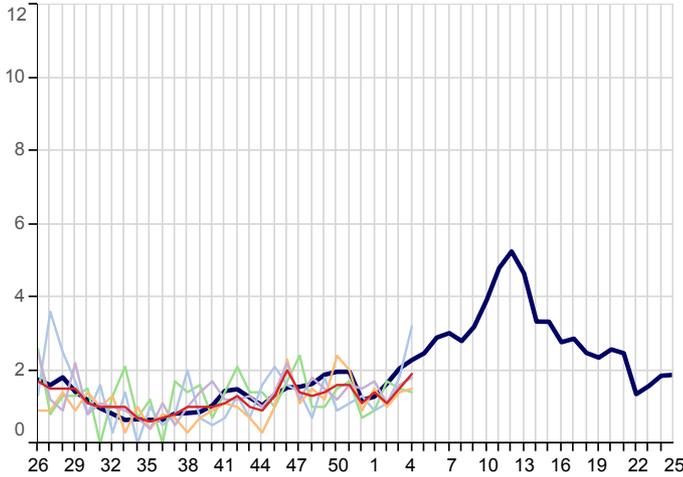
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



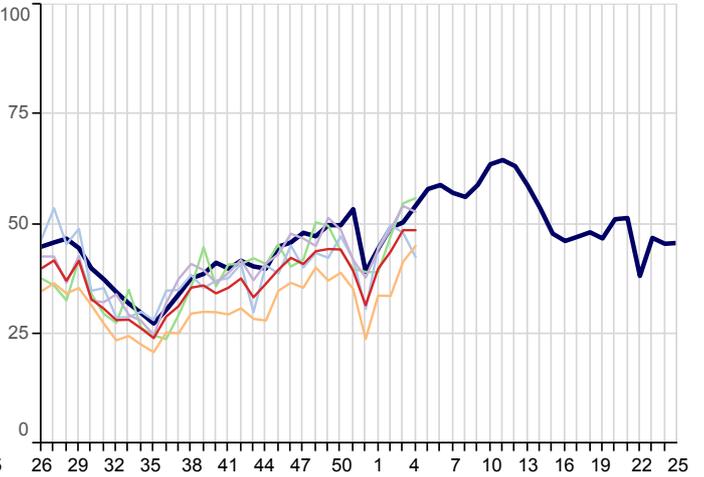
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



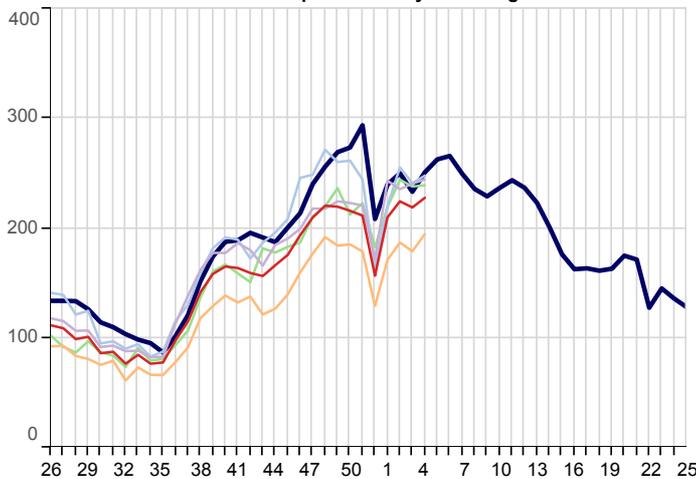
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



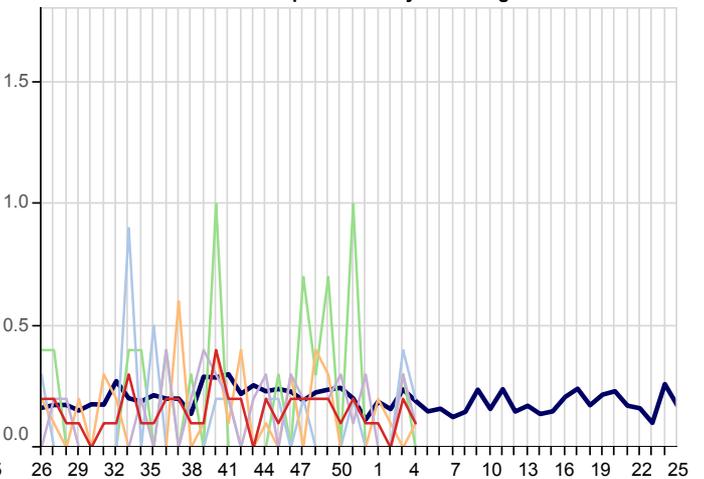
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



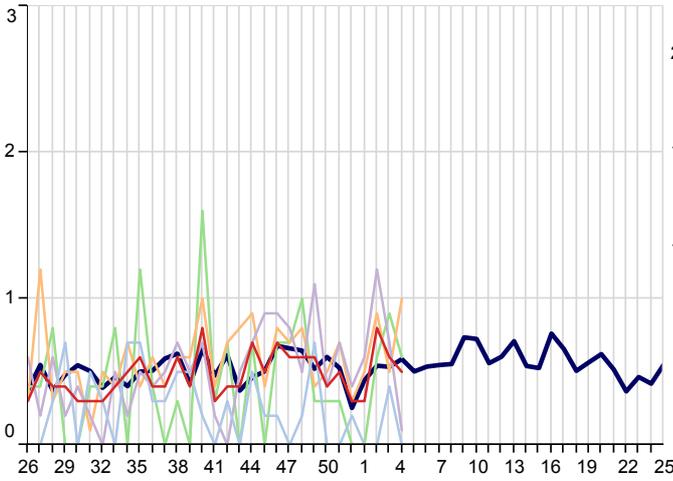
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



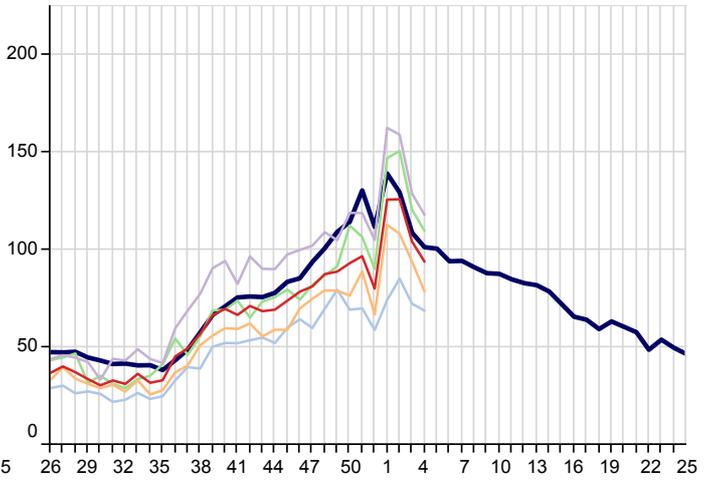
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

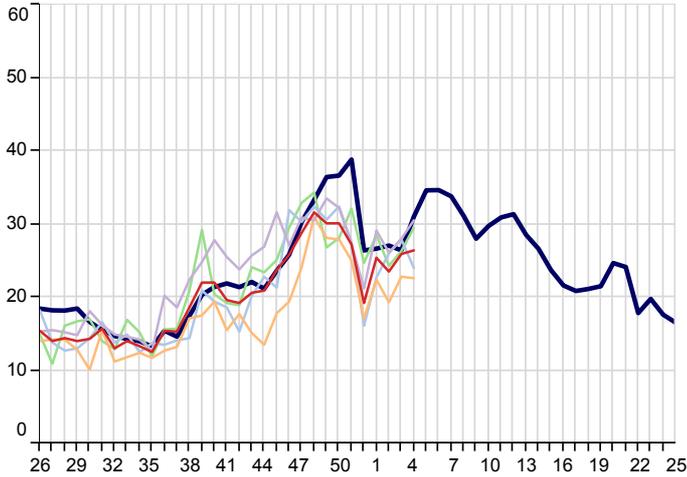
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



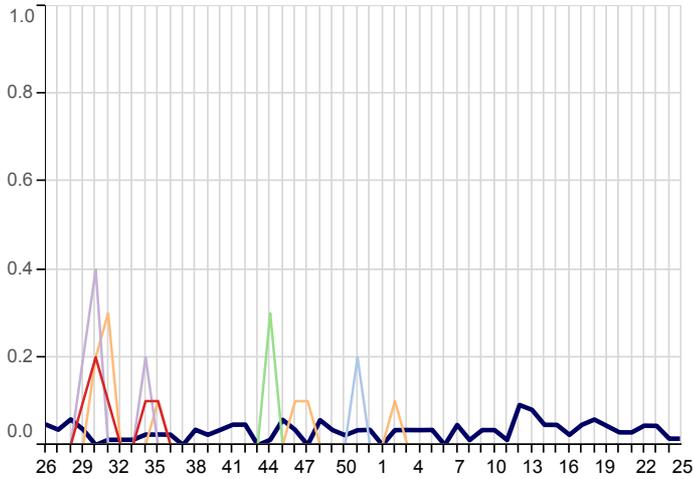
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



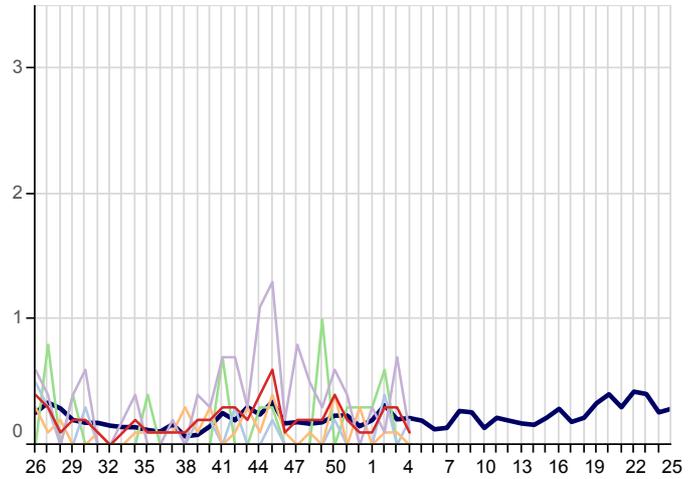
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

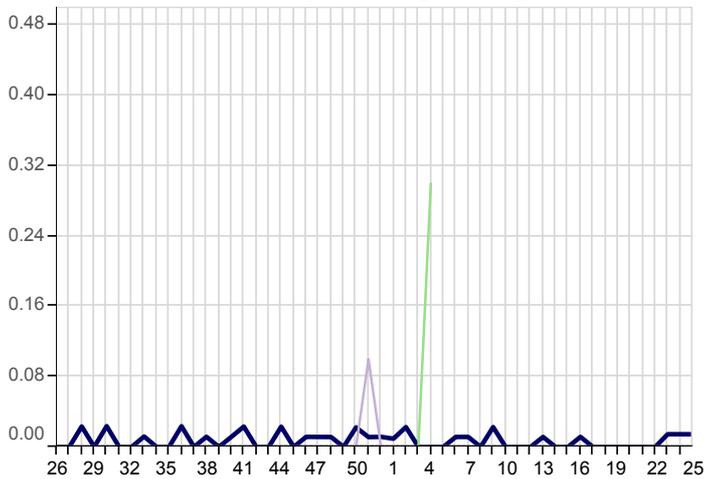
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

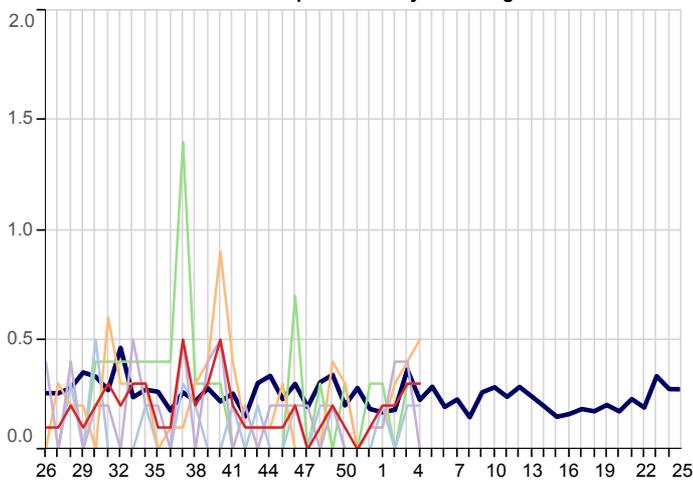


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

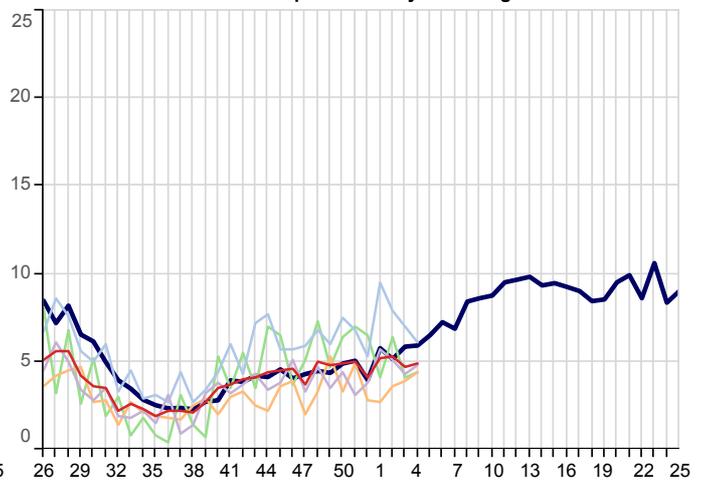


## 5. Skin Contagions

**Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



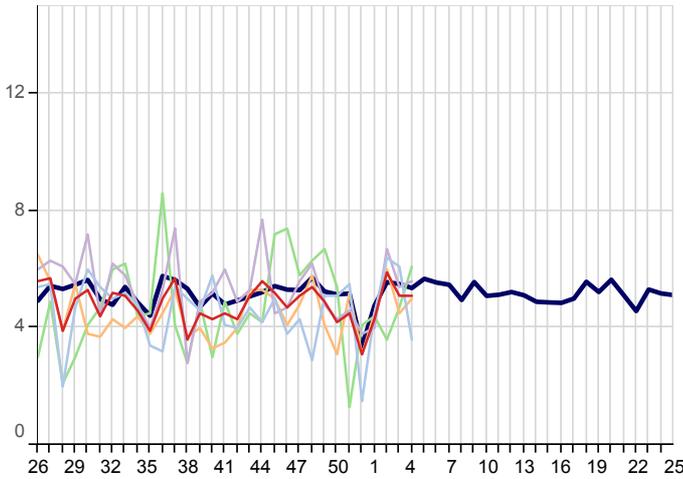
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



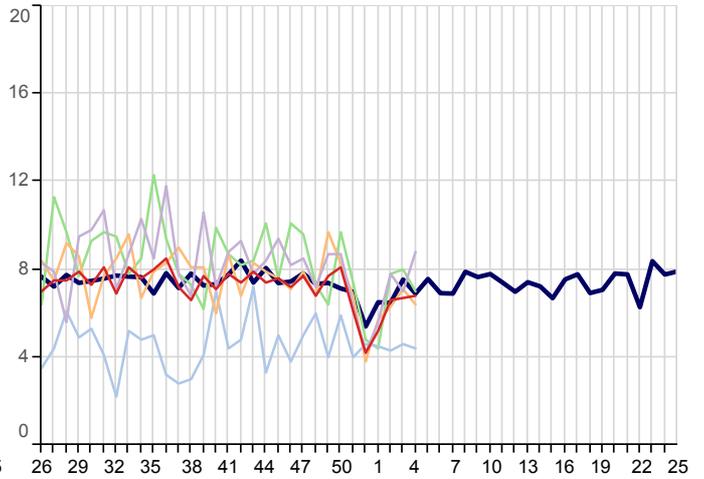
# 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

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

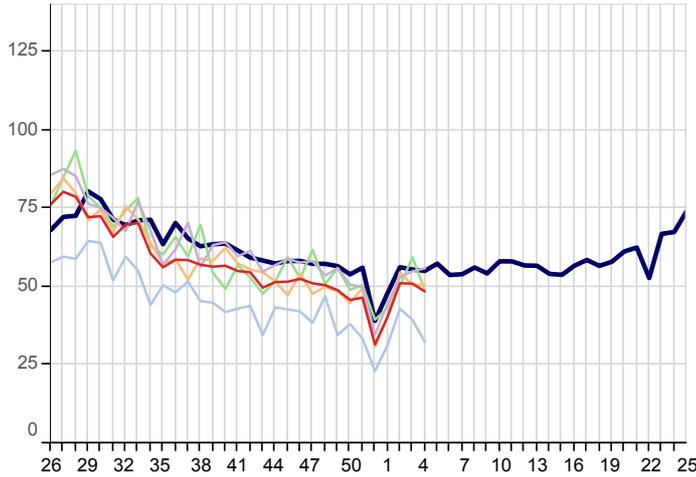
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



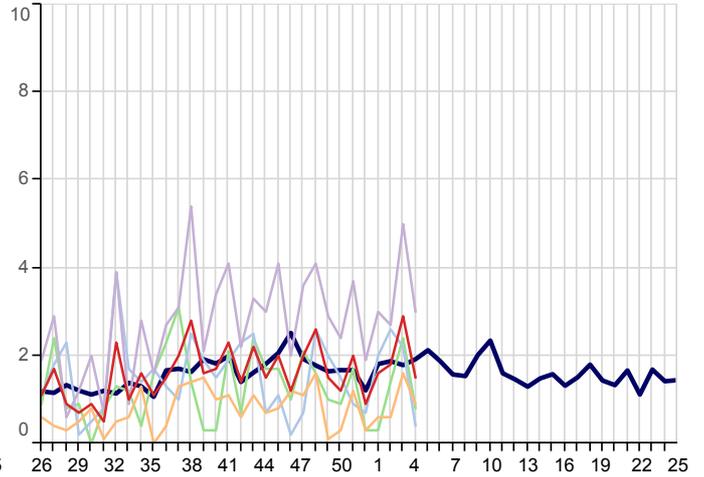
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



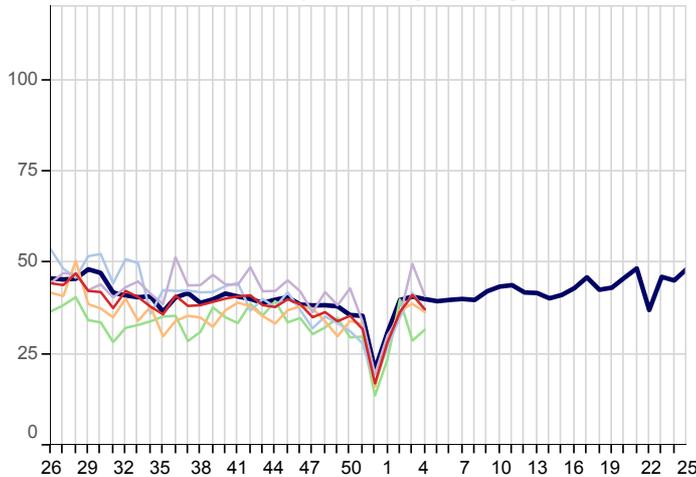
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



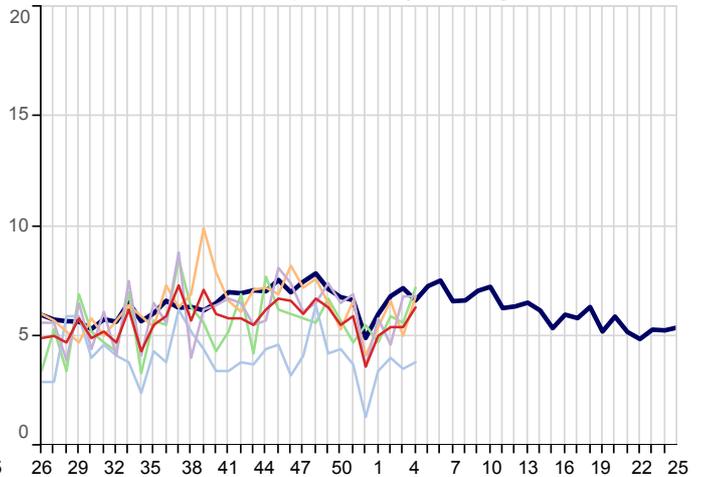
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



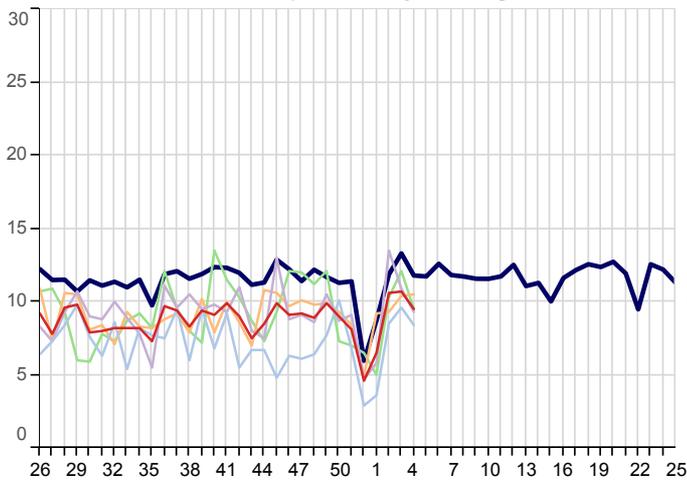
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



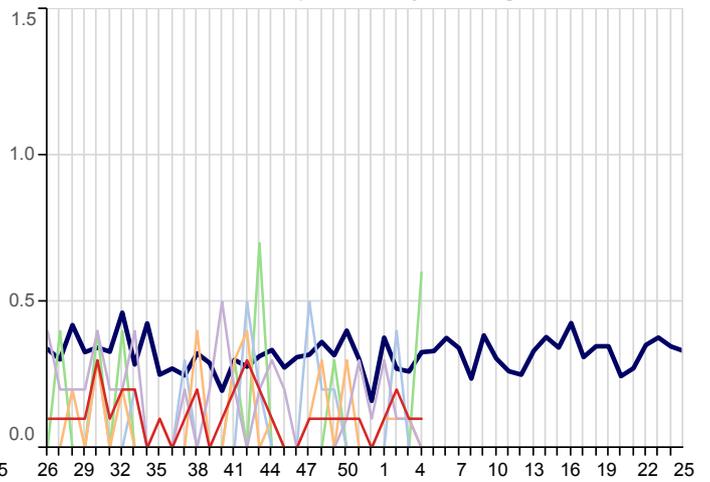
## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

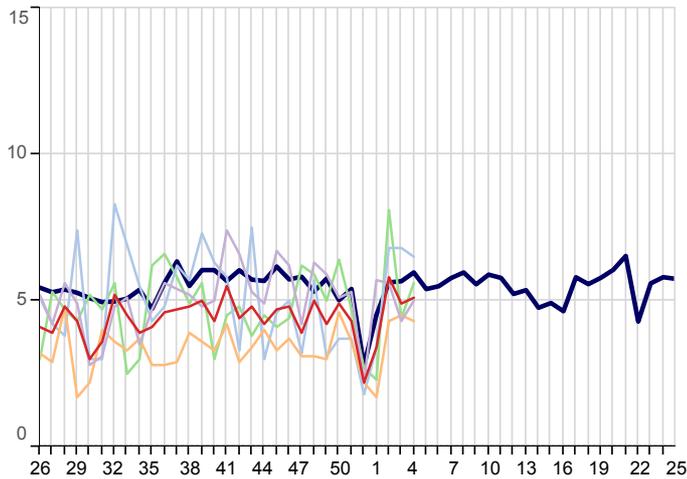
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Meningitis/Encephalitis(ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

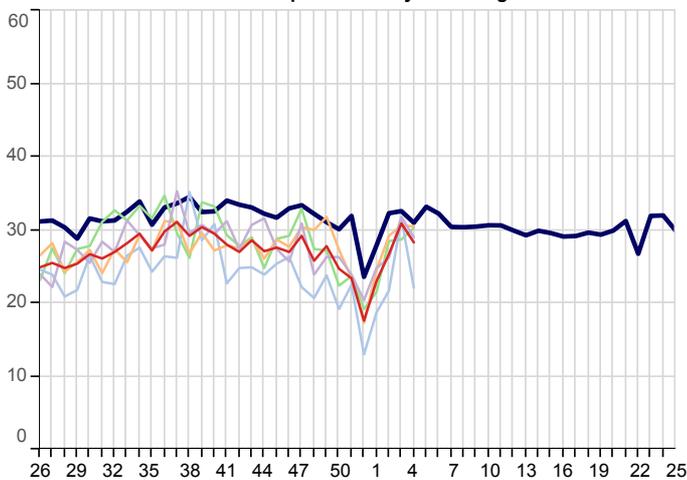


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



## 8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending	21/01/2019 27/01/2019		14/01/2019 20/01/2019		07/01/2019 13/01/2019		31/12/2018 06/01/2019	
		Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Acute Bronchitis		90.6	2,174	101.1	2,321	121.9	2,863	122.8	2,811
Allergic Rhinitis		3.5	83	3.4	78	3.3	77	2.8	63
Asthma		17.8	427	17.3	397	20.0	470	17.3	396
Bullous Dermatoses		0.3	6	0.3	8	0.2	5	0.2	4
Chickenpox		4.9	117	4.7	107	5.3	125	5.2	118
Common Cold		127.5	3,058	114.4	2,627	124.4	2,921	114.0	2,609
Conjunctival Disorders		26.5	635	26.3	605	25.0	588	19.9	455
Herpes Simplex		5.1	122	5.1	118	5.9	139	4.3	99
Herpes Zoster		6.8	164	6.7	154	6.6	155	5.2	120
Impetigo		6.3	150	5.4	123	5.4	126	5.0	115
Infectious Mononucleosis		0.5	11	0.6	14	0.8	18	0.3	8
Influenza-like illness		17.5	421	19.6	450	19.2	450	14.8	339
Infectious Intestinal Diseases		9.0	216	9.1	209	7.9	186	6.5	149
Laryngitis and Tracheitis		5.4	129	7.1	163	5.1	119	4.4	100
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections		94.0	2,254	104.3	2,396	126.0	2,959	125.8	2,879
Measles		0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0
Meningitis and Encephalitis		0.1	2	0.1	2	0.2	4	0.1	3
Mumps		0.1	2	0.3	6	0.3	6	0.1	3
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis		8.4	202	7.4	169	7.8	182	6.5	148
Otitis Media Acute		26.4	634	25.9	595	23.5	552	25.4	582
Peripheral Nervous Disease		9.5	229	10.7	245	10.6	249	6.5	148
Pleurisy		1.5	35	1.8	41	1.5	36	0.9	20
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis		1.7	40	1.5	35	1.6	38	1.4	32
Respiratory System Diseases		369.3	8,861	370.3	8,504	403.9	9,483	371.5	8,504
Rubella		0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies		1.5	35	2.9	66	1.8	42	1.6	36
Sinusitis		22.0	529	25.0	574	29.2	686	27.9	638
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections		48.5	1,163	51.0	1,171	51.1	1,200	40.3	922
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess		1.9	46	1.5	35	1.1	27	1.4	31
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal		5.1	123	4.9	112	5.8	136	3.4	77
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest		20.8	500	20.9	479	24.3	571	18.6	425
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues		37.3	894	41.2	947	36.5	858	28.2	645
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis		48.6	1,167	48.6	1,115	43.7	1,025	39.8	912
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections		227.7	5,463	218.9	5,027	224.5	5,271	209.9	4,806
Urinary Tract Infections		28.3	680	30.9	709	26.7	626	23.0	527
Viral Hepatitis		0.1	3	0.2	5	0.3	6	0.1	3
Whooping Cough		0.1	3	0.2	5	0.0	1	0.1	2
<b>Practice Count</b>			<b>239</b>		<b>229</b>		<b>232</b>		<b>225</b>
<b>Denom</b>			<b>2,399,130</b>		<b>2,296,469</b>		<b>2,347,986</b>		<b>2,289,340</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 2013-2017. 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 2005/06- 2015/16 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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