RESEARCH & SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year	Population
43 / 2026	**19,845,276**
Dates	**No. Practices**
19/10/2026 - 25/10/2026	**1,866**

Notes

All rates in this report are given per 100,000 population presenting in the week of the report. A rolling 5-year average rate is also provided as a historical comparison. Rates are provided for four regions (North, South, Midlands and East, and London). For acute respiratory infections, a breakdown by age group is also provided.

Rates are presented on a weekly basis, using ISO week numbers.

Please see page 20 for further explanatory notes on the data.

Comments

The overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) remains above the seasonal average for this time of year. However, the rates have remained stable over the past week across all regions, except the London region, where rates have increased. The rates have also remained stable in the 15-64yrs and 65+ yrs age bands, but have increased in the younger age bands. Influenza swab positivity remains above 5%, pages 3 and 4.

Rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) have remained stable over the past week across all regions and all age bands, except the 5–14 yrs age band, within which rates have decreased. However, rates have increased among those aged <1 yr, 1–4 yrs, and 5–14 yrs. The overall ARI rate is below the seasonal average for this time of year, page 7.

Rates of COVID-19 have decreased in all regions, except Midlands and East where the rate has remained stable. The rates have decreased in the <1 yr, 15–64 yrs, and 65+ yrs age bands, but have in increased in the 1–4 yrs and 5–14 yrs age bands, page 6.

Other comments:

- The overall rate of URTI – Croup has decreased, but remains above the seasonal average for this time of year, page 12.
- Rates of Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD) and ECLD – Asthma exacerbations have decreased marginally, however, the rates of ECLD – COPD Exacerbation have increased over the past week. The overall rates for these conditions remain above the seasonal average for this time of year, pages 8 and 9.
- Otitis media, sinusitis, infected insect bites, impetigo, and herpes zoster consultation rates are currently above the five-year average. We believe this reflects identification of additional cases through the Pharmacy First scheme, and we are monitoring these changes.

Seasonal Focus

In the "Change since last week" column, a change in rate of 5% to 10% is marked with a single arrow (^ or v), while a change of more than 10% is marked with a double arrow (^^ or vv). A flat line (—) indicates the rate was stable, changing less than 5%.

Region Breakdown

	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	214.1	222.5	— -8.4	7.7	7.1	^ 0.6	11.3	11.5	— -0.2
Midlands And East	279.0	286.4	— -7.4	4.7	4.8	— -0.2	18.3	18.8	— -0.5
North	341.6	344.9	— -3.3	7.3	7.6	— -0.2	28.0	28.0	— -0.1
South	238.1	243.1	— -5.0	6.8	6.8	— 0.0	17.1	16.7	— 0.4
National	**269.4**	**275.2**	**— -5.8**	**6.6**	**6.6**	**— 0.0**	**19.0**	**19.0**	**— -0.1**

	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	45.8	44.5	— 1.3	160.9	168.3	— -7.4	1.1	1.4	vv -0.3
Midlands And East	87.6	87.8	— -0.2	183.5	191.5	— -8.0	1.6	1.7	— -0.1
North	109.6	111.3	— -1.8	218.0	218.4	— -0.4	2.0	2.1	v -0.1
South	76.3	76.6	— -0.3	153.0	156.0	— -3.0	1.9	2.5	vv -0.6
National	**81.6**	**81.9**	**— -0.3**	**178.2**	**182.7**	**— -4.4**	**1.7**	**2.0**	**vv -0.3**

Age Group Breakdown

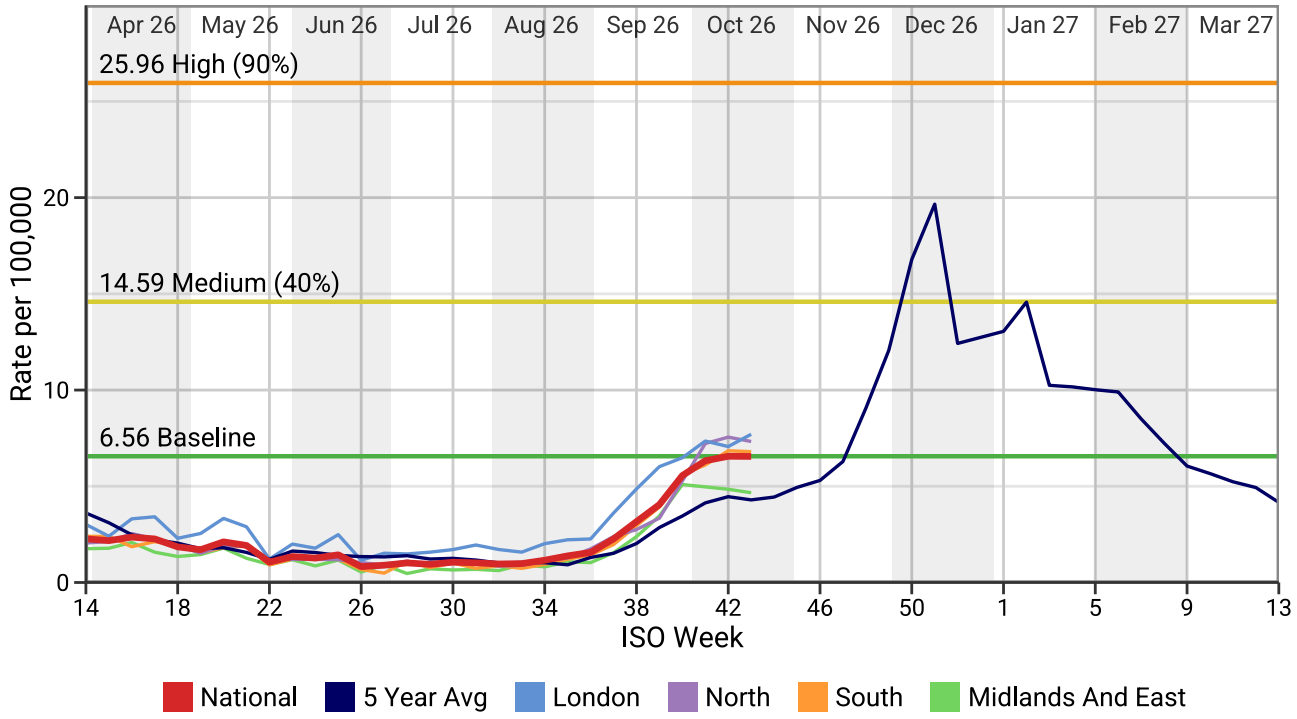
	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	1,214.4	1,271.0	— -56.6	8.3	3.7	^^ 4.6	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
1-4yrs	1,095.4	1,088.0	— 7.4	7.4	6.9	^ 0.5	1.3	2.1	vv -0.8
5-14yrs	279.7	297.0	v -17.3	3.8	3.0	^^ 0.8	6.8	6.1	^^ 0.7
15-64yrs	200.5	205.1	— -4.7	7.1	7.4	— -0.3	14.5	14.8	— -0.3
65+yrs	289.5	293.8	— -4.3	5.9	5.8	— 0.1	47.0	46.5	— 0.4
All ages	**269.4**	**275.2**	**— -5.8**	**6.6**	**6.6**	**— 0.0**	**19.0**	**19.0**	**— -0.1**

	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	241.0	230.5	— 10.4	1,063.4	1,120.4	v -57.0	4.7	7.9	vv -3.2
1-4yrs	187.0	167.4	^^ 19.6	995.7	1,006.1	— -10.3	0.9	0.3	^^ 0.6
5-14yrs	27.9	27.3	— 0.6	252.0	272.3	v -20.4	0.2	0.0	^^ 0.2
15-64yrs	57.6	59.1	— -1.5	131.5	133.6	— -2.1	1.2	1.6	vv -0.4
65+yrs	170.3	171.5	— -1.2	84.8	85.6	— -0.8	4.2	4.5	v -0.3
All ages	**81.6**	**81.9**	**— -0.3**	**178.2**	**182.7**	**— -4.4**	**1.7**	**2.0**	**vv -0.3**

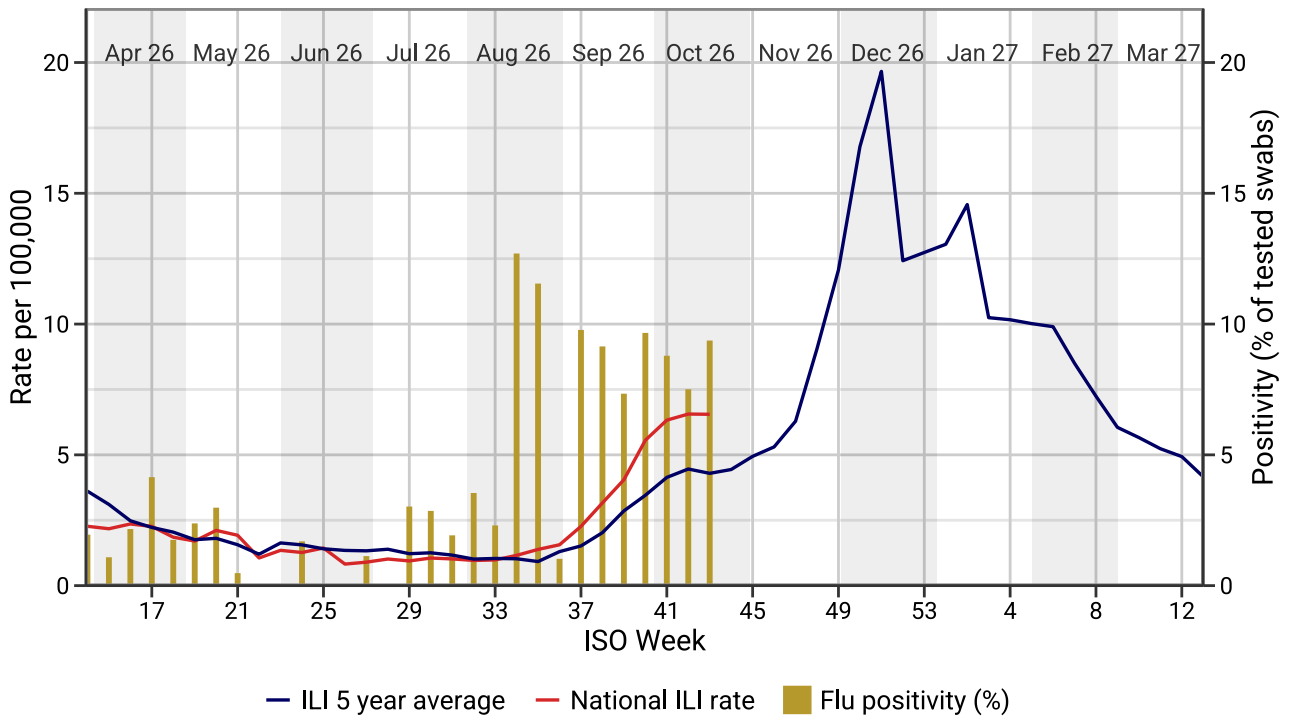
2025/26 Focus

(A) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by region

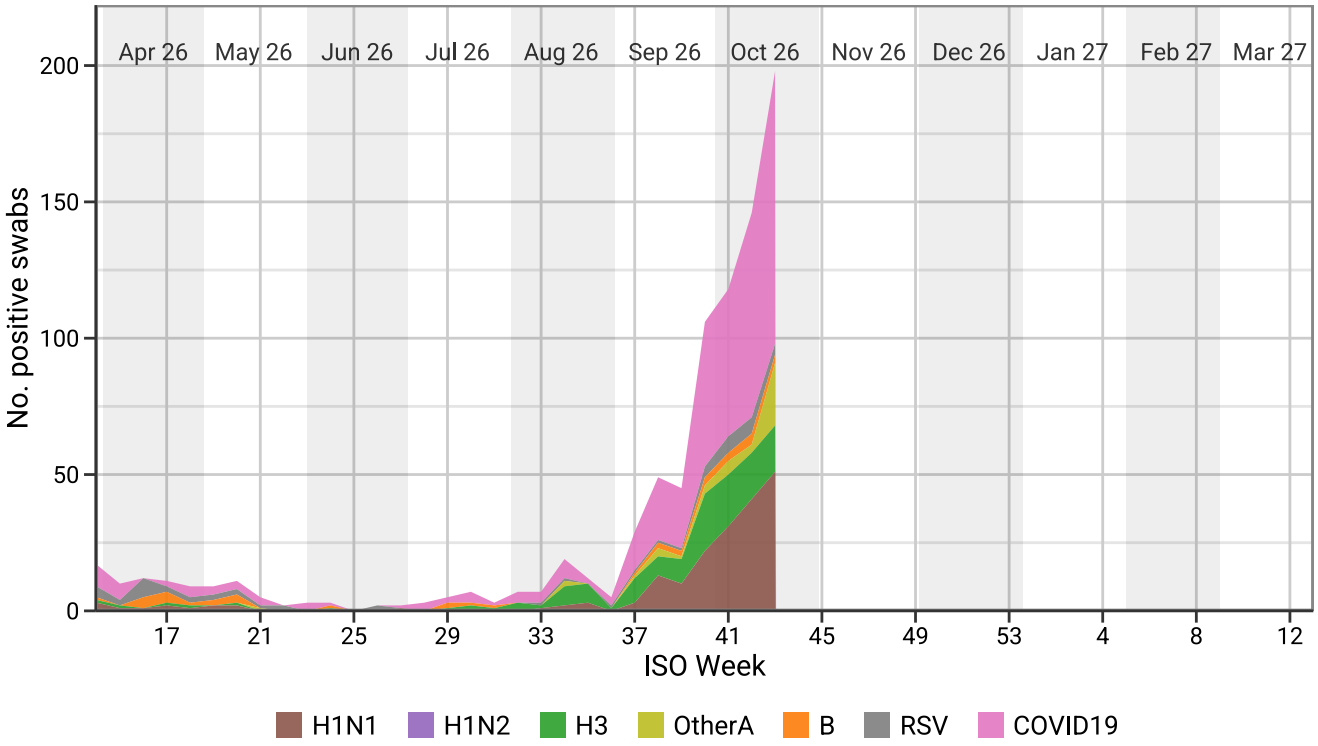
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.



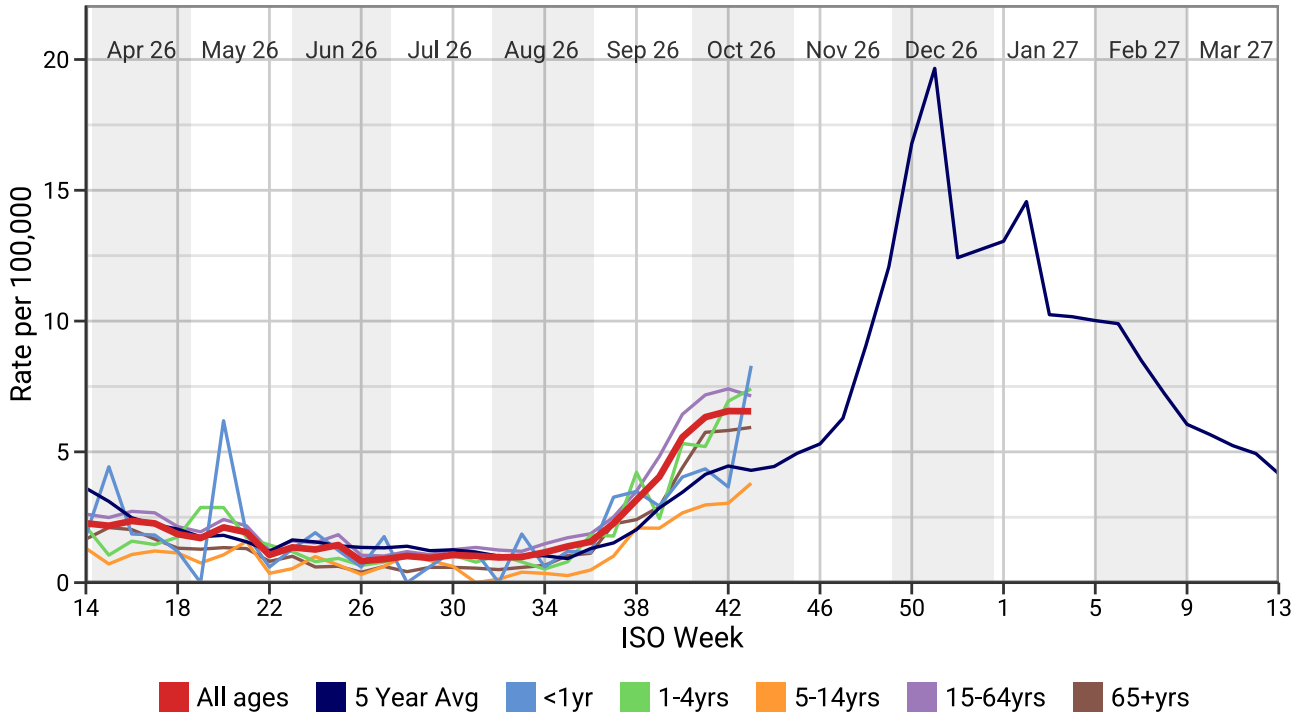
(B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance



(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 virology swab surveilance (by strain)



(D) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band



(E) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band

This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - thresholds are shown in the second table. Refer to page 19 for more information.

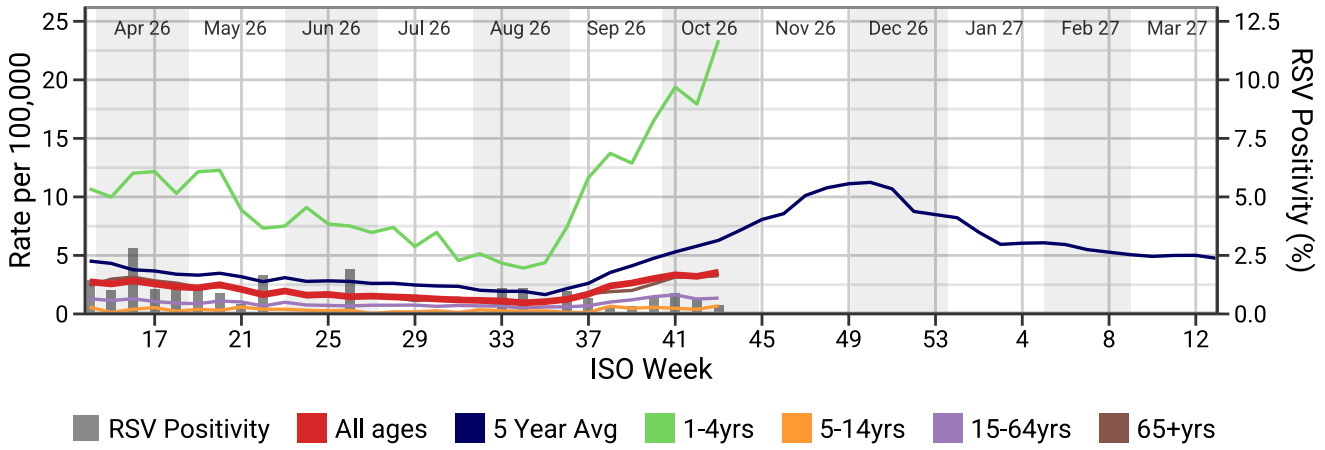
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
0-4yrs	6.4	5.0	4.3	3.4	4.9	4.2	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.4	3.4	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0
5-14yrs	2.6	2.2	1.7	2.1	3.4	2.7	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.7
15-64yrs	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.2	4.1	4.3	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.8
65+yrs	5.3	3.8	3.2	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.6
All ages	4.8	4.3	3.6	2.9	3.8	3.8	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4

	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
0-4yrs	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.9	1.7	2.0	4.1	2.5	5.1	5.1	6.4	7.6
5-14yrs	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.8
15-64yrs	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.5	3.5	4.8	6.4	7.2	7.4	7.1
65+yrs	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1	2.2	2.4	2.9	4.4	5.7	5.8	5.9
All ages	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	2.3	3.2	4.0	5.6	6.3	6.6	6.6

	Below Threshold	Threshold to medium	Medium to high	High to very high	Above very high
0-4yrs	<8.02	8.02 to 17.40	17.40 to 36.43	36.43 to 50.50	50.50+
5-14yrs	<5.78	5.78 to 10.95	10.95 to 23.28	23.28 to 32.49	32.49+
15-64yrs	<7.60	7.60 to 15.46	15.46 to 27.40	27.40 to 35.28	35.28+
65+yrs	<5.70	5.70 to 12.90	12.90 to 25.73	25.73 to 34.91	34.91+
All Ages	<6.56	6.56 to 14.59	14.59 to 25.96	25.96 to 33.50	33.50+

(F) Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis: national incidence rate by age band

Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.

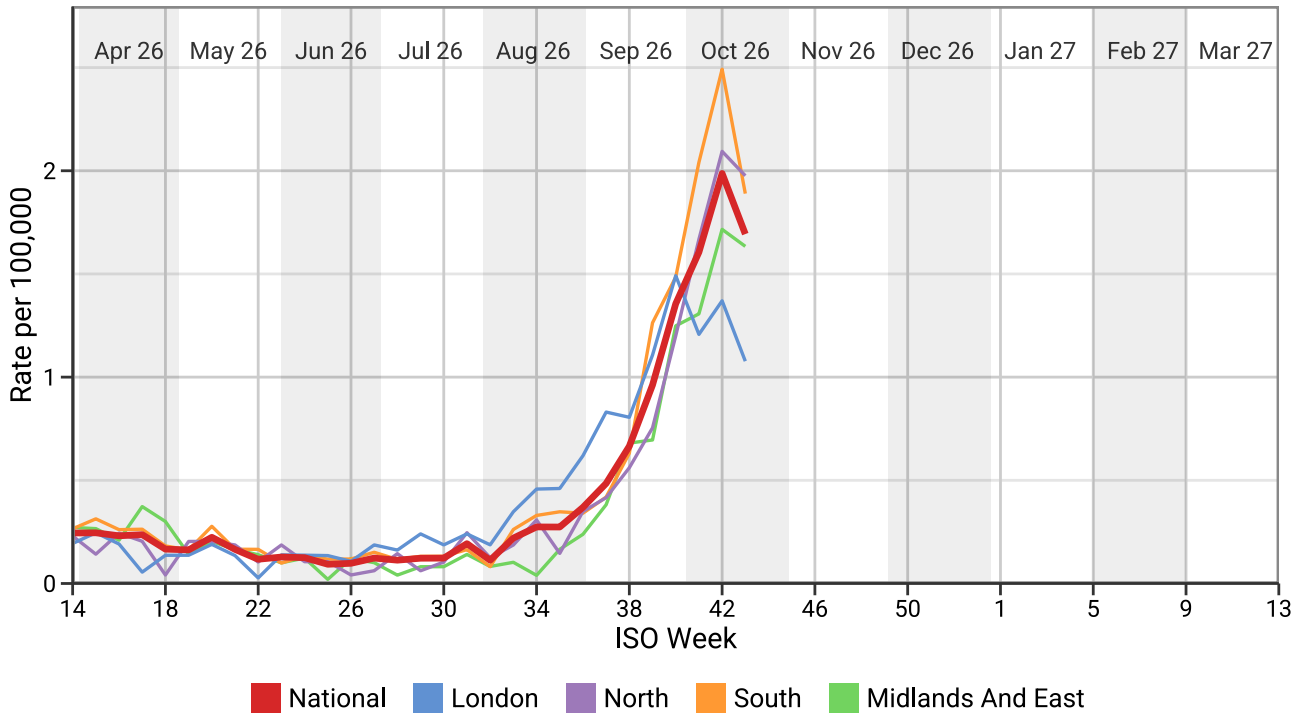


Weekly incidence rates of influenza-like illness, and acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis (per 100,000)

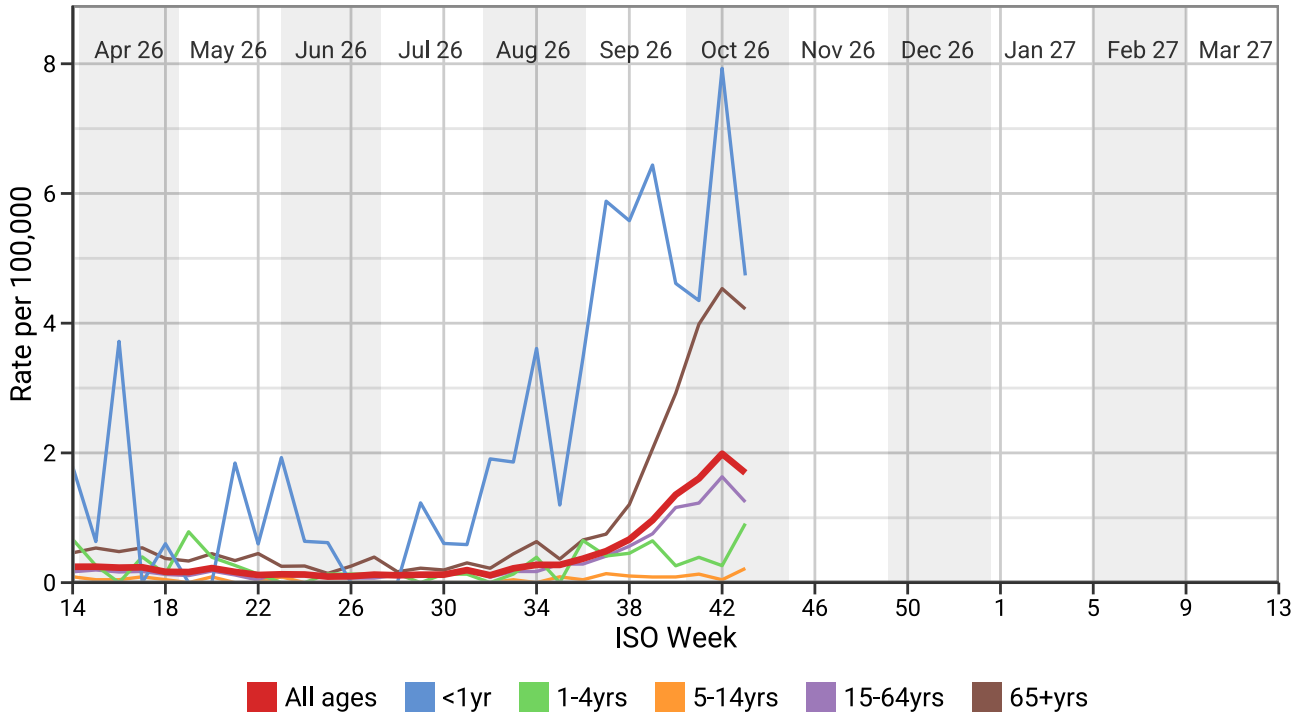
	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	8.3	128.5
1-4yrs	7.4	23.4
5-14yrs	3.8	0.7
15-24yrs	6.5	1.1
25-44yrs	7.7	1.1
45-64yrs	6.9	1.7
65-74yrs	5.8	2.8
75-84yrs	5.3	3.7
85+yrs	8.1	4.0
All ages	6.6	3.6

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
London	7.7	2.8
Midlands And East	4.7	3.2
North	7.3	5.1
South	6.8	3.1
National	6.6	3.6

(G) COVID-19: national incidence rate by region

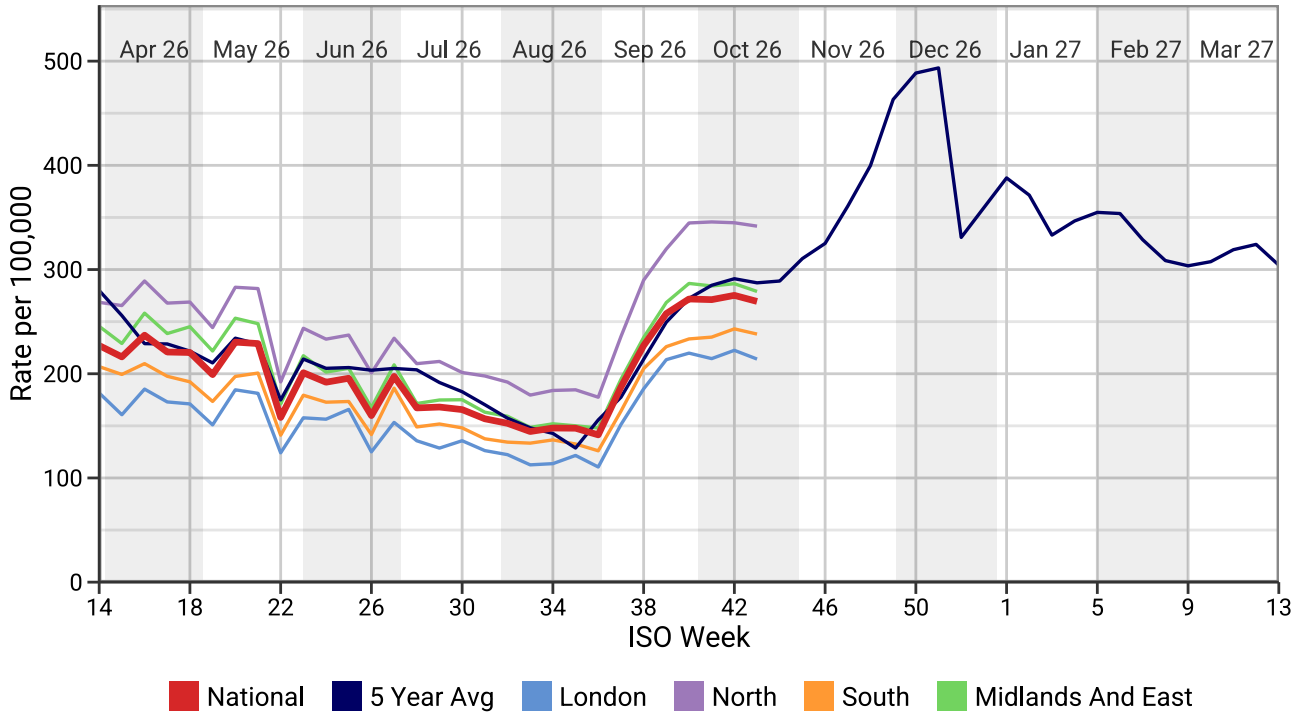


(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

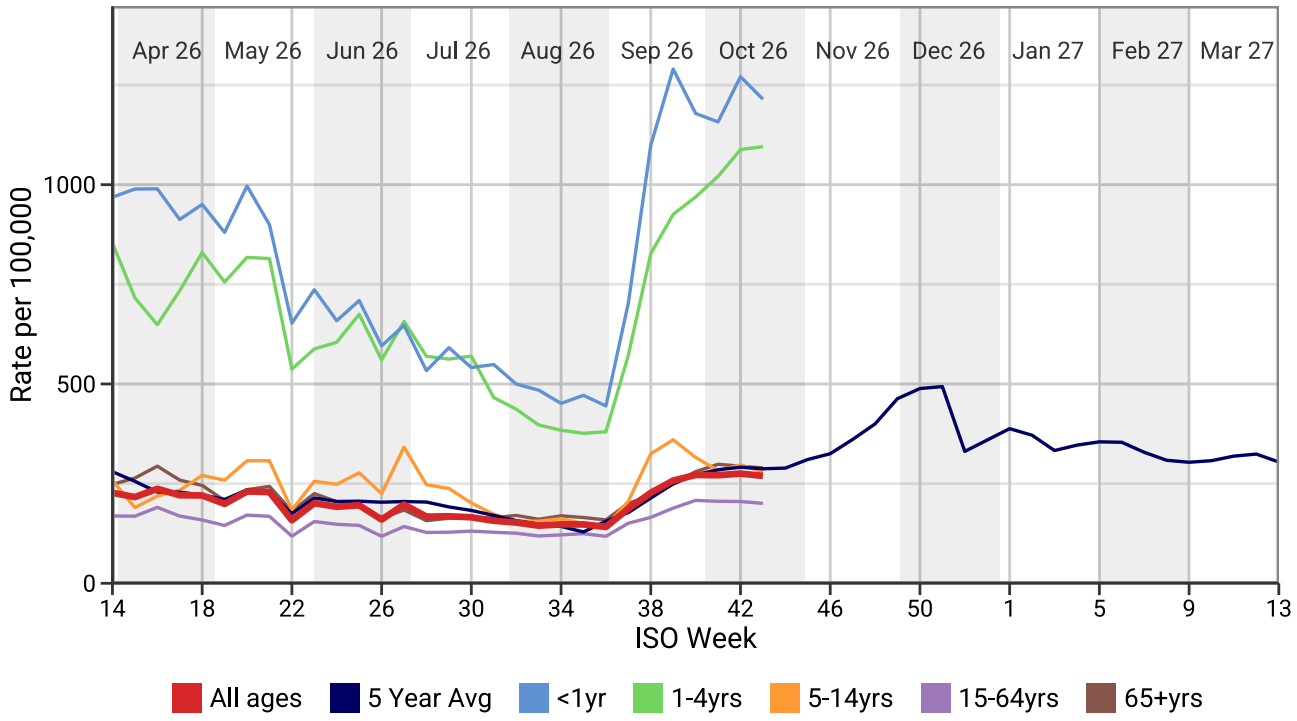


1. Respiratory Infections

(I) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by region



(J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band



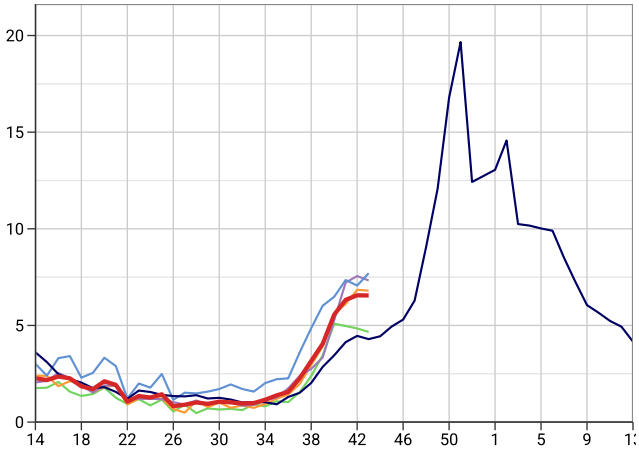
Respiratory Infections - by region

National
London
South
5 Year Avg
North
Midlands And East

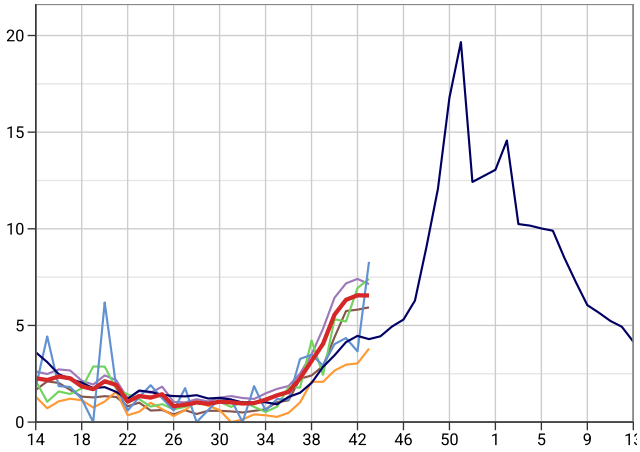
Respiratory Infections - by age band

All ages
<1yr
5-14yrs
65+yrs
5 Year Avg
1-4yrs
15-64yrs

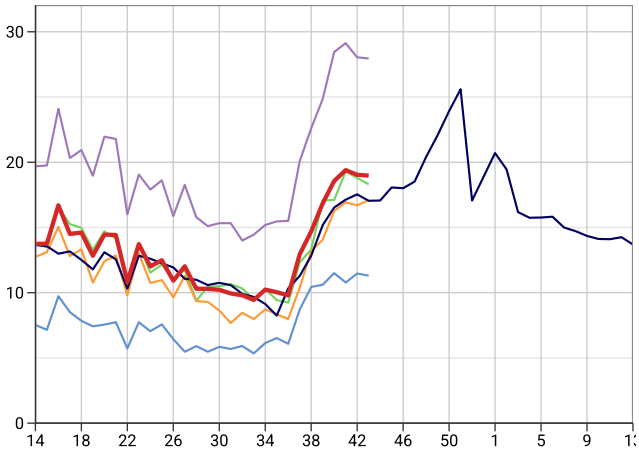
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



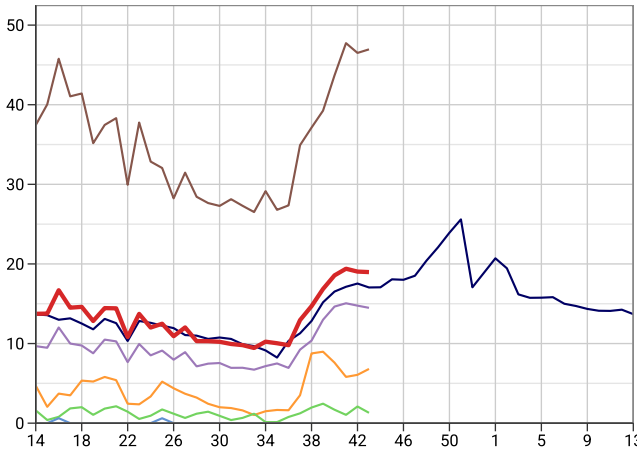
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



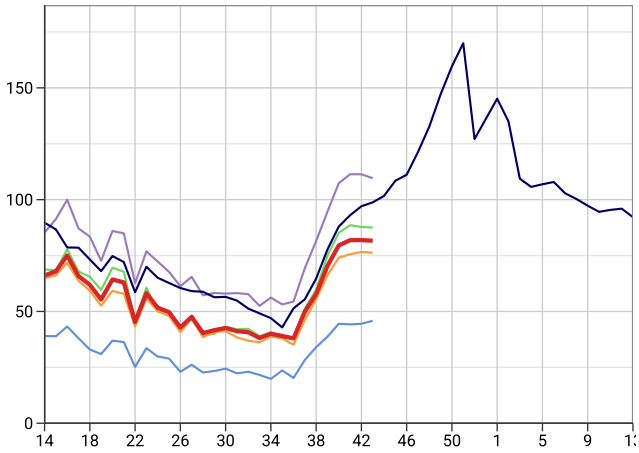
Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



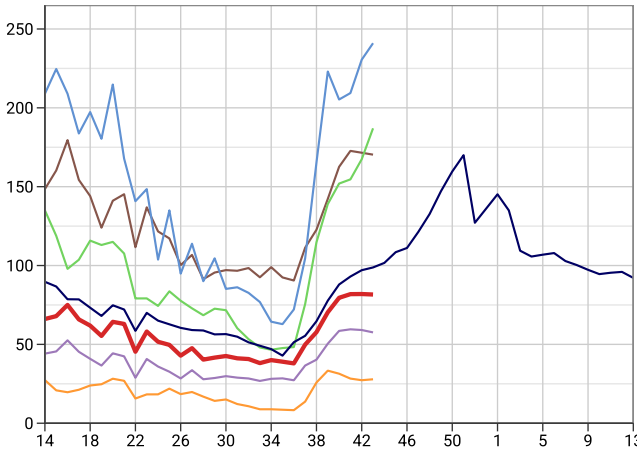
Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



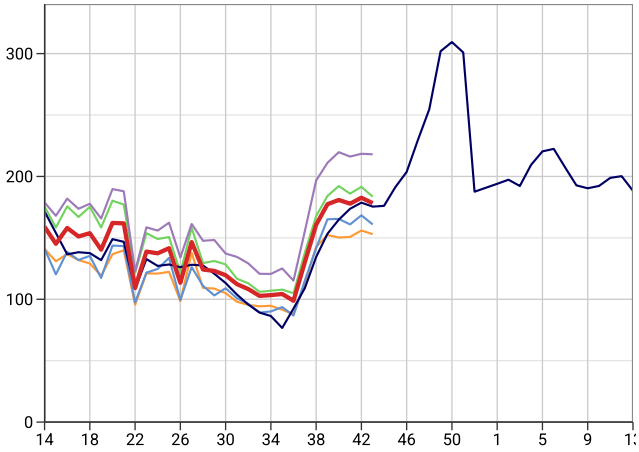
Respiratory Infections - by region

National
London
South
5 Year Avg
North
Midlands And East

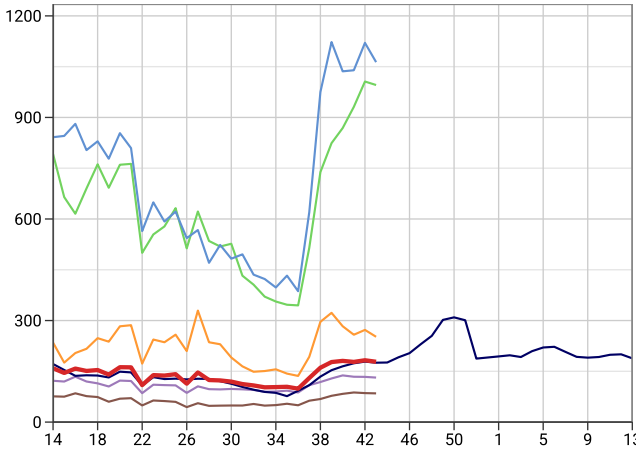
Respiratory Infections - by age band

All ages
<1yr
5-14yrs
65+yrs
5 Year Avg
1-4yrs
15-64yrs

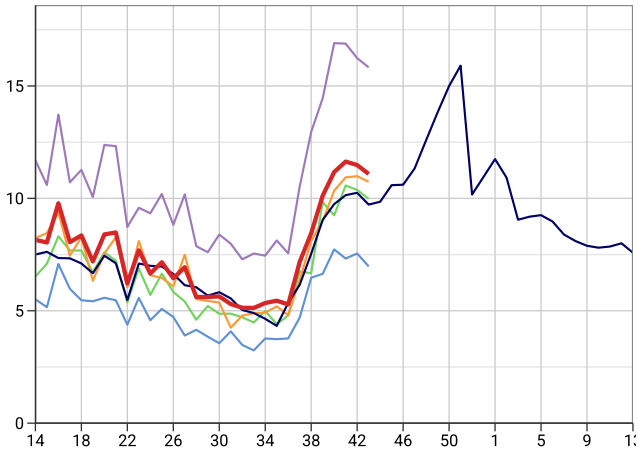
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



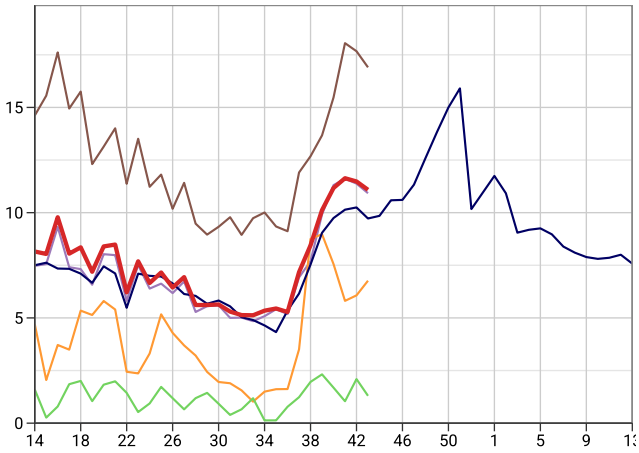
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



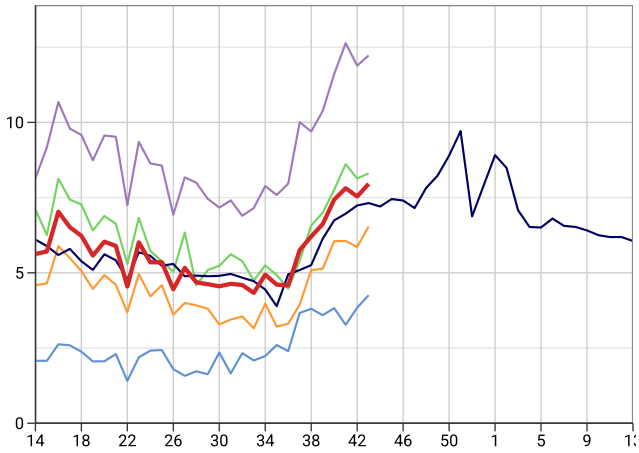
ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



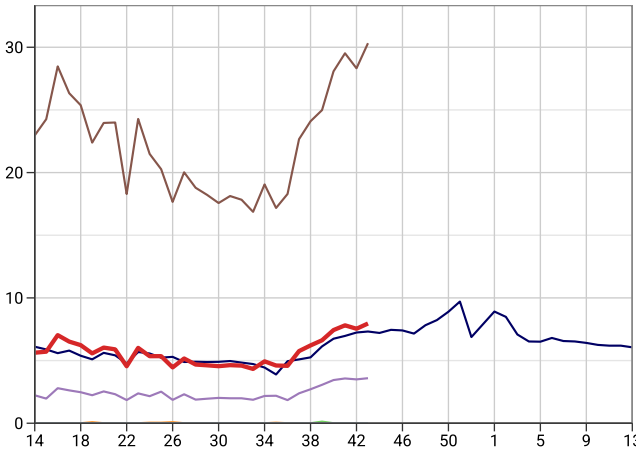
ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



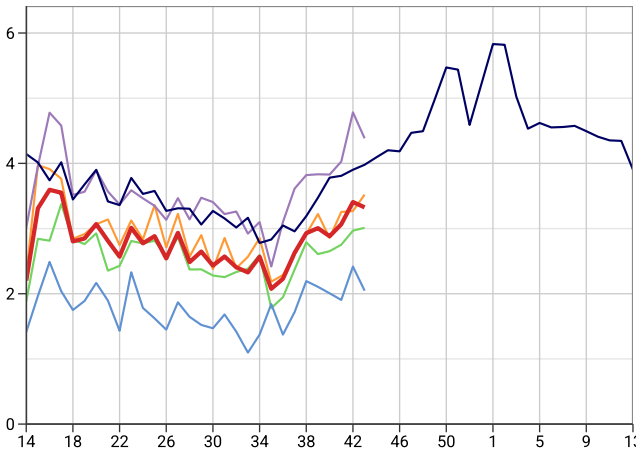
Respiratory Infections - by region

National
London
South
5 Year Avg
North
Midlands And East

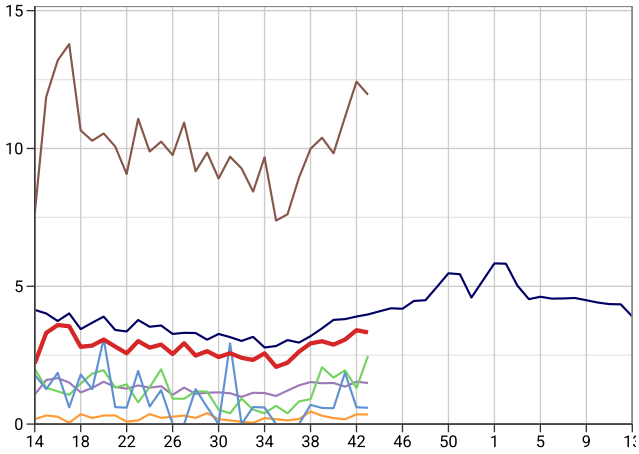
Respiratory Infections - by age band

All ages
<1yr
5-14yrs
65+yrs
5 Year Avg
1-4yrs
15-64yrs

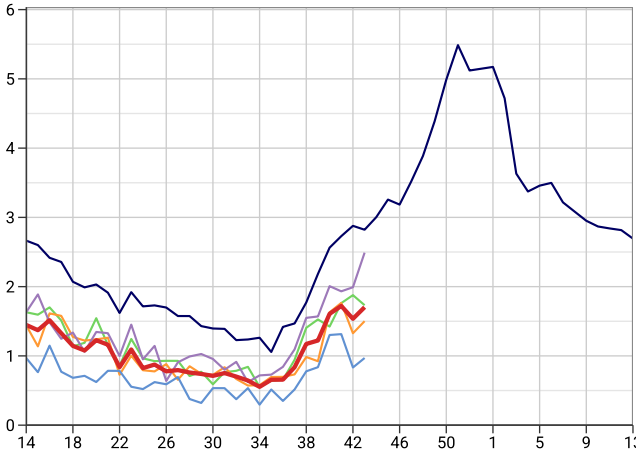
LRTI - Pneumonia
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



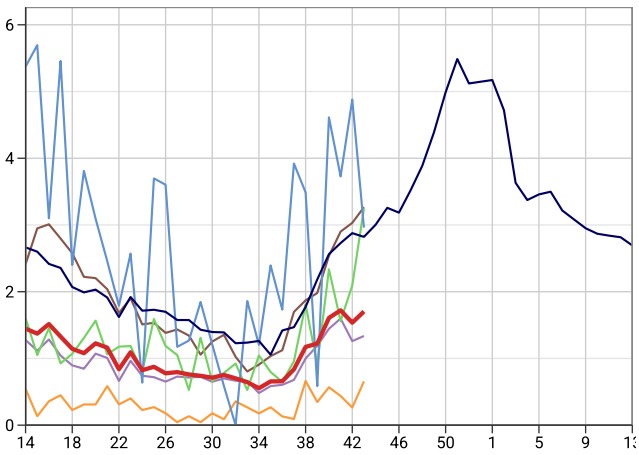
LRTI - Pneumonia
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



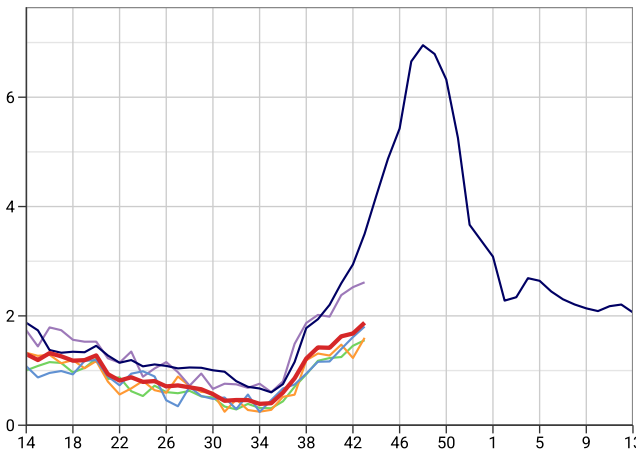
LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



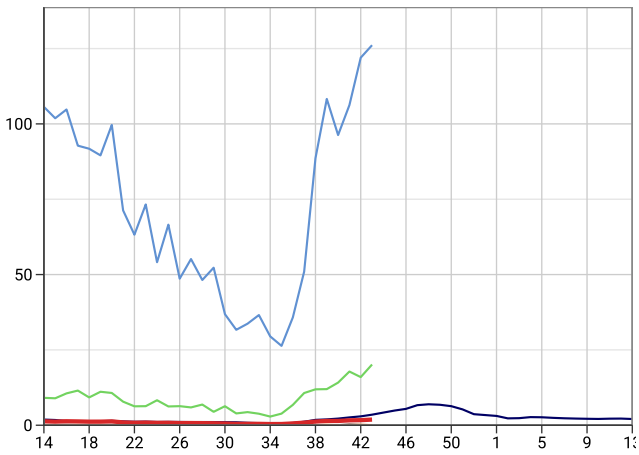
LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



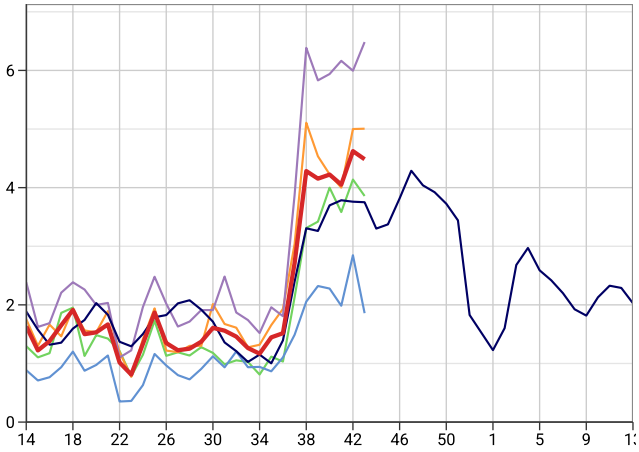
Respiratory Infections - by region

National
London
South
5 Year Avg
North
Midlands And East

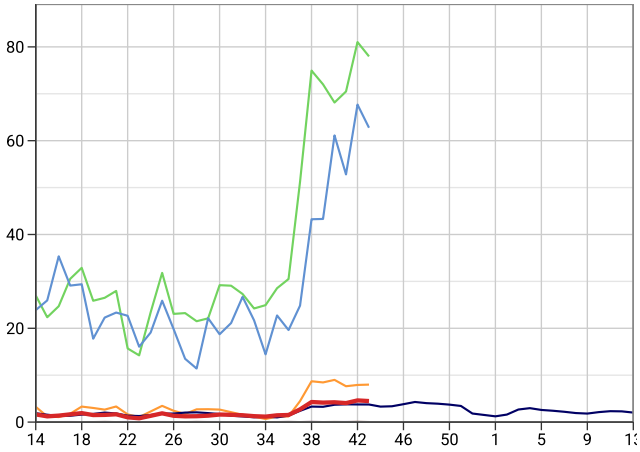
Respiratory Infections - by age band

All ages
<1yr
5-14yrs
65+yrs
5 Year Avg
1-4yrs
15-64yrs

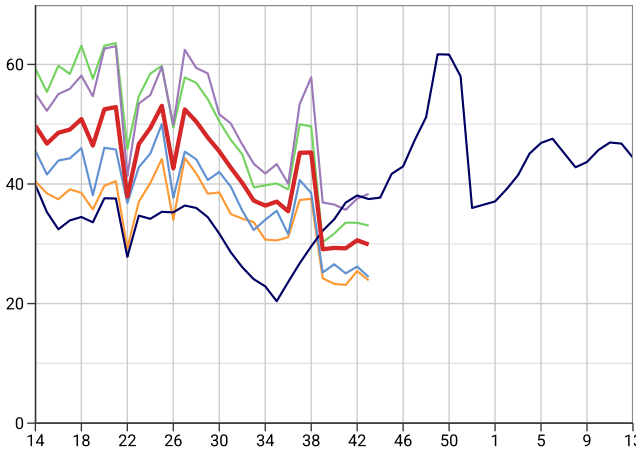
URTI - Croup
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



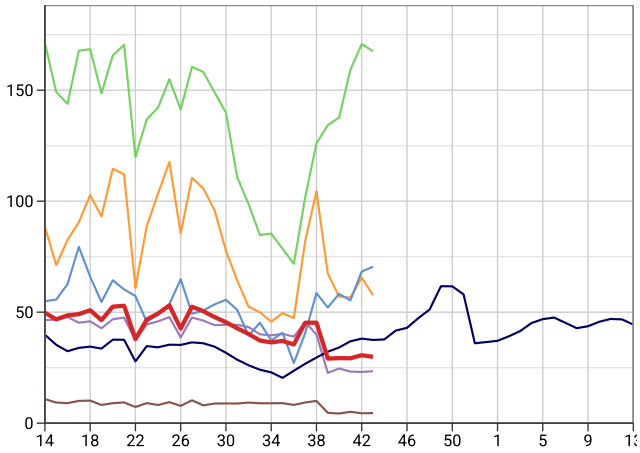
URTI - Croup
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



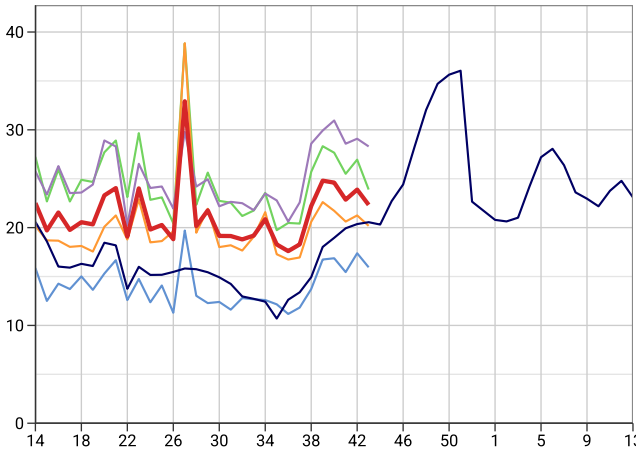
URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



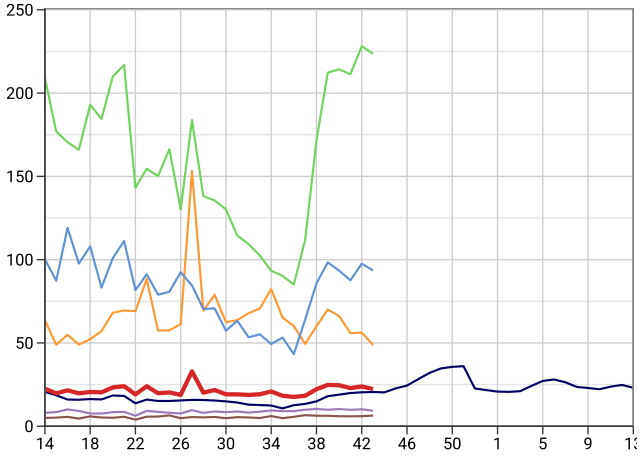
URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



URTI - Otitis Media
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



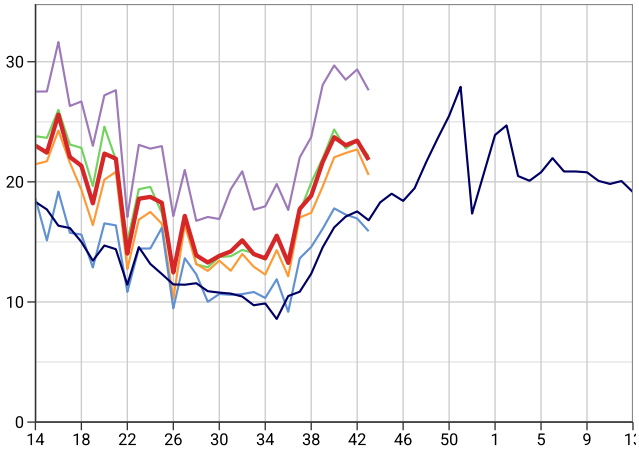
URTI - Otitis Media
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Respiratory Infections - by region

National
London
South
5 Year Avg
North
Midlands And East

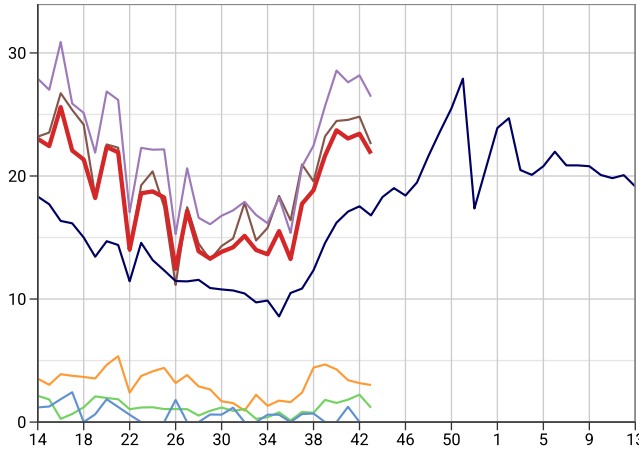
URTI - Sinusitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



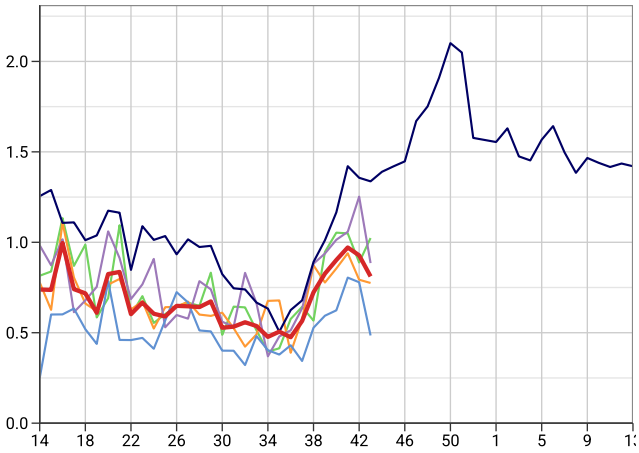
Respiratory Infections - by age band

All ages
<1yr
5-14yrs
65+yrs
5 Year Avg
1-4yrs
15-64yrs

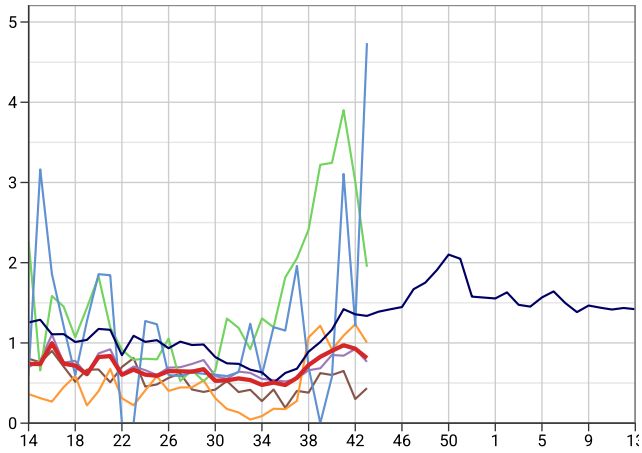
URTI - Sinusitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



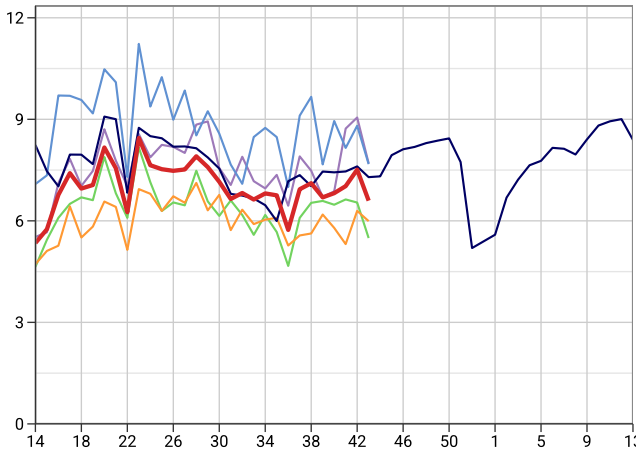
URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



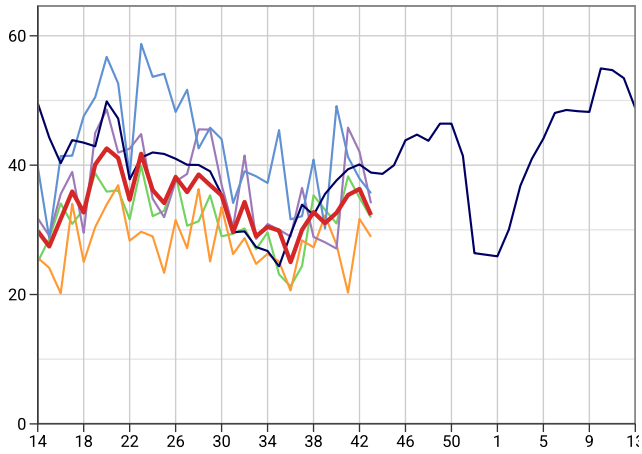
2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

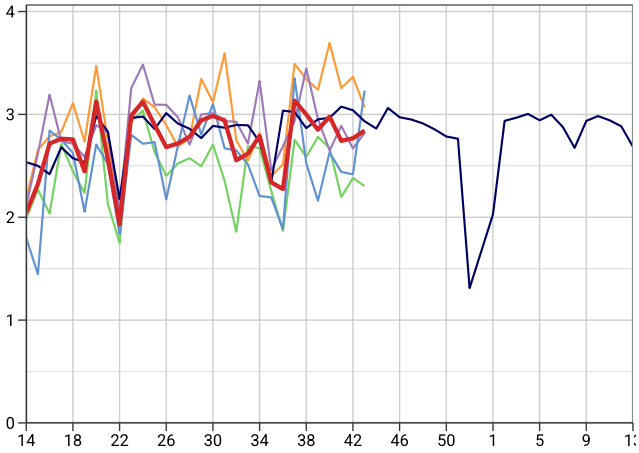
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



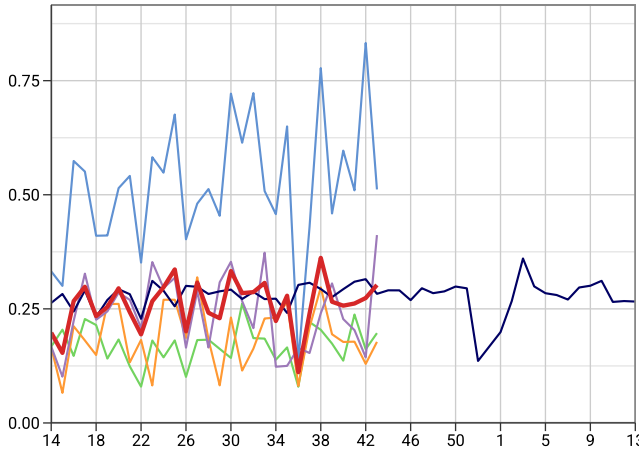
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



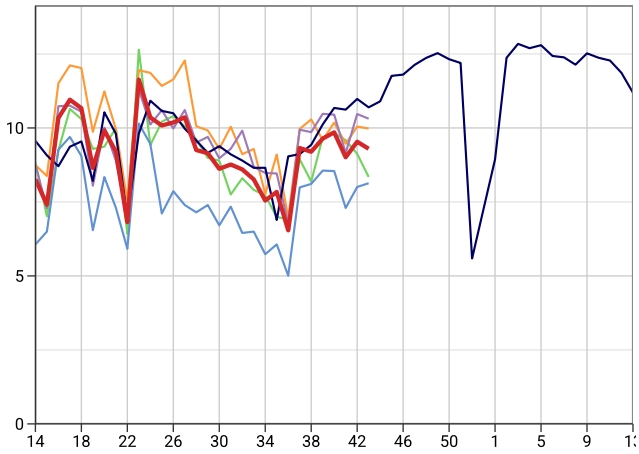
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



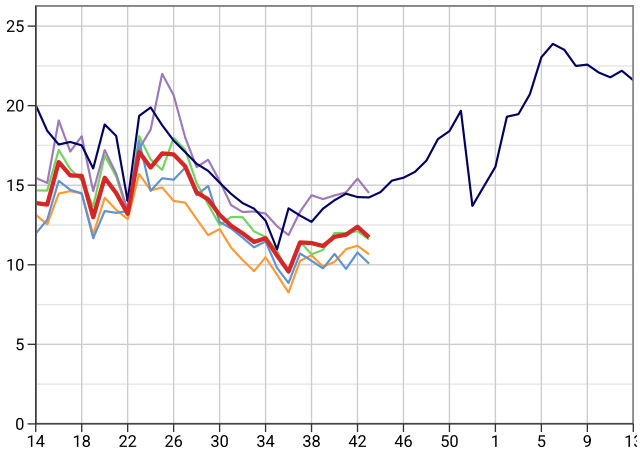
3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

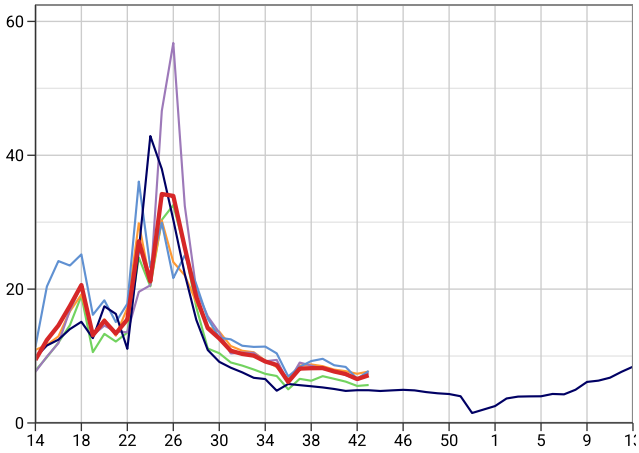
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



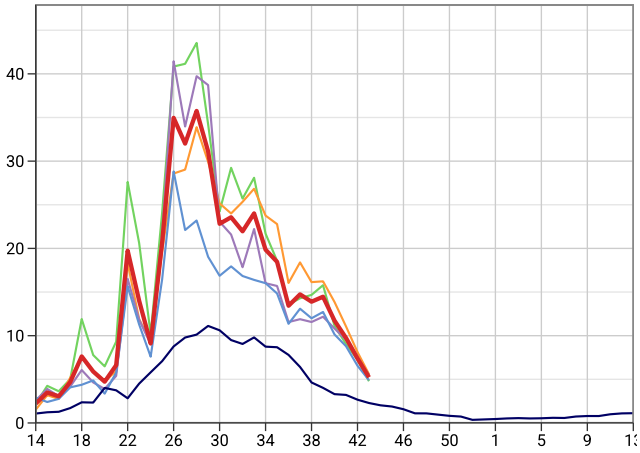
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



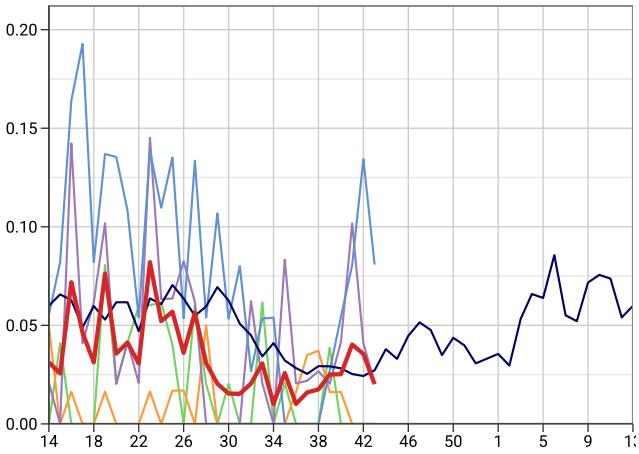
Infected Insect Bites
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



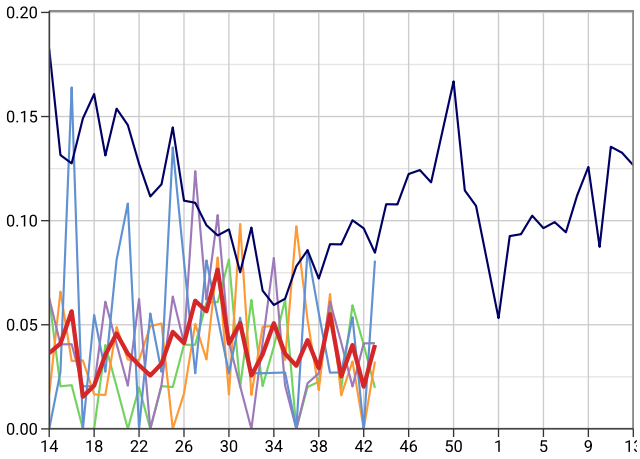
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

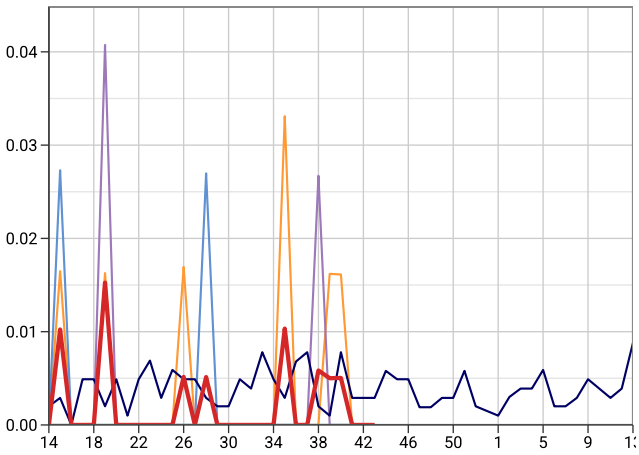
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



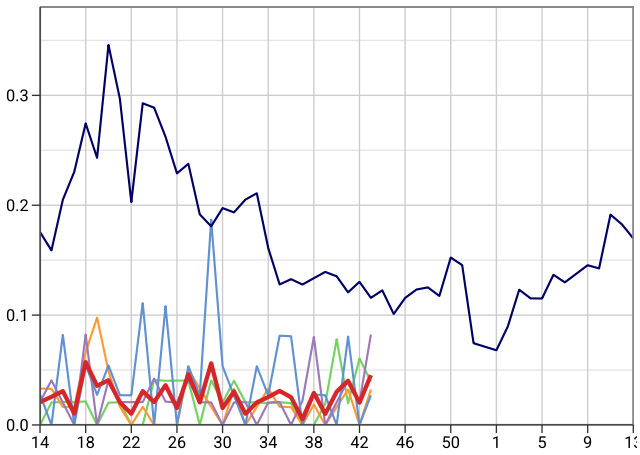
Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



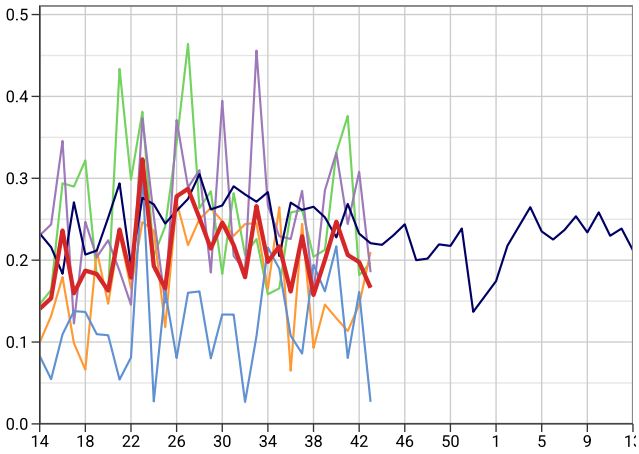
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



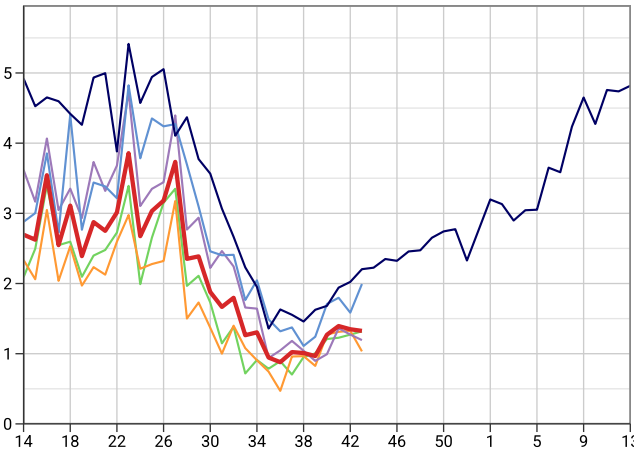
5. Skin Contagions

National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

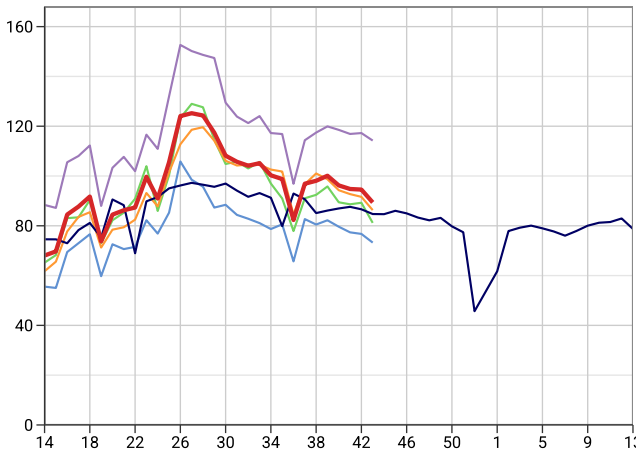
Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



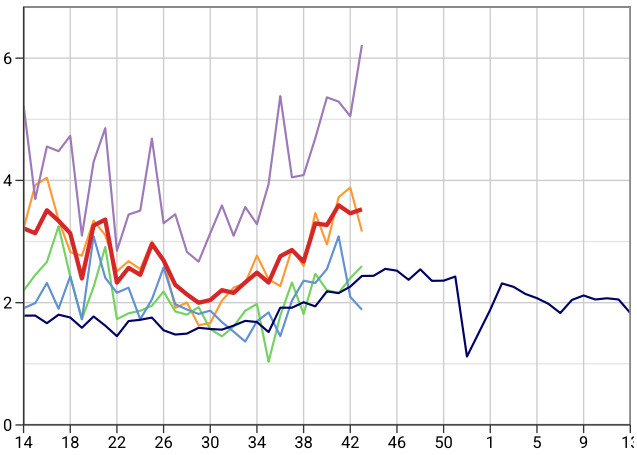
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



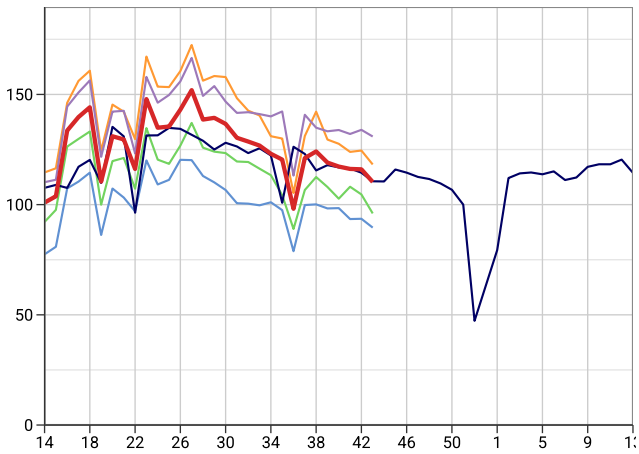
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



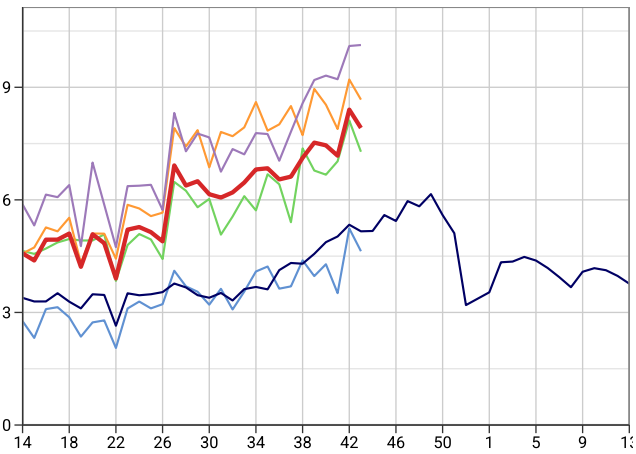
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23),
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average

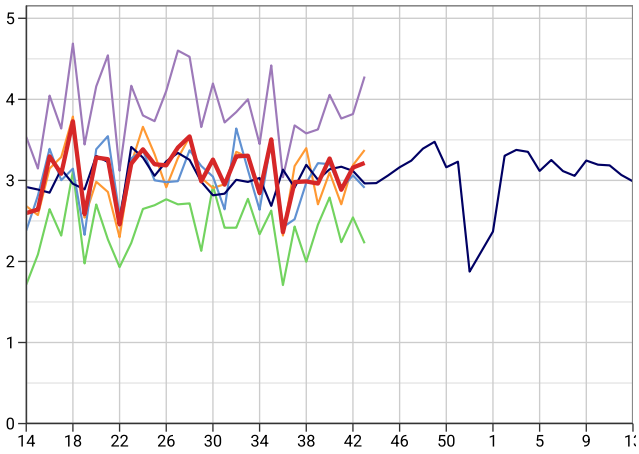


Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average

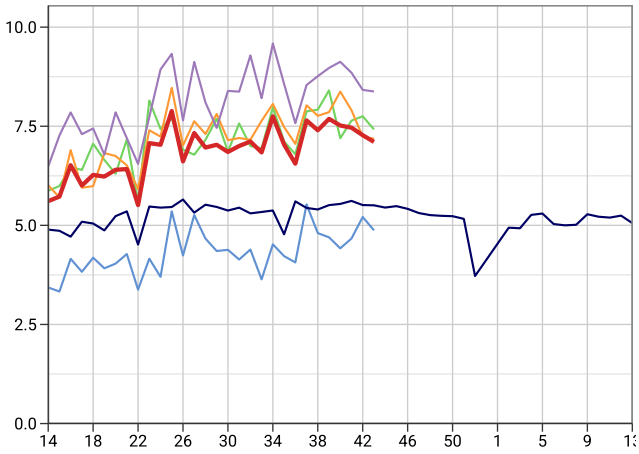


National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average

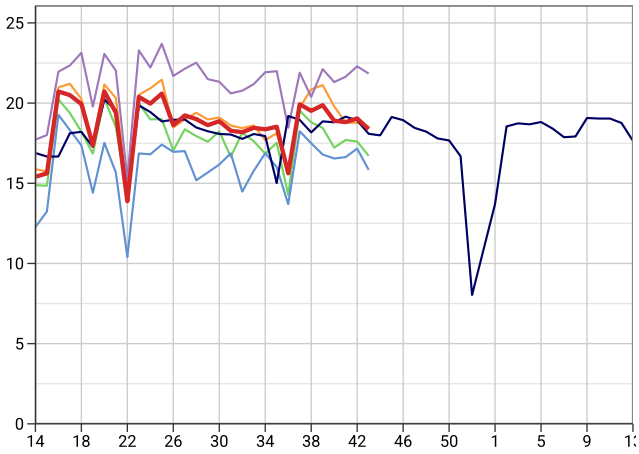


Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average

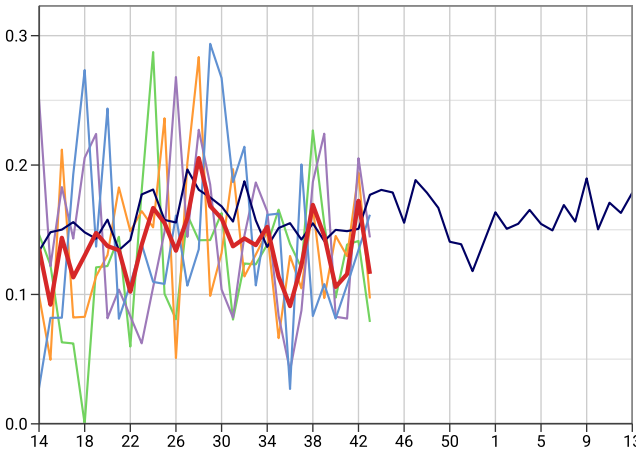


6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

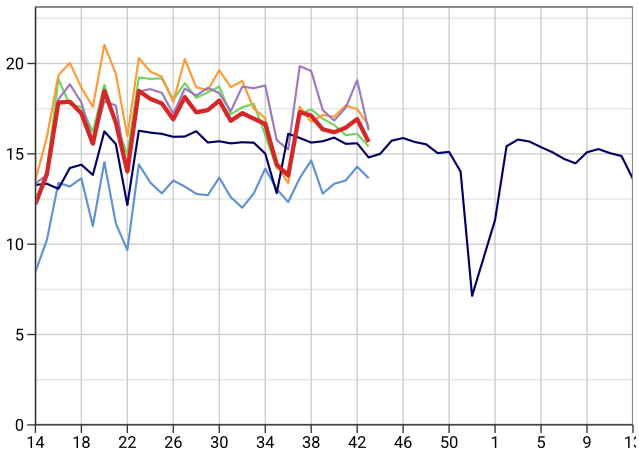
Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



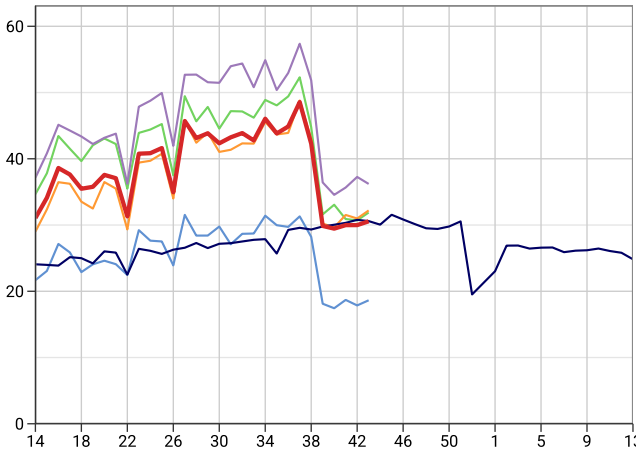
Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

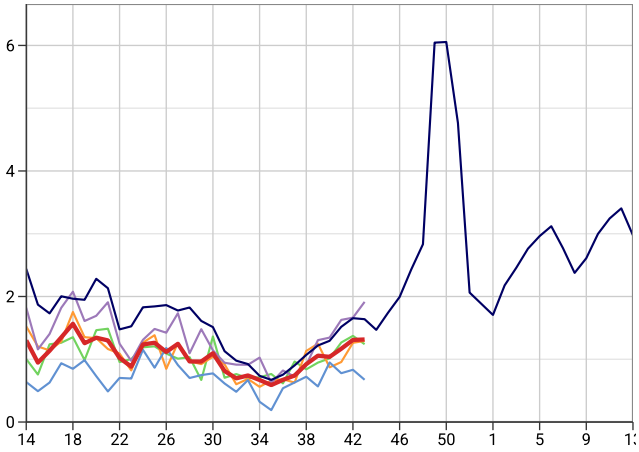
National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average

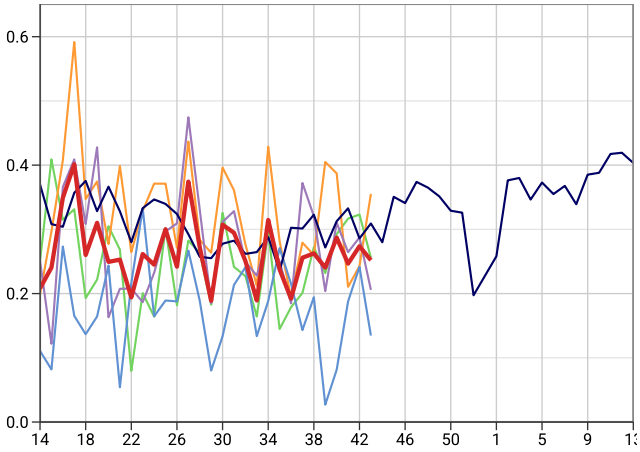


8. Other Disorders

Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2026/27 compared with 5 year average



9. Tabular Summary by Disease

	Week 40	Week 41	Week 42	Week 43
Dates	28/09/2026 - 04/10/2026	05/10/2026 - 11/10/2026	12/10/2026 - 18/10/2026	19/10/2026 - 25/10/2026
Population	19,844,750	19,869,017	19,727,725	19,845,276
Practice Count	1,860	1,866	1,863	1,866

	Week 40		Week 41		Week 42		Week 43	
Disease	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	1.6	319	1.7	342	1.5	303	1.7	338
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	271.7	53,927	271.1	53,868	275.2	54,294	269.4	53,466
Allergic Rhinitis	7.7	1,526	7.3	1,453	6.6	1,293	7.1	1,413
Asthma	9.9	1,955	9.0	1,790	9.5	1,881	9.3	1,845
Bronchiolitis	1.4	281	1.6	323	1.7	331	1.9	372
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	49	0.2	41	0.2	39	0.2	33
COVID-19	1.4	269	1.6	319	2.0	392	1.7	336
Chickenpox	1.3	252	1.4	277	1.3	266	1.3	263
Conjunctival Disorders	11.8	2,334	11.9	2,362	12.4	2,444	11.7	2,328
Croup	4.2	838	4.1	805	4.6	912	4.5	890
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	7.4	1,475	7.8	1,552	7.5	1,487	8.0	1,579
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	11.2	2,217	11.6	2,312	11.5	2,265	11.1	2,200
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	18.6	3,684	19.4	3,854	19.0	3,756	19.0	3,766
Herpes Simplex	3.3	649	2.9	573	3.2	623	3.2	638
Herpes Zoster	7.5	1,492	7.5	1,483	7.3	1,435	7.1	1,410
Impetigo	7.5	1,479	7.2	1,426	8.4	1,658	7.9	1,571
Infected Insect Bites	11.7	2,326	9.7	1,936	7.4	1,460	5.2	1,038
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	6.8	1,353	7.0	1,396	7.5	1,482	6.6	1,309
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	57	0.2	49	0.3	54	0.3	50
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	5.6	1,103	6.3	1,257	6.6	1,294	6.6	1,300
Laryngitis	0.9	179	1.0	193	0.9	183	0.8	161
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	79.5	15,784	81.9	16,264	81.9	16,162	81.6	16,197
Measles	0.0	5	0.0	8	0.0	7	0.0	4
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	21	0.1	23	0.2	34	0.1	23
Mumps	0.0	5	0.0	8	0.0	4	0.0	8
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	3.0	591	2.7	545	2.8	546	2.8	564
Otitis Media	24.6	4,882	22.9	4,542	23.9	4,712	22.3	4,431
Peripheral Nervous Disease	18.9	3,750	18.8	3,738	19.0	3,757	18.4	3,647
Pneumonia	2.9	572	3.1	609	3.4	672	3.3	660
Rubella	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies	3.3	649	3.6	714	3.5	683	3.5	700
Sinusitis	23.7	4,706	23.0	4,579	23.4	4,623	21.8	4,331
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	96.2	19,093	94.8	18,832	94.5	18,651	89.4	17,738
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.0	206	1.2	232	1.3	258	1.3	261
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	117.3	23,272	116.2	23,088	116.0	22,888	110.3	21,886
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	16.2	3,214	16.4	3,268	16.9	3,339	15.7	3,107
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	29.3	5,816	29.2	5,809	30.6	6,036	29.9	5,929
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	180.8	35,887	177.8	35,329	182.7	36,035	178.2	35,367
Urinary Tract Infections	29.5	5,845	30.0	5,957	30.0	5,916	30.6	6,065
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	51	0.3	52	0.3	54	0.3	60
Whooping Cough	0.0	6	0.0	8	0.0	4	0.0	9

Further Information

Focus on winter respiratory infections and infections with epidemic or pandemic infection

A key role of the RSC is to monitor conditions that cause winter pressures on the NHS, as well as provide early warnings of outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. The RSC has been collecting data on infections since 1957, conducting sentinel surveillance since 1967 (with virology added in 1993), and serosurveillance from 2000.

Pages 2-6 of this report focus on influenza-like illness (ILI), virology data, and acute respiratory infections (ARI). ILI is the name given to clinically identified flu cases, around half of which will be due to the influenza virus (the other half will be due to other viruses).

Measuring the level of circulating influenza

The level of influenza-like illness (ILI) is reported using intensity thresholds (Graph A, page 2 and Table E, page 4). These are calculated using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM). MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculating a baseline threshold and intensity levels based on pre- and post-epidemic rates. This provides a better measure of severity of ILI than simply comparing it to the five-year average rate.

The MEM intensity levels for ILI are defined as follows:

Threshold to Medium	Below 40% percentile
Medium to High	From 40% to below 90% percentile
High to Very High	From 90% to below 97.5% percentile
Above Very High	At or above 97.5% percentile

The MEM methodology is used by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to standardise reporting of influenza activity.

More information about MEM can be found at:

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22897919/

Rate of monitored conditions

Our monitored conditions are reported as the number of new cases each week per 100,000 population. We refer to this as the 'weekly incidence'. All conditions are shown with males and females combined.

The report's population, also called the denominator, is the registered population of RSC practices who share anonymised data for this report. The denominator varies weekly as patients register and deregister; additionally, a practice's data may not be included if there is an issue with data extraction.

Five-year averages

In addition to weekly incidence rates, we plot a five-year average for most conditions. Previously a ten-year average was used, but this window was shortened to reflect faster changes in seasonal variations and therefore enable a more meaningful comparison to relevant historic trends. COVID-19 pandemic years are excluded from this calculation for some conditions.

Regional rates of monitored conditions

In addition to a national rate, we present regional rates for all monitored conditions for four regions of England. The four RSC regions are aggregated NHS regions:

North	NHS North East and Yorkshire, and North West regions
Midlands and East	NHS East of England and Midlands regions
South	NHS South East and South West regions
London	NHS London region

Reporting of acute respiratory infections (ARI) by age band

In addition to regional rates, we report rates by age band for ARI. We display five age bands: those aged under 1 year, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-64 years, and those aged 65 years and over. We subdivide ARI into four categories:

- **influenza-like illness** (ILI);
- **exacerbations of chronic lung disease** (ECLD), mainly asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);
- **lower respiratory tract infections** (LRTI), including bronchitis and pneumonia;
- **upper respiratory tract infections** (URTI), including tonsilitis and sinusitis.

More information about our classification of ARI can be found at:

https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.35.2300682

About the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

What we do

Established in 1957, the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) 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 provides weekly reports about health and disease: the Weekly Returns Service (WRS). The WRS has been produced since 1967, in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and its predecessor bodies. The University of Oxford currently provides the WRS on behalf of RCGP and UKHSA.

The RSC is active in research and surveillance. In addition to the WRS, the RSC contributes data to UKHSA's Syndromic Surveillance system, and supports vaccine effectiveness studies. The role of general practice members of the RSC is set out in an annual commissioning letter.

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

www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/research-at-rcgp/research-surveillance-centre

Our data extraction process and governance

Data are extracted on behalf of the RSC from practice computerised medical record systems, twice a week by Magentus Data Management, or daily by Optum.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences (NDPCHS) at the University of Oxford. Our systems meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information about the NHS England approval of the RSC's data security can be found at:

https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/OrganisationSearch/EE133863-MSD-NDPCHS

What the data is used for

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 the UK Health Security Agency.

In addition to the WRS, the data are 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.

Get in touch

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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