

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year

35 / 2026

Population

19,366,744

Dates

24/08/2026 - 30/08/2026

No. Practices

1,817

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 rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) have shown increases in all regions and in all age bands except 5-14yrs. The overall ILI rate is marginally above the seasonal average for this time of year. Flu swab positivity has increased consistently over the last two weeks and currently stands at over 5%, with influenza A (H3) the current predominant circulating sub-type, pages 3 and 4.

Overall rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) have remained stable, but are marginally above seasonal average for this time of year, page 7.

The overall rate of COVID-19 has remained stable. However, there were increases in the rates for the Midlands and East region and in the 5-14yrs and 15-64yrs age bands, the latter being offset by decreases in the rates for the other age bands, page 6.

Other comments:

- URTI and URTI – croup rates are both above the seasonal average for this time of year and increasing, pages 9 and 11.
- ECLD – Asthma exacerbation rates are above the seasonal average for this time of year and increasing, page 9.
- Tonsillitis and pharyngitis, otitis media, sinusitis, infected insect bites, impetigo, herpes zoster and urinary tract infection (UTI) 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 ↘), while a change of more than 10% is marked with a double arrow (↗↗ or ↘↘). 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	121.6	113.7	↗ 7.9	2.2	2.0	↗ 0.2	6.5	6.1	↗ 0.4
Midlands And East	150.0	152.0	— -1.9	1.1	0.8	↗ 0.3	9.4	10.3	↘ -0.9
North	184.6	184.0	— 0.6	1.3	1.1	↗ 0.1	15.5	15.2	— 0.3
South	132.6	136.5	— -3.9	1.2	0.9	↗ 0.3	8.4	8.7	— -0.4
National	147.7	147.9	— -0.2	1.4	1.2	↗ 0.2	10.0	10.2	— -0.2

	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	23.6	19.8	↗ 3.8	93.6	90.1	— 3.6	0.5	0.5	— 0.0
Midlands And East	38.1	40.8	↘ -2.7	107.8	106.9	— 0.9	0.2	0.0	↗ 0.1
North	53.1	56.2	↘ -3.1	125.1	120.6	— 4.4	0.1	0.3	↘ -0.2
South	38.0	38.8	— -0.8	91.5	94.7	— -3.2	0.3	0.3	↗ 0.0
National	39.0	40.0	— -1.0	104.3	103.4	— 0.9	0.3	0.3	— 0.0

Age Group Breakdown

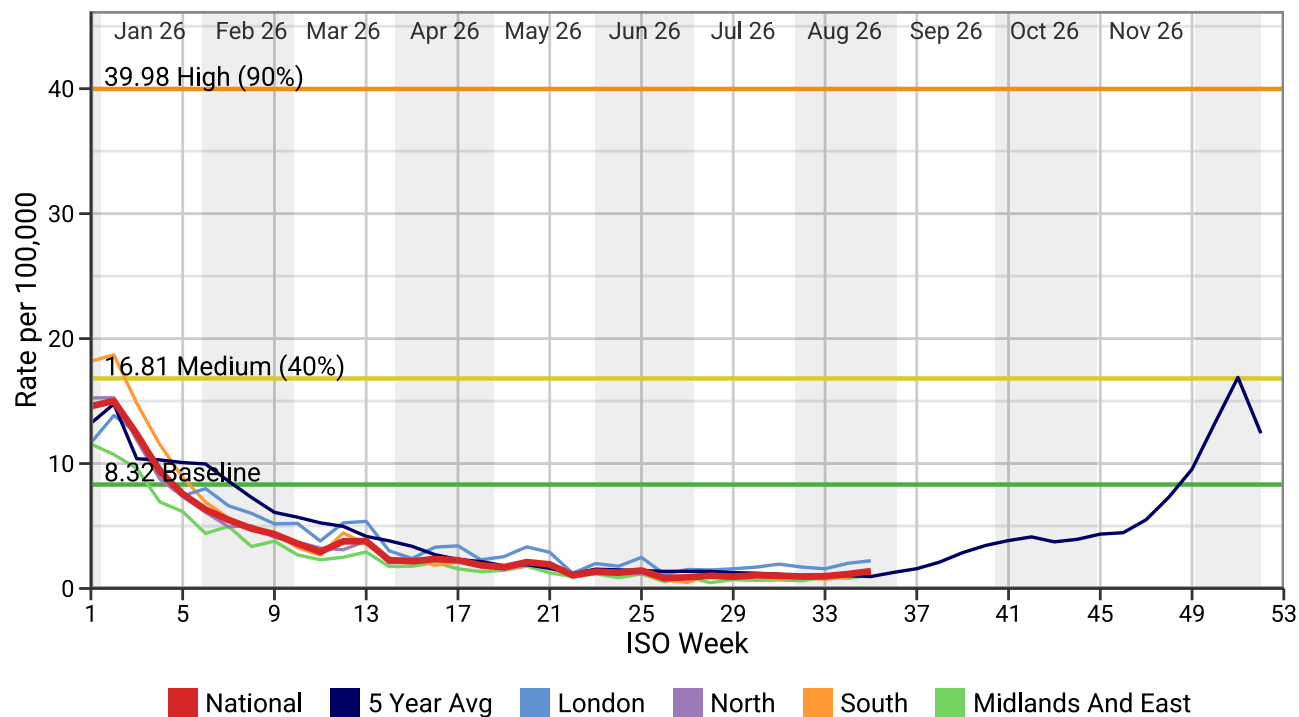
	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	471.5	451.3	— 20.3	1.2	0.6	↗ 0.6	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
1-4yrs	376.3	383.9	— -7.7	0.8	0.5	↗ 0.3	0.1	0.1	— 0.0
5-14yrs	149.8	161.9	↘ -12.1	0.3	0.4	↘ -0.1	1.7	1.5	↗ 0.2
15-64yrs	124.6	121.4	— 3.2	1.7	1.5	↗ 0.2	7.5	7.2	— 0.3
65+yrs	165.0	169.3	— -4.4	1.0	0.7	↗ 0.4	26.8	29.1	↘ -2.3
All ages	147.7	147.9	— -0.2	1.4	1.2	↗ 0.2	10.0	10.2	— -0.2

	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	62.8	64.4	— -1.5	432.6	397.7	↗ 34.9	1.2	3.6	↘ -2.4
1-4yrs	47.7	46.6	— 1.1	346.7	356.1	— -9.5	0.0	0.4	↘ -0.4
5-14yrs	8.6	8.9	— -0.3	143.3	155.9	↘ -12.6	0.1	0.0	↗ 0.1
15-64yrs	28.4	28.2	— 0.3	92.8	90.3	— 2.5	0.3	0.2	↗ 0.1
65+yrs	92.5	99.0	↘ -6.5	54.2	50.2	↗ 4.0	0.4	0.6	↘ -0.3
All ages	39.0	40.0	— -1.0	104.3	103.4	— 0.9	0.3	0.3	— 0.0

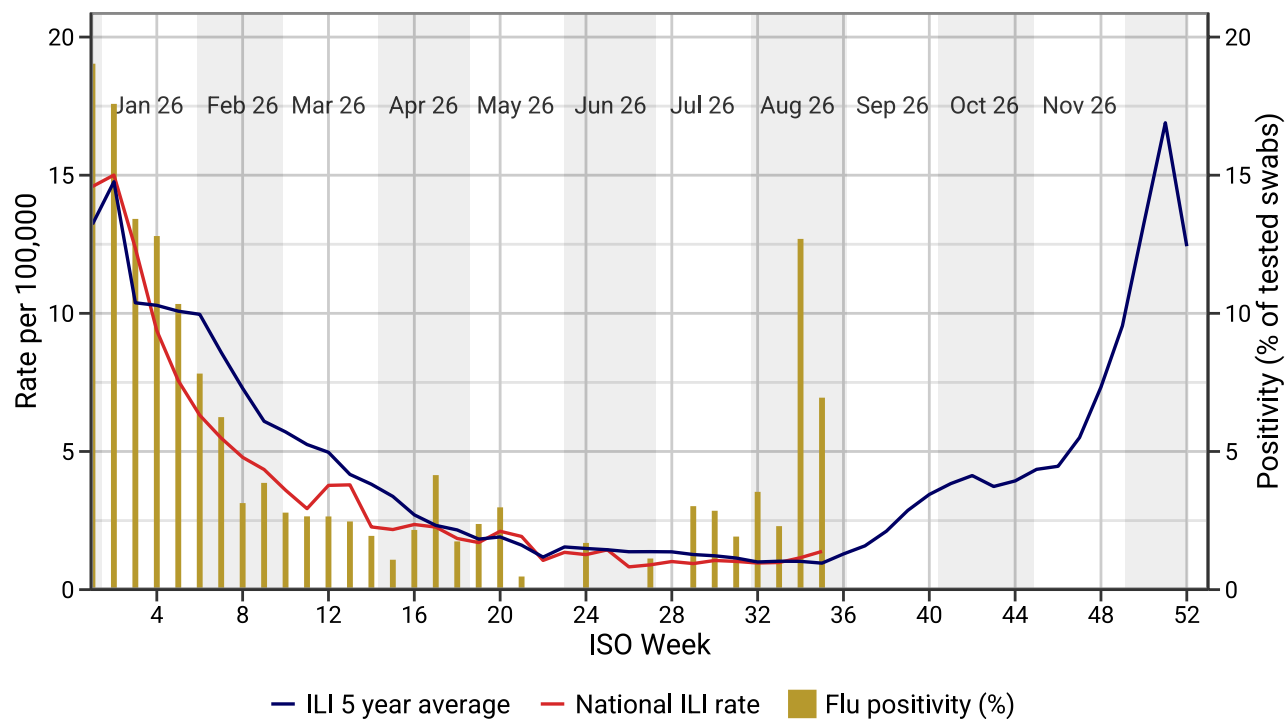
2025/26 Focus

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

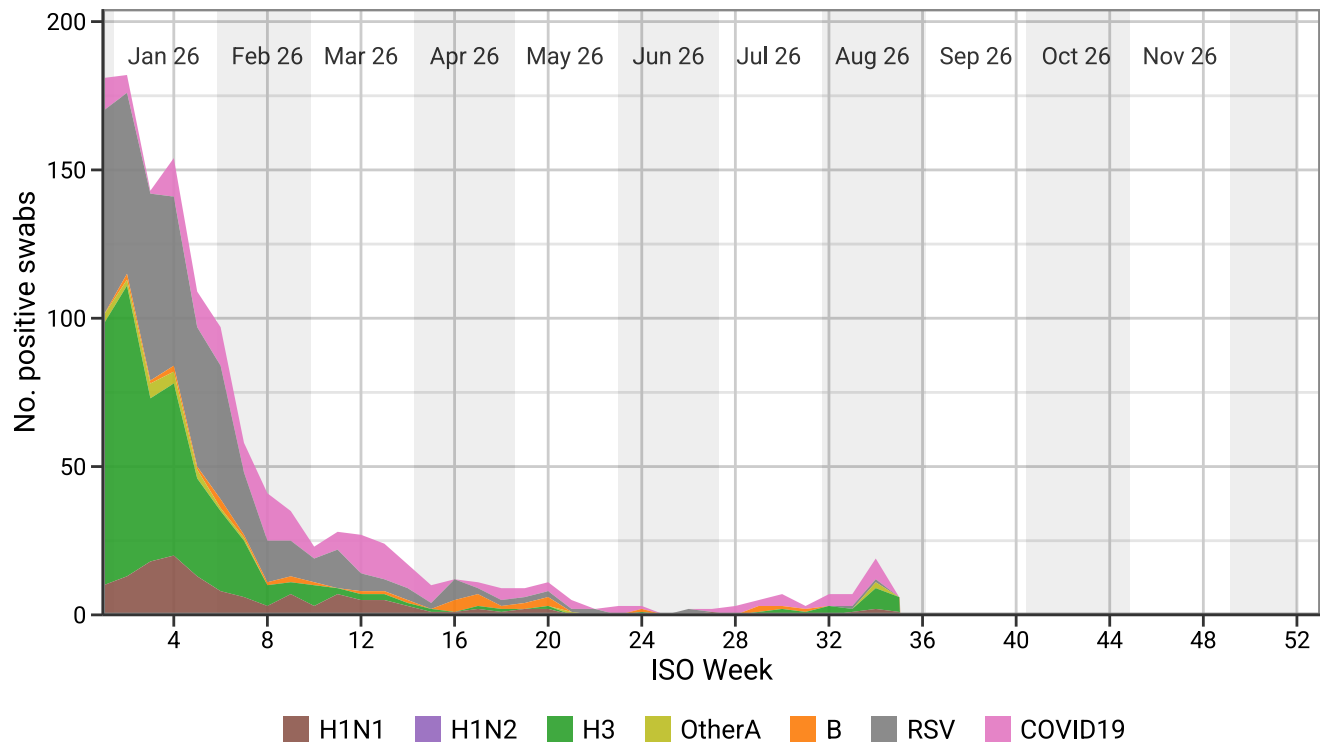
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.



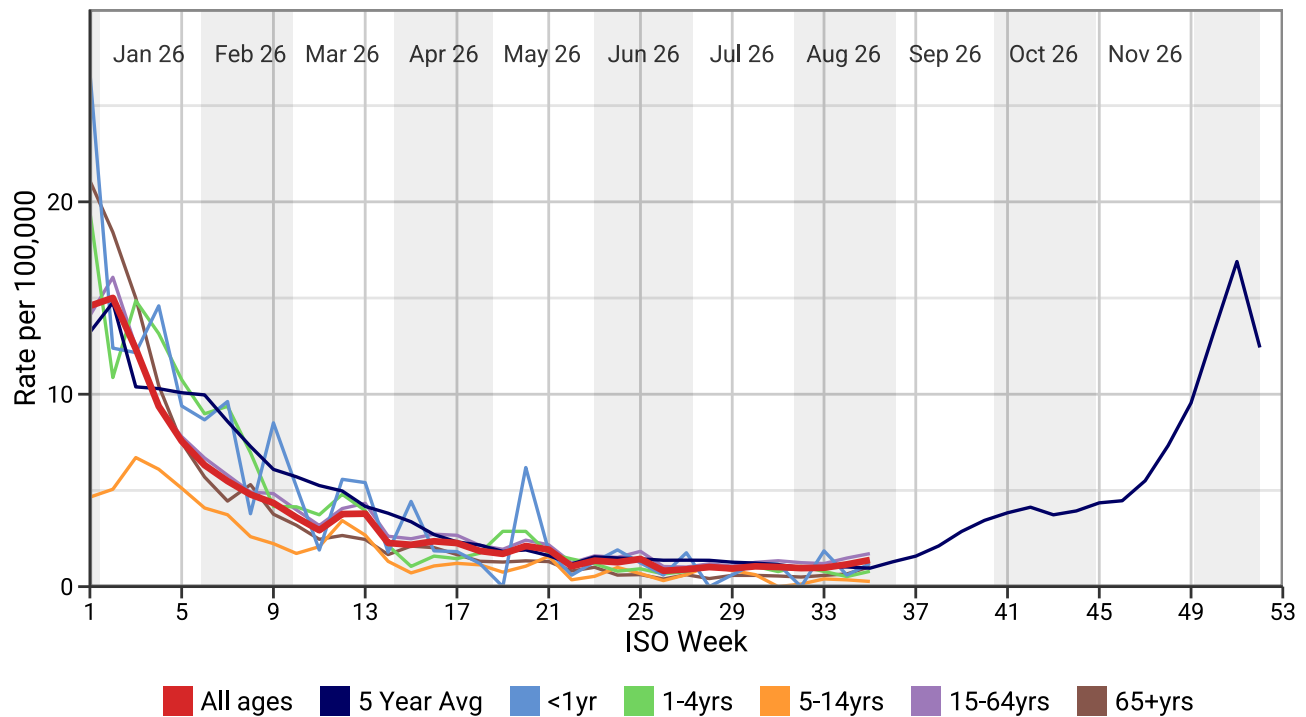
(B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance



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



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



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

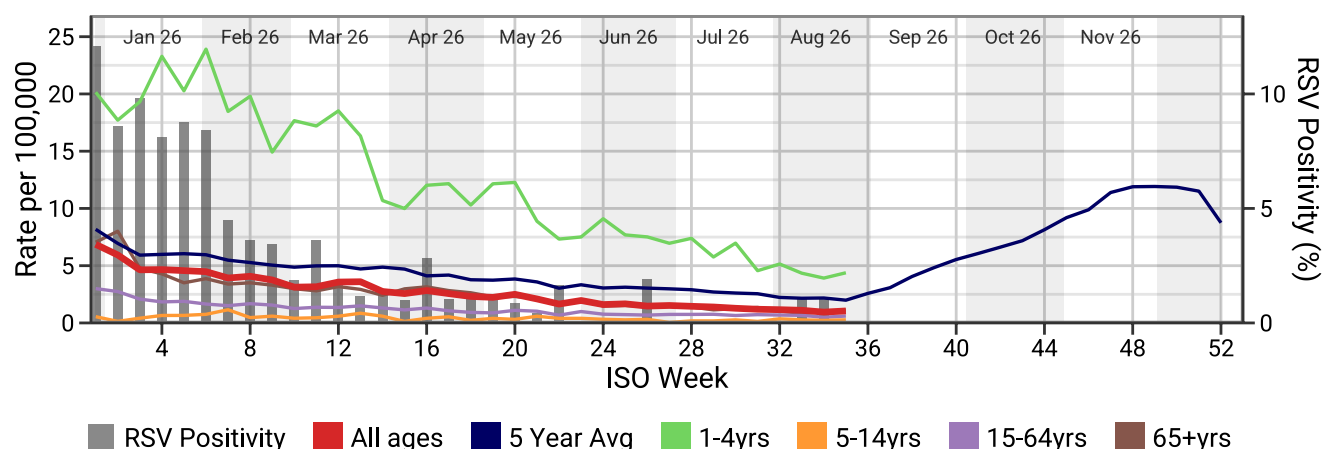
This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - thresholds are shown in the second table. Refer to page 19 for more information.

	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1-4yrs	23.9	19.5	10.9	14.9	13.1	10.8	9.0	9.4	7.0	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.8	4.0	2.1	1.1	1.6	1.5
5-14yrs	7.0	4.7	5.1	6.7	6.1	5.1	4.1	3.7	2.6	2.2	1.7	2.1	3.4	2.7	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.2
15-64yrs	10.6	14.1	16.1	12.5	9.4	7.8	6.7	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.2	4.1	4.3	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7
65+yrs	12.6	21.1	18.4	15.0	10.4	7.5	5.7	4.4	5.3	3.8	3.2	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.7
All ages	11.2	14.6	15.0	12.4	9.4	7.6	6.3	5.5	4.8	4.3	3.6	2.9	3.8	3.8	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
1-4yrs	1.7	2.9	2.9	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.8
5-14yrs	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3
15-64yrs	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.7
65+yrs	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0
All ages	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4

	Below Threshold	Threshold to medium	Medium to high	High to very high	Above very high	
1-4yrs		<7.86	7.86 to 16.38	16.38 to 30.29	30.29 to 39.75	39.75+
5-14yrs		<5.17	5.17 to 11.83	11.83 to 29.13	29.13 to 43.38	43.38+
15-64yrs		<9.81	9.81 to 18.31	18.31 to 44.31	44.31 to 65.49	65.49+
65+yrs		<8.10	8.10 to 14.49	14.49 to 37.90	37.90 to 57.96	57.96+
All Ages		<8.32	8.32 to 16.81	16.81 to 39.98	39.98 to 58.62	58.62+

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

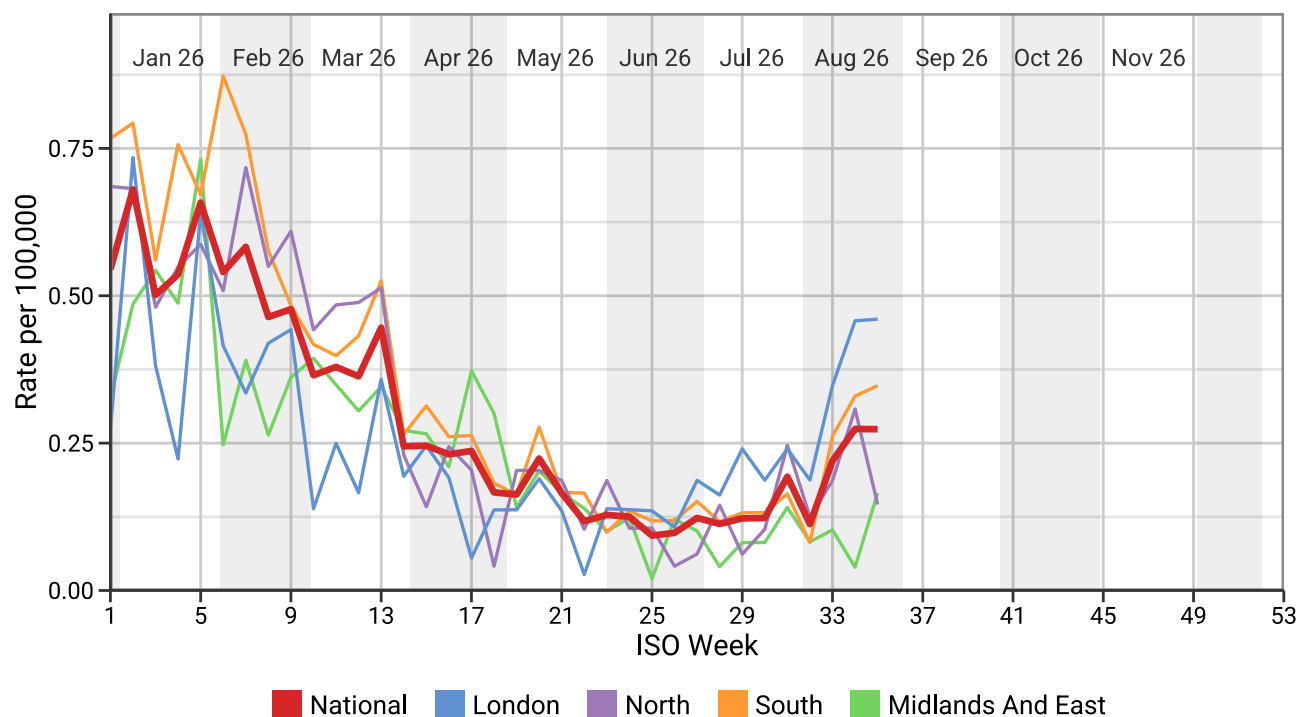
Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.

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

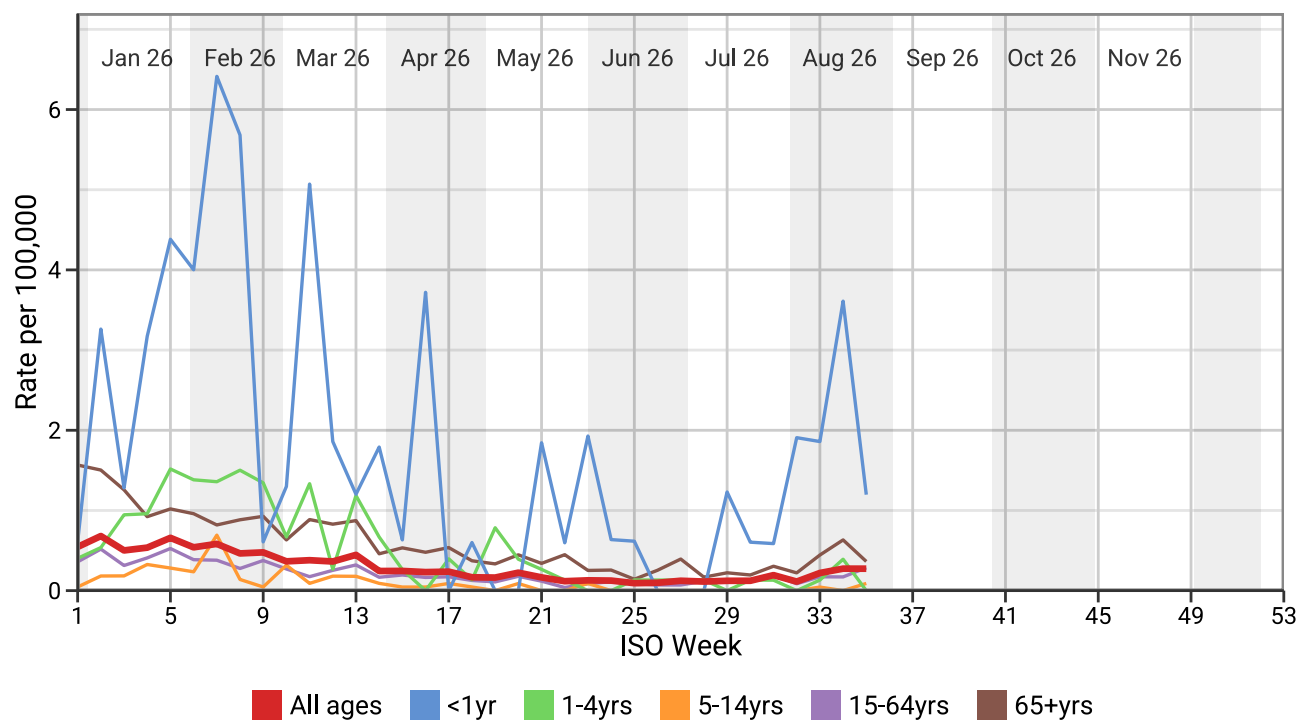
	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	1.2	28.7
1-4yrs	0.8	4.4
5-14yrs	0.3	0.3
15-24yrs	1.8	0.4
25-44yrs	1.6	0.6
45-64yrs	1.8	0.7
65-74yrs	0.8	1.3
75-84yrs	1.2	1.1
85+yrs	1.6	0.4
All ages	1.4	1.0

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
London	2.2	1.0
Midlands And East	1.1	0.9
North	1.3	1.3
South	1.2	1.0
National	1.4	1.0

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

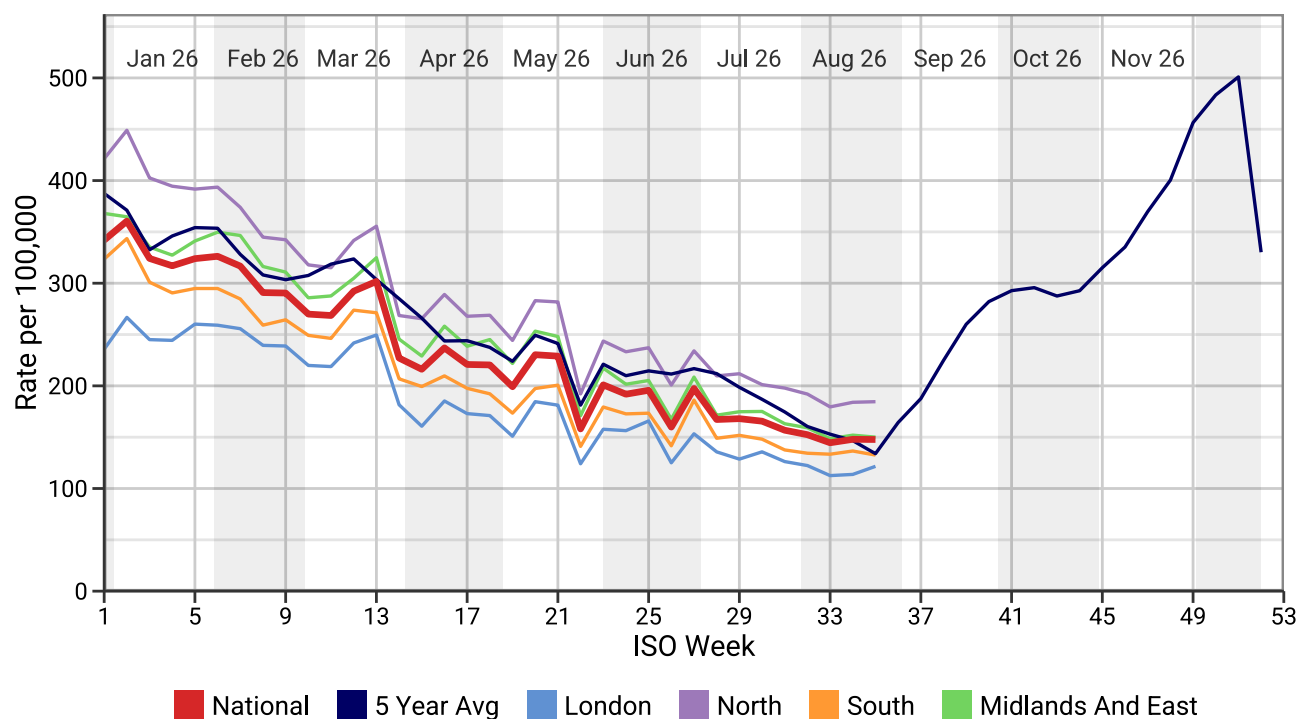


(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

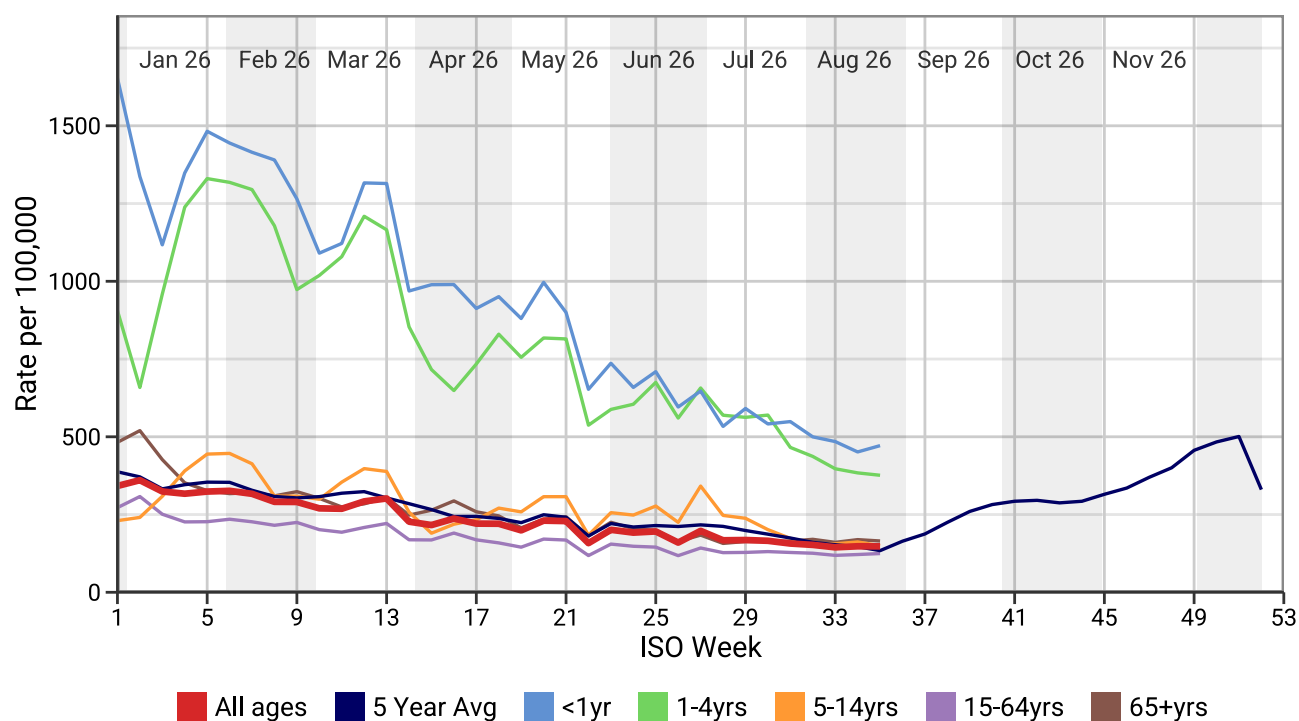


1. Respiratory Infections

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



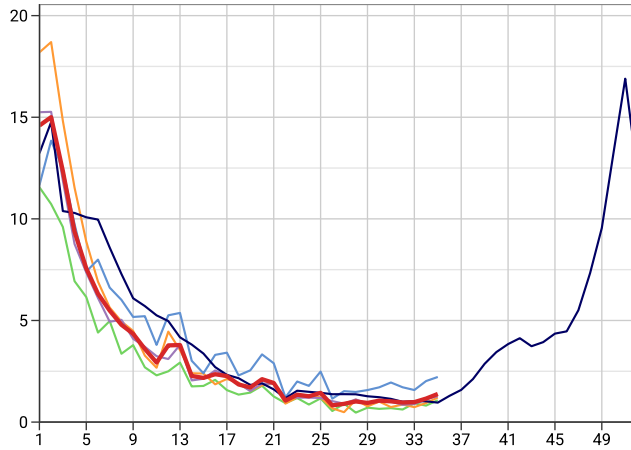
(J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band



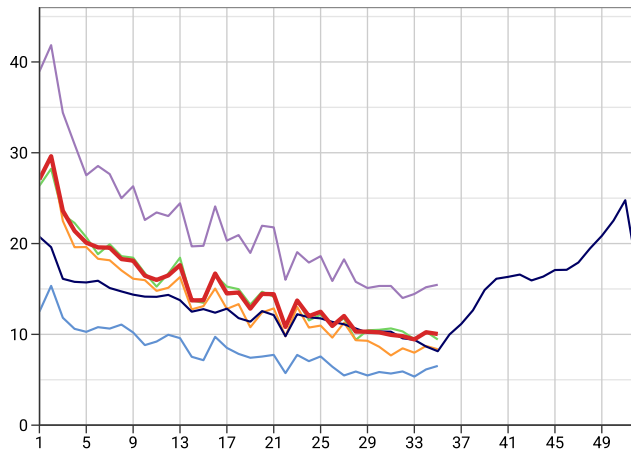
Respiratory Infections - by region

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

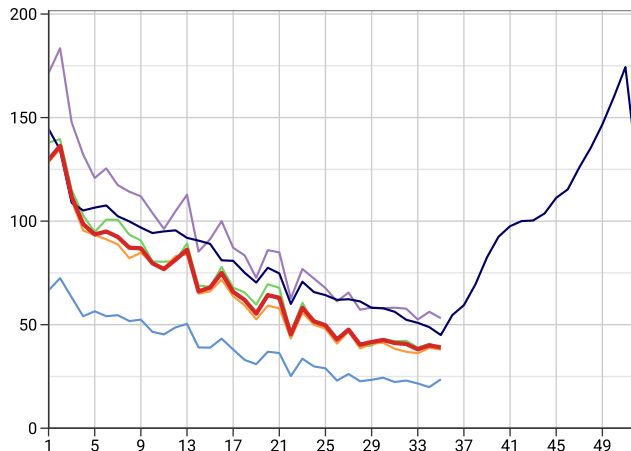
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



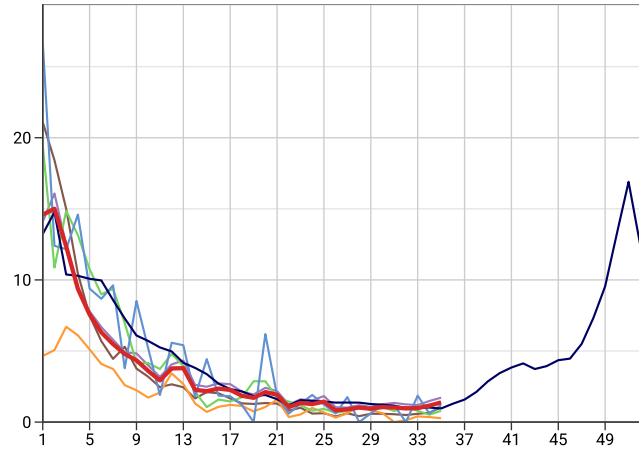
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



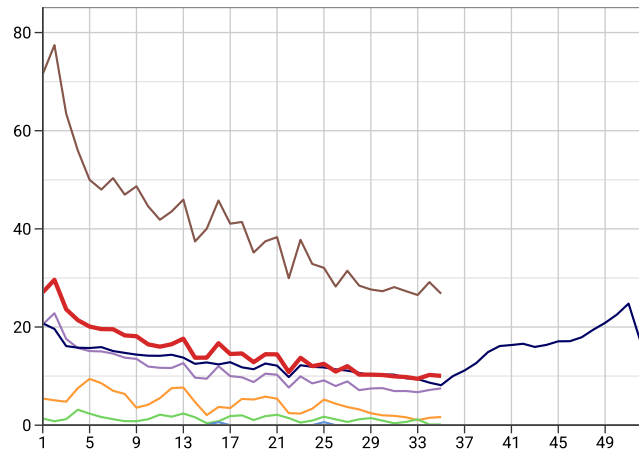
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

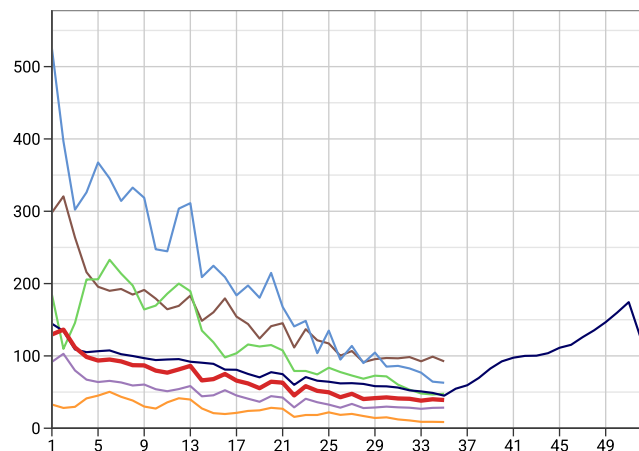
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



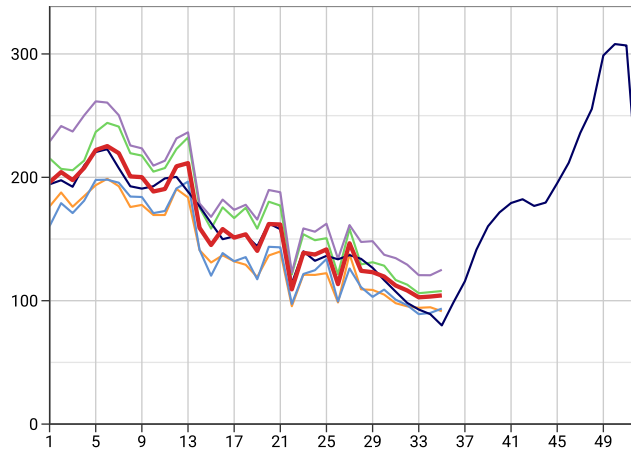
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Respiratory Infections - by region

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

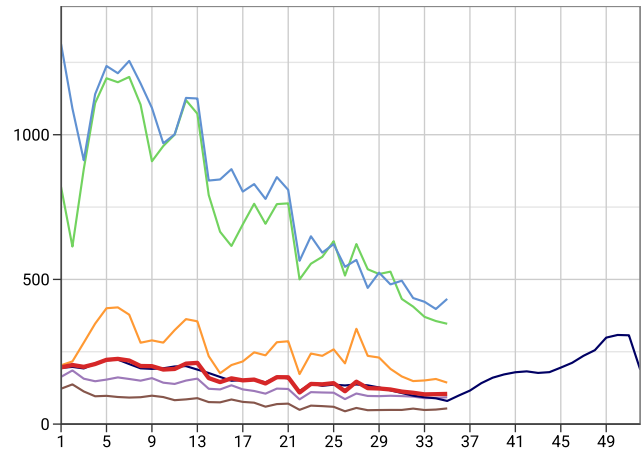
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



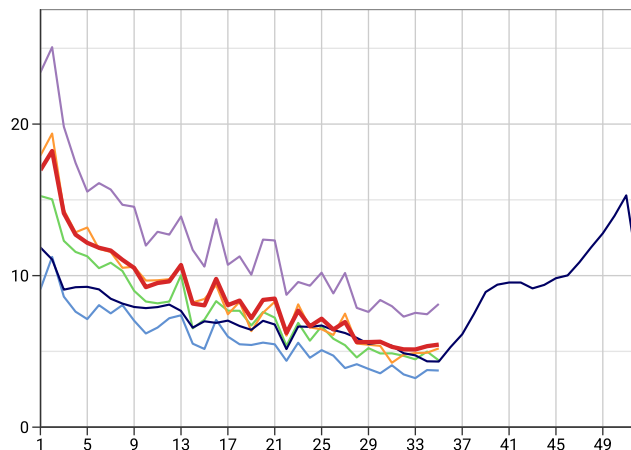
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

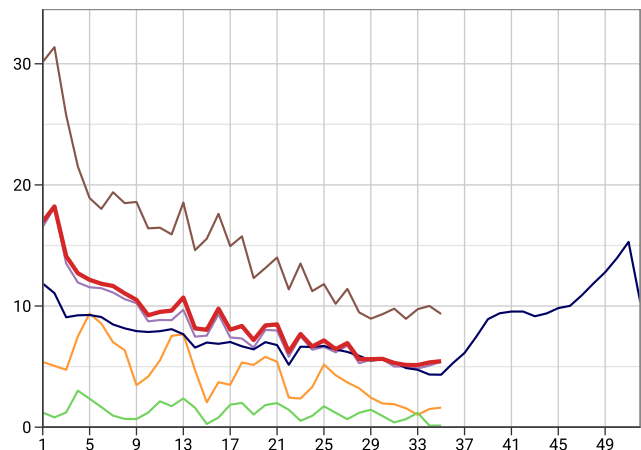
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



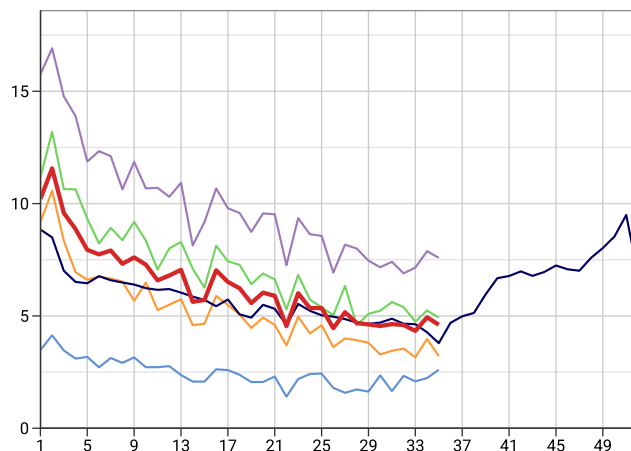
ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



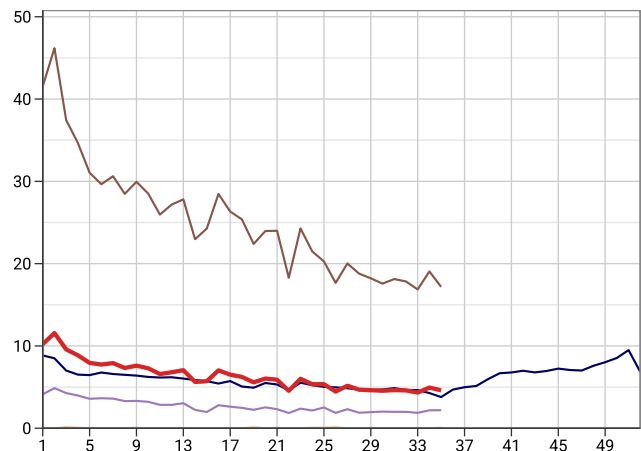
ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



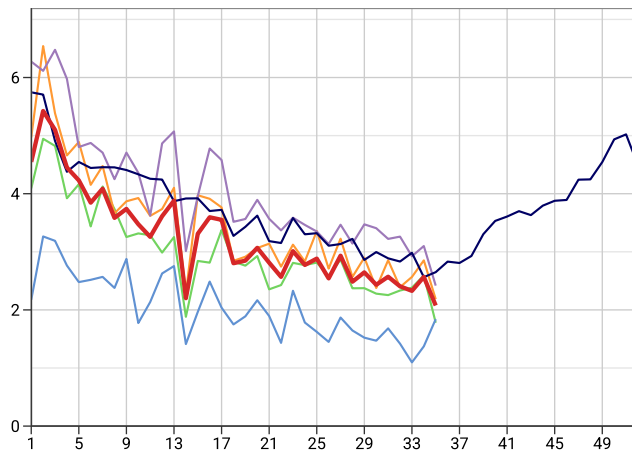
ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



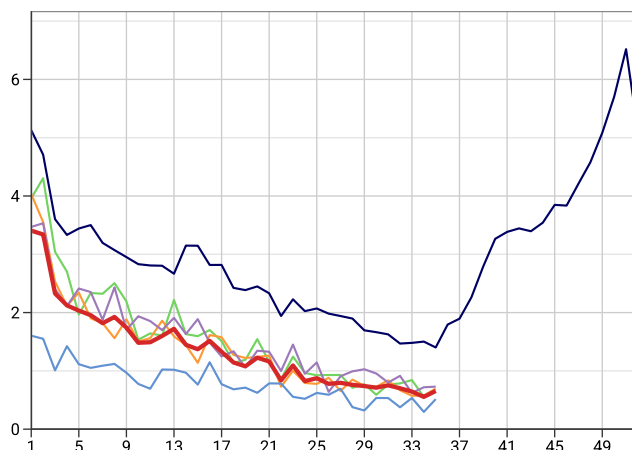
Respiratory Infections - by region

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

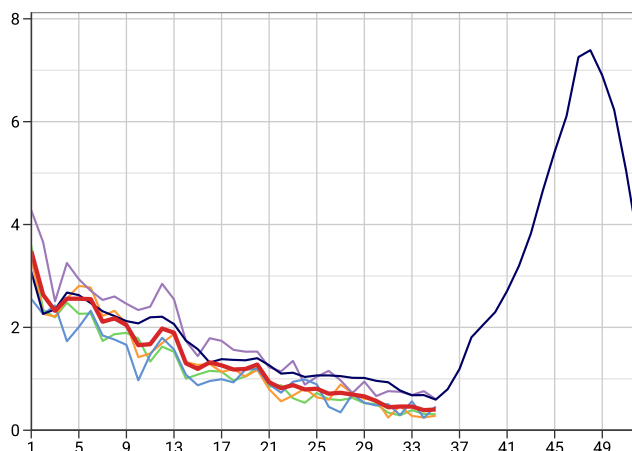
LRTI - Pneumonia
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



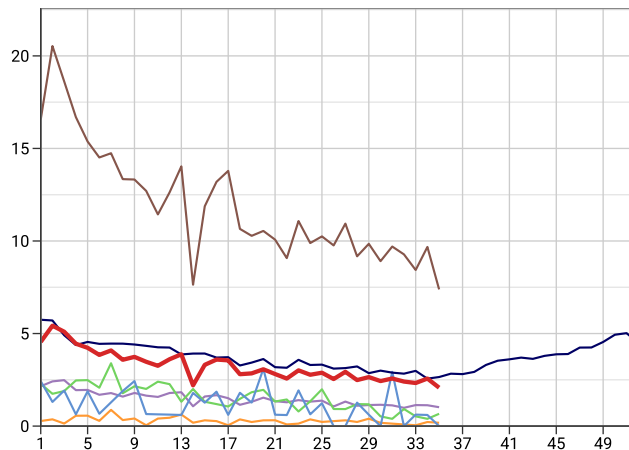
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



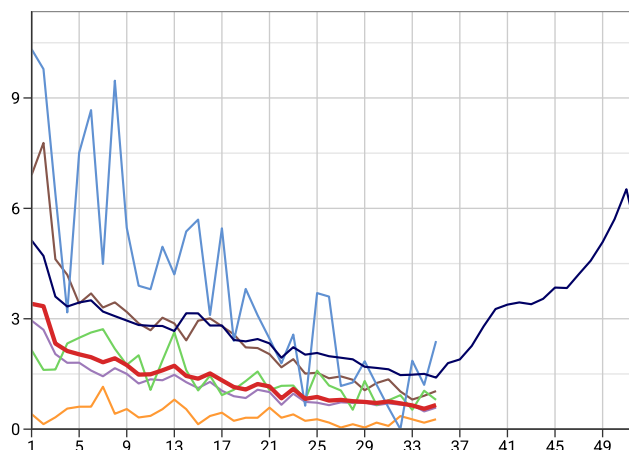
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

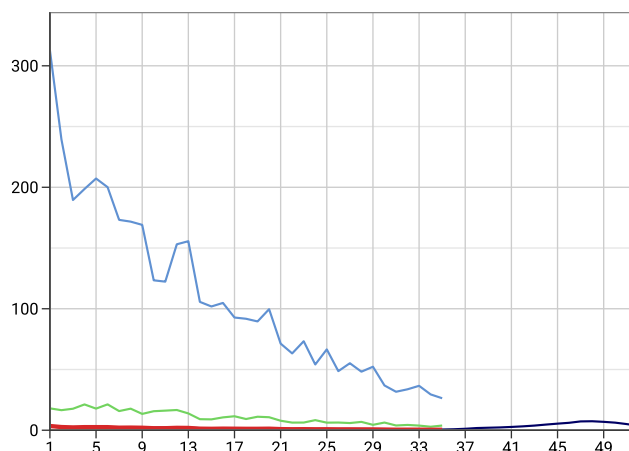
LRTI - Pneumonia
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



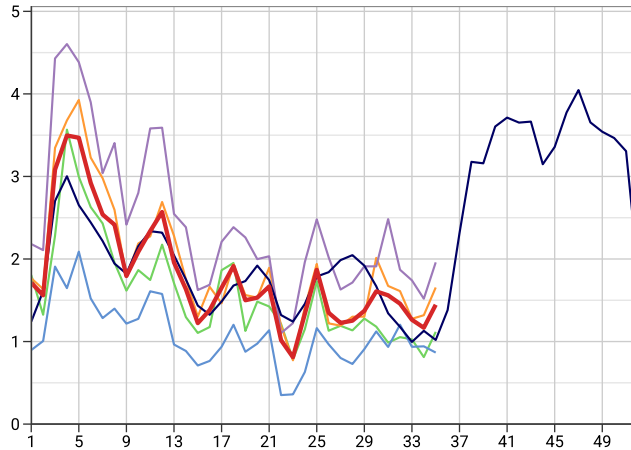
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Respiratory Infections - by region

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

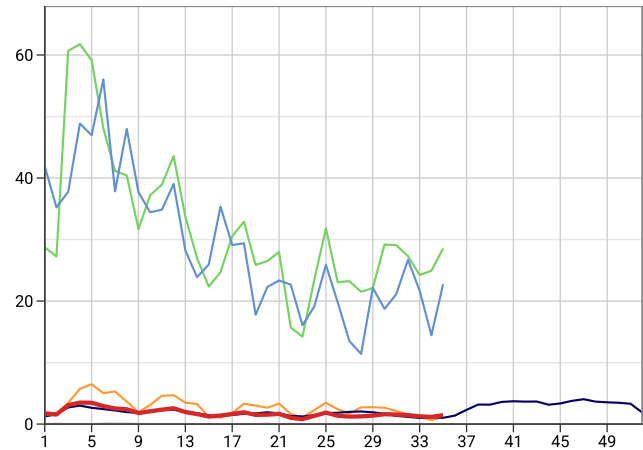
URTI - Croup
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



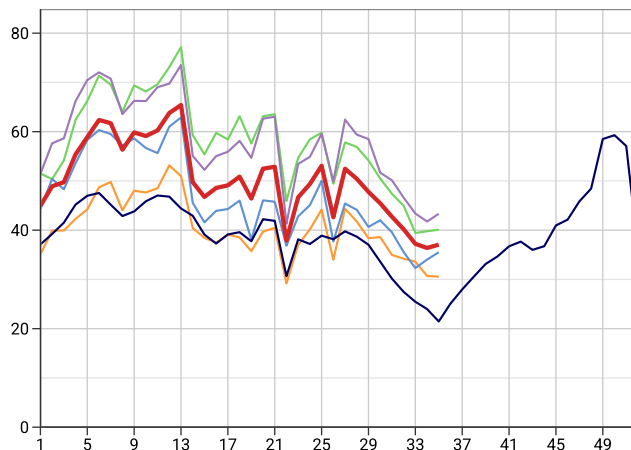
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

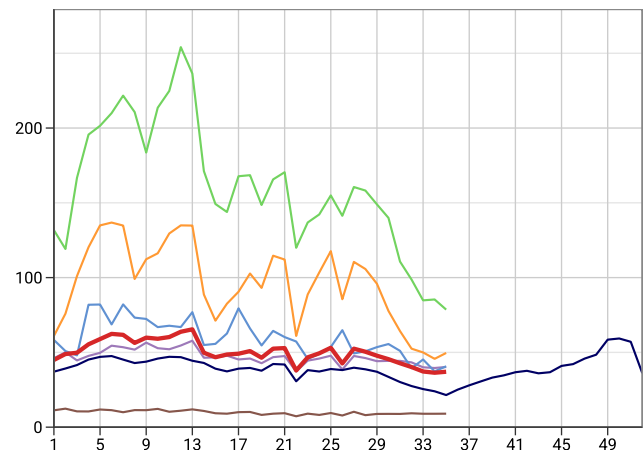
URTI - Croup
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



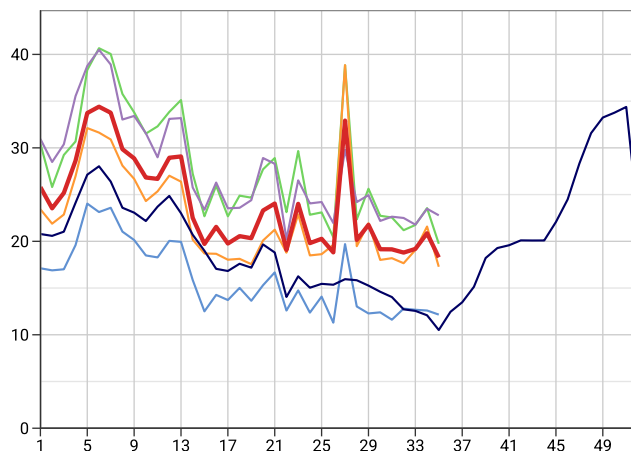
URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



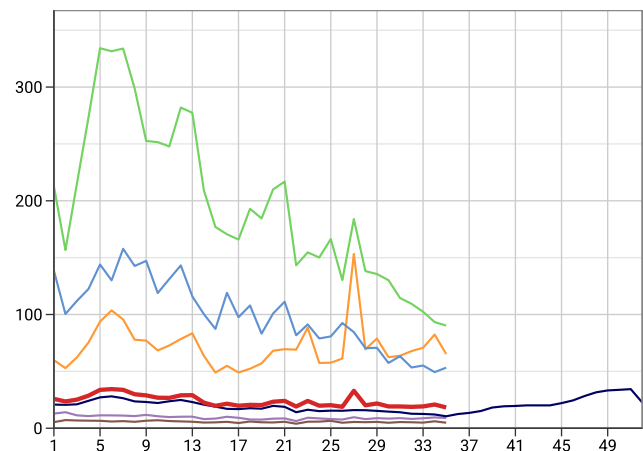
URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



URTI - Otitis Media
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



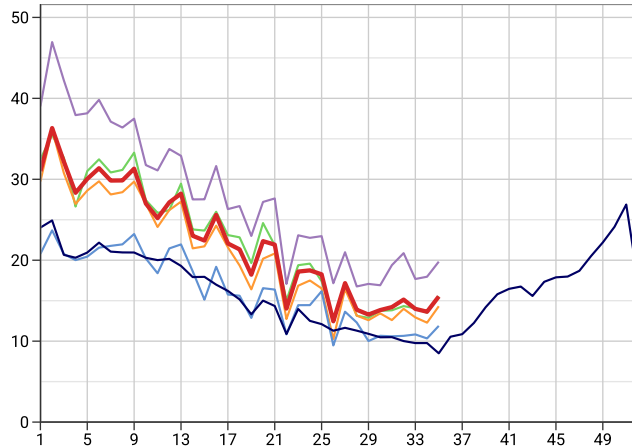
URTI - Otitis Media
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



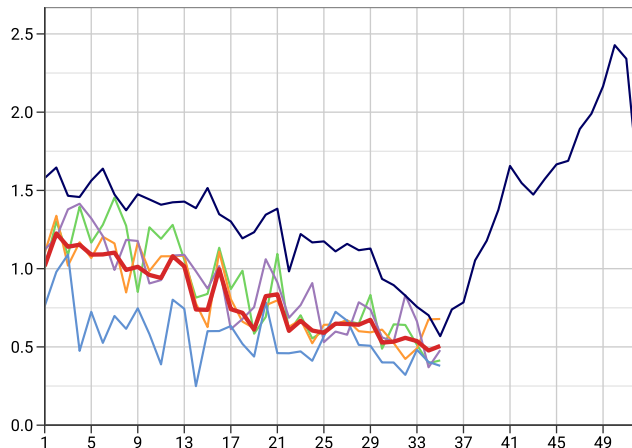
Respiratory Infections - by region

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

URTI - Sinusitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



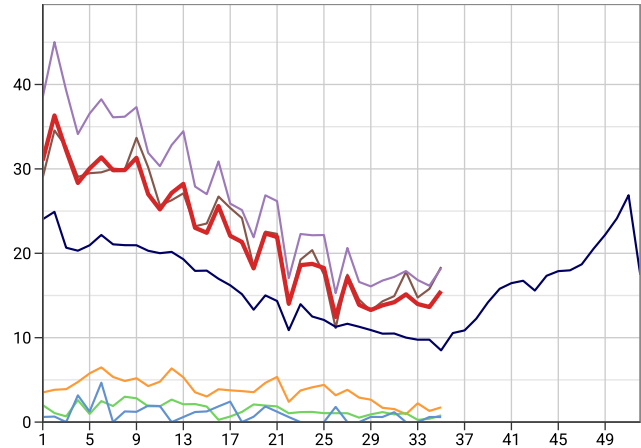
URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



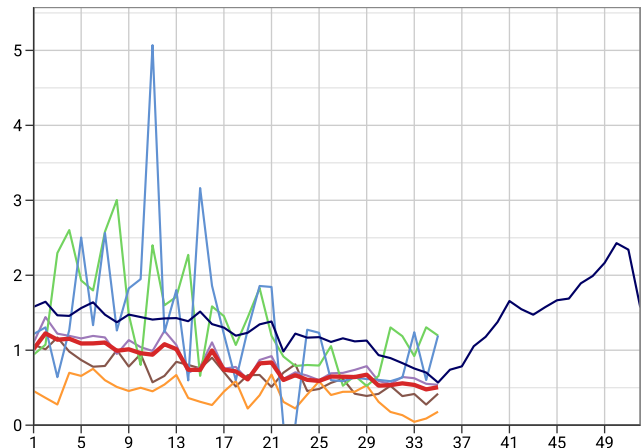
Respiratory Infections - by age band

■ 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 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



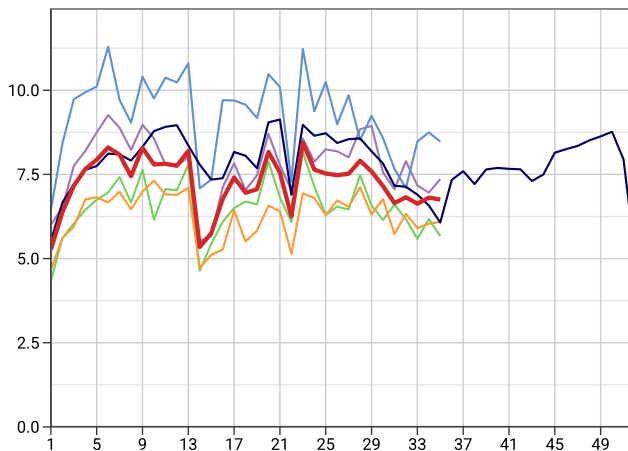
URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



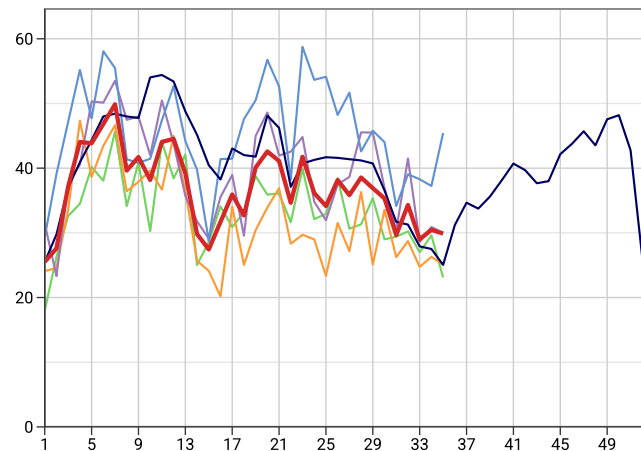
2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

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

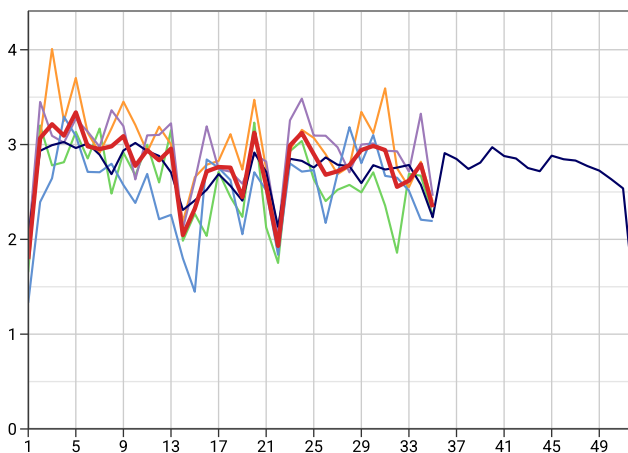
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



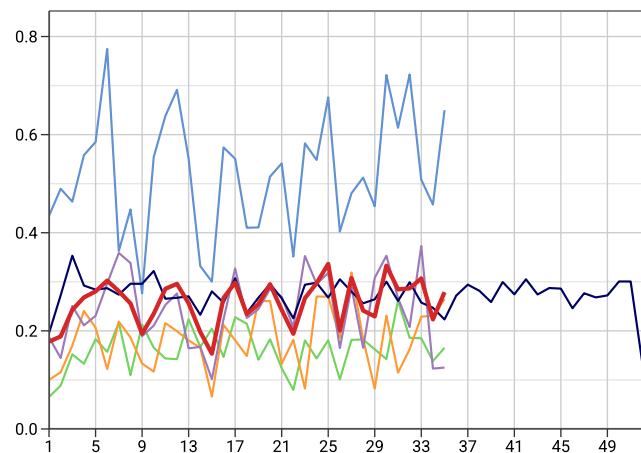
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



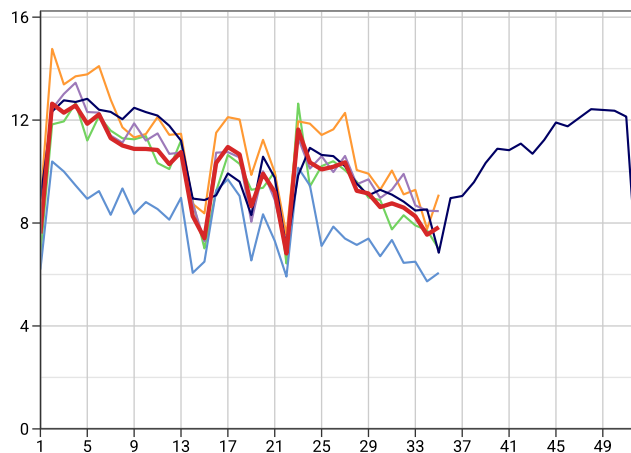
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



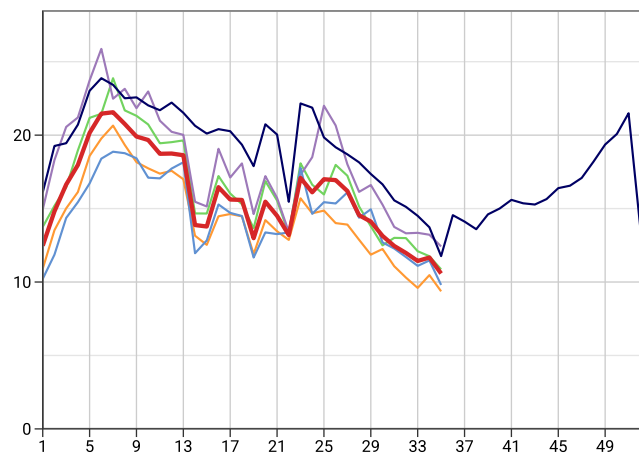
3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

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

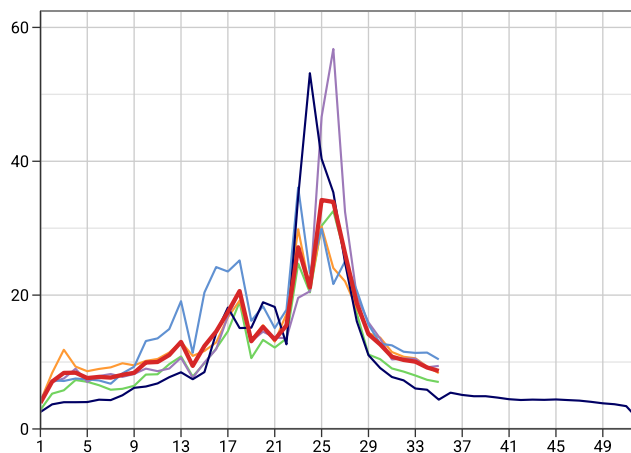
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



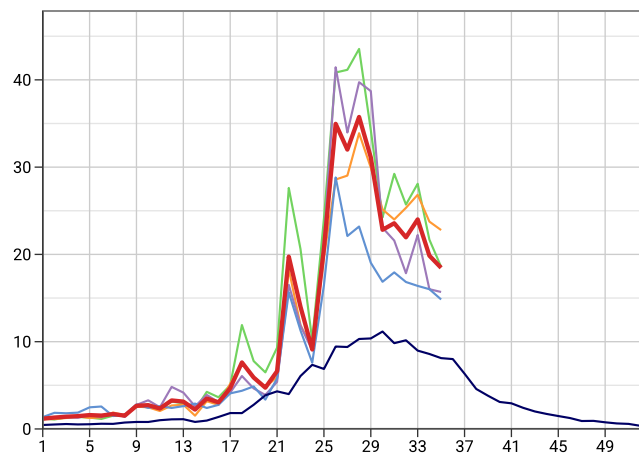
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



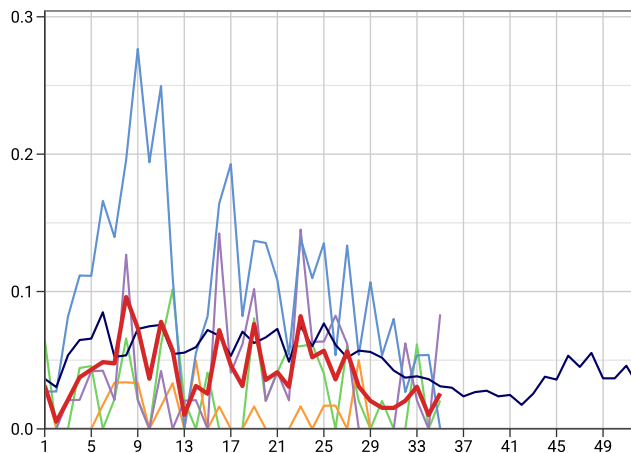
Infected Insect Bites
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



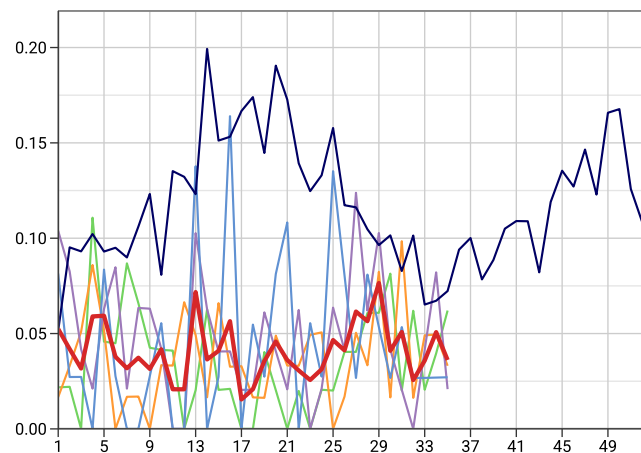
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

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

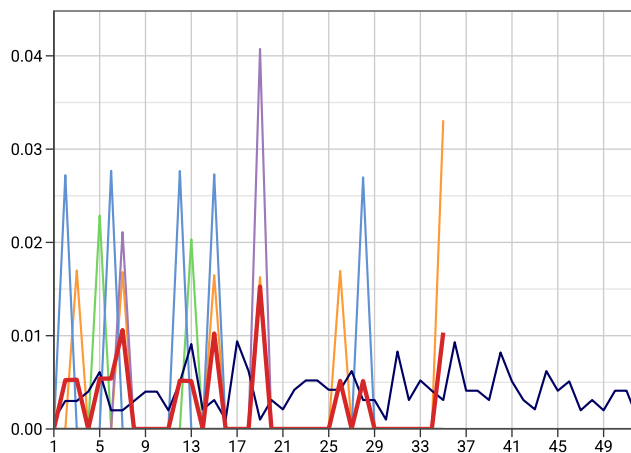
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



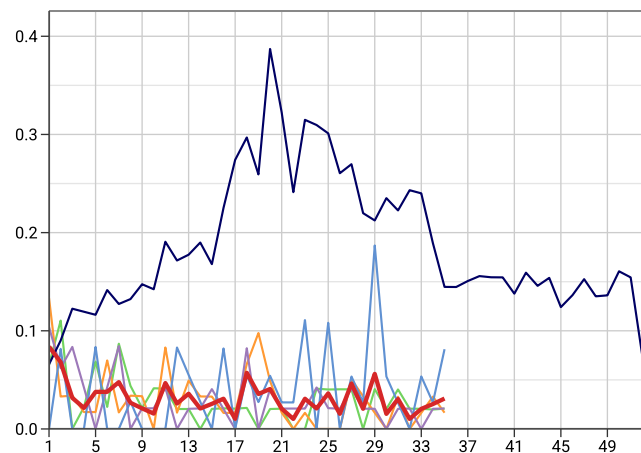
Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



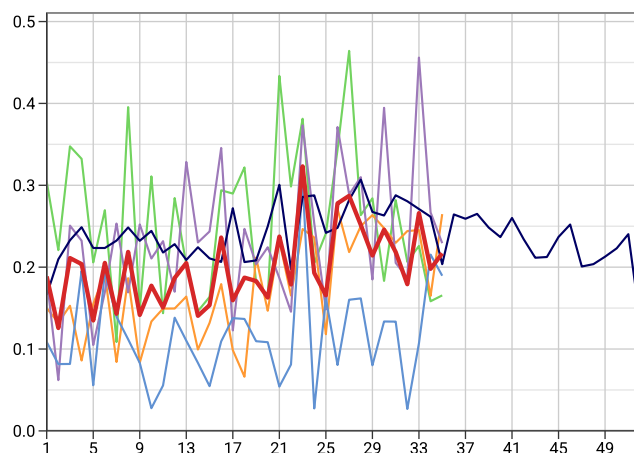
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



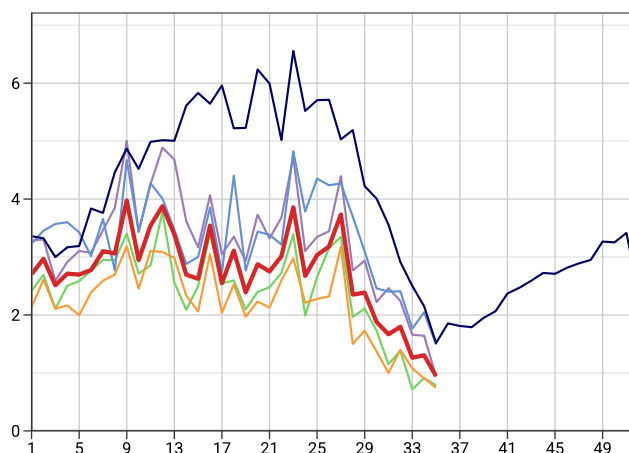
5. Skin Contagions

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

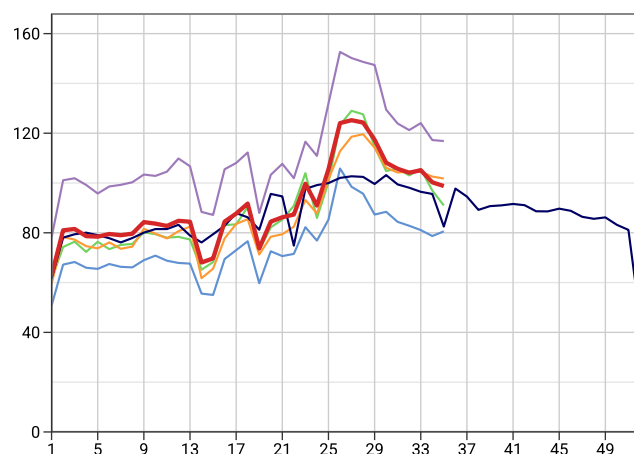
Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



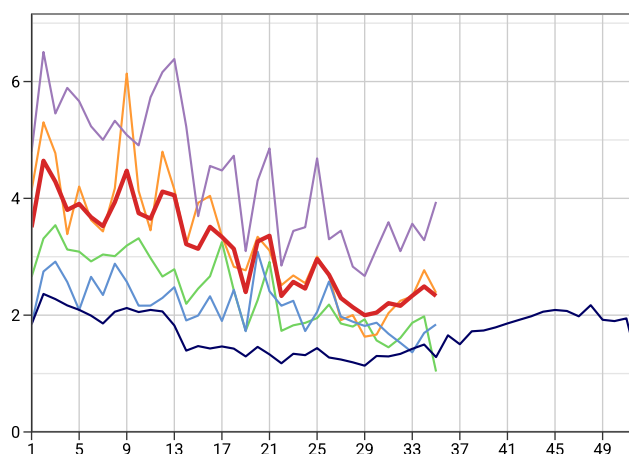
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



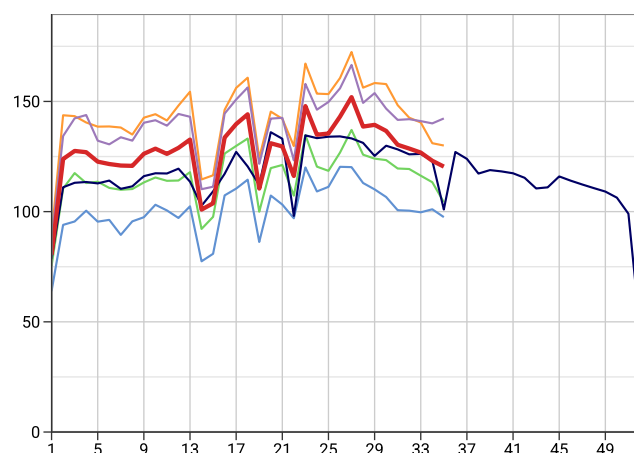
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



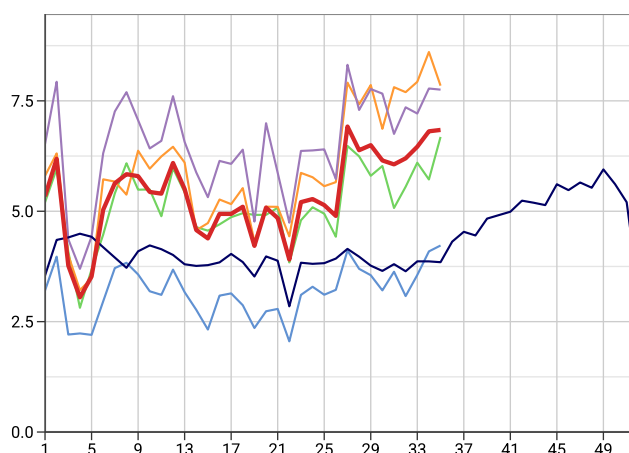
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23),
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

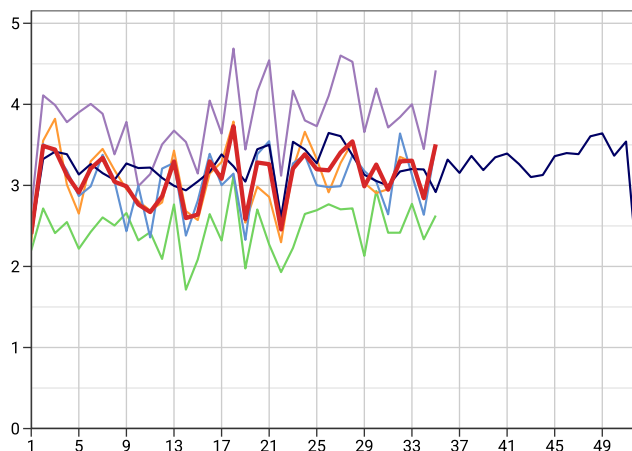


Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

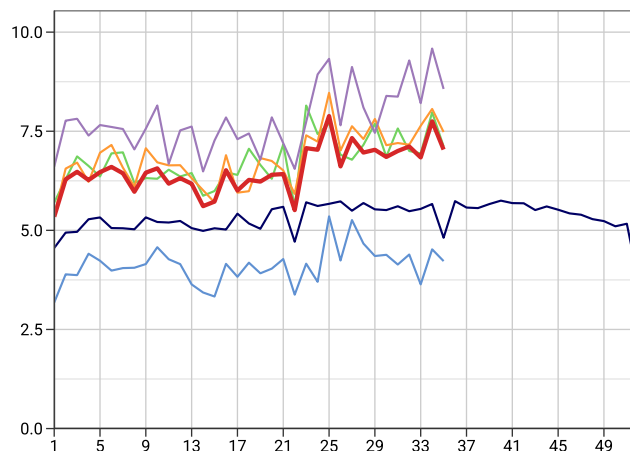


■ National
 ■ 5 Year Avg
 ■ London
 ■ North
 ■ South
 ■ Midlands And East

Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

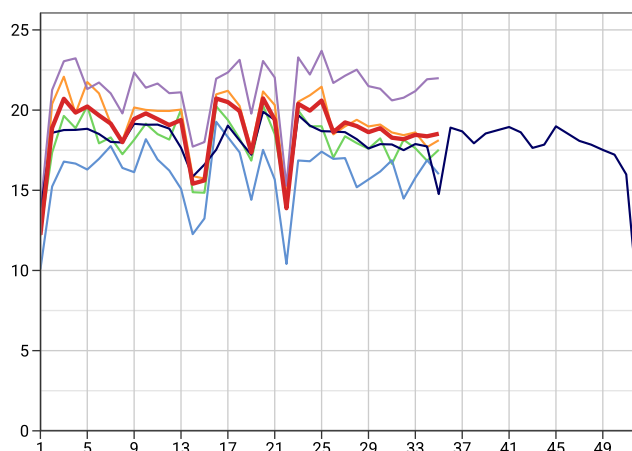


Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

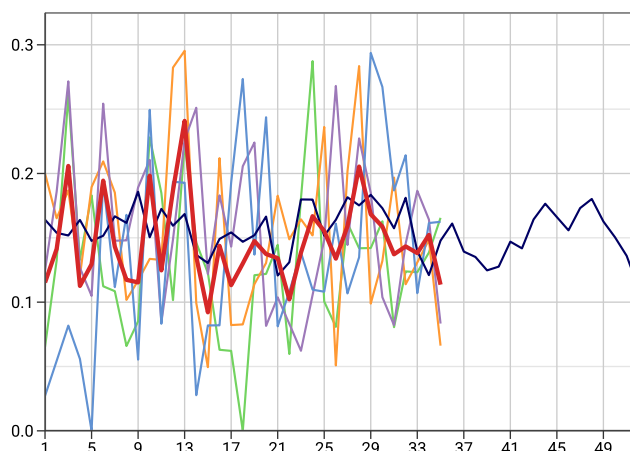


6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

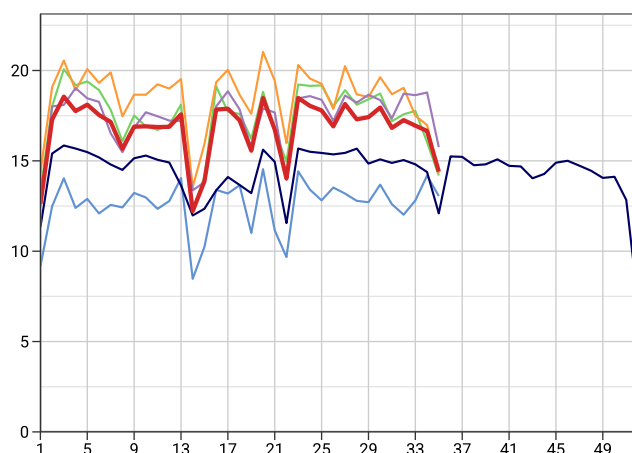
Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



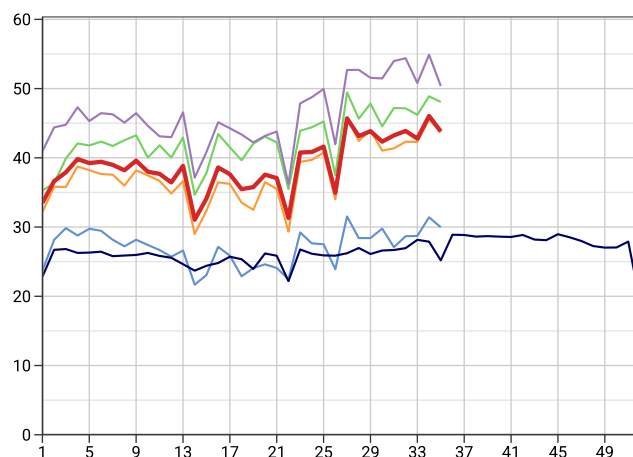
Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

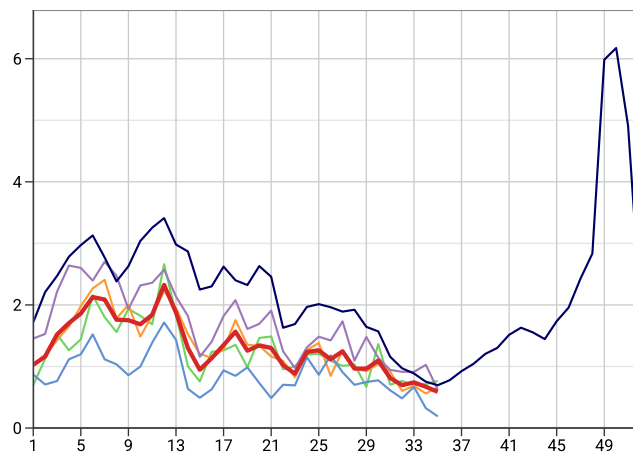
■ National
 ■ 5 Year Avg
 ■ London
 ■ North
 ■ South
 ■ Midlands And East

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
 compared with 5 year average

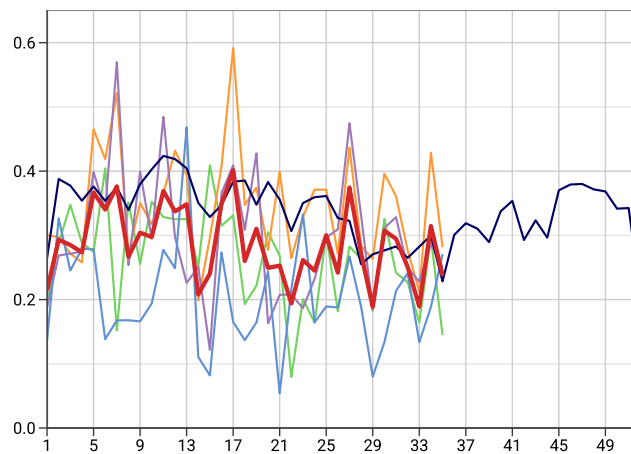


8. Other Disorders

Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10:
 A38,J020,J36), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by
 region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
 compared with 5 year average



9. Tabular Summary by Disease

	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35
Dates	03/08/2026 - 09/08/2026	10/08/2026 - 16/08/2026	17/08/2026 - 23/08/2026	24/08/2026 - 30/08/2026
Population	19,537,570	19,548,412	19,705,338	19,366,744
Practice Count	1,845	1,837	1,850	1,817

Disease	Week 32		Week 33		Week 34		Week 35	
	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	0.7	137	0.6	126	0.6	109	0.7	127
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	152.4	29,781	144.6	28,260	147.9	29,149	147.7	28,611
Allergic Rhinitis	10.3	2,015	10.1	1,966	9.2	1,810	8.7	1,679
Asthma	8.6	1,680	8.3	1,615	7.5	1,487	7.8	1,518
Bronchiolitis	0.5	90	0.5	90	0.4	77	0.4	78
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	35	0.3	52	0.2	39	0.2	42
COVID-19	0.1	22	0.2	43	0.3	54	0.3	53
Chickenpox	1.8	351	1.3	247	1.3	257	0.9	183
Conjunctival Disorders	12.0	2,340	11.4	2,235	11.7	2,299	10.6	2,049
Croup	1.5	285	1.3	247	1.2	230	1.4	280
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	4.6	898	4.3	847	4.9	973	4.6	892
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	5.1	1,003	5.1	1,002	5.3	1,053	5.4	1,055
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	9.8	1,915	9.4	1,846	10.2	2,017	10.0	1,944
Herpes Simplex	3.3	644	3.3	646	2.8	560	3.5	679
Herpes Zoster	7.1	1,390	6.8	1,337	7.7	1,527	7.0	1,363
Impetigo	6.2	1,211	6.5	1,263	6.8	1,342	6.8	1,325
Infected Insect Bites	22.0	4,290	24.0	4,694	19.9	3,912	18.5	3,576
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	6.8	1,333	6.6	1,296	6.8	1,342	6.8	1,308
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	49	0.2	37	0.3	62	0.2	46
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	1.0	188	1.0	192	1.2	228	1.4	268
Laryngitis	0.6	109	0.5	105	0.5	94	0.5	98
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	40.7	7,952	38.1	7,451	40.0	7,887	39.0	7,556
Measles	0.0	4	0.0	6	0.0	2	0.0	5
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	28	0.1	27	0.2	30	0.1	22
Mumps	0.0	5	0.0	7	0.1	10	0.0	7
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	2.6	499	2.6	512	2.8	550	2.3	453
Otitis Media	18.8	3,672	19.2	3,750	20.9	4,111	18.3	3,540
Peripheral Nervous Disease	18.2	3,553	18.5	3,608	18.4	3,619	18.5	3,588
Pneumonia	2.4	470	2.3	455	2.6	506	2.1	402
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Scabies	2.2	422	2.3	456	2.5	491	2.3	451
Sinusitis	15.1	2,957	14.0	2,734	13.6	2,687	15.5	3,006
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	104.1	20,345	105.1	20,554	100.3	19,758	98.8	19,130
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	0.7	136	0.7	145	0.7	132	0.6	114
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	128.6	25,129	126.8	24,785	123.1	24,252	120.4	23,324
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	17.3	3,371	16.9	3,313	16.7	3,282	14.4	2,790
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	40.2	7,852	37.2	7,276	36.4	7,170	37.1	7,176
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	108.3	21,157	102.7	20,085	103.4	20,371	104.3	20,199
Urinary Tract Infections	43.9	8,573	42.8	8,361	46.0	9,074	43.8	8,486
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	56	0.3	60	0.2	44	0.3	54
Whooping Cough	0.0	2	0.0	4	0.0	5	0.0	6

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 tonsillitis 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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