



RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year

3 / 2026

Population

18,945,840

Dates

12/01/2026 - 18/01/2026

No. Practices

1,803

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

Rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) and acute respiratory illness (ARI) have decreased in all regions and all age groups except those between 1- 4 years and 5-14 years, and are at levels expected for at this time of year, pages 3 to 7.

Virology swab positivity continues to decrease, page 4.

Rates of COVID-19 have decreased in all regions and all age groups except those between 1- 4 years, page 6.

Other comments:

- Rates of exacerbation in chronic lung disease (ECLD), page 8; ECLD – Asthma exacerbation, page 9; ECLD – COPD exacerbation, page 9; URTI -Croup, page 11 are all above the seasonal average for this time of year.
- Rates of Scabies, page 16; Herpes Zoster, page 17 remain above the 5-year rolling average.
- Rates of Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System, page 17; Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal System, page 17; Meningitis/ Encephalitis, page 17 have increased above the seasonal average for this time of year.

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	245.0	266.7	↘ -21.7	12.5	13.8	↘ -1.4	11.8	15.3	↘ -3.5
Midlands And East	335.2	364.7	↘ -29.5	9.6	10.7	↘ -1.1	23.2	28.2	↘ -5.0
North	402.6	449.0	↘ -46.4	11.9	15.3	↘ -3.4	34.4	41.9	↘ -7.4
South	301.0	343.5	↘ -42.5	14.8	18.7	↘ -3.9	22.5	29.5	↘ -7.0
National	324.1	360.5	↘ -36.3	12.4	15.0	↘ -2.6	23.6	29.6	↘ -6.0
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	63.2	72.5	↘ -9.3	171.0	179.1	— -8.1	0.4	0.7	↘ -0.4
Midlands And East	115.2	139.6	↘ -24.4	205.7	206.8	— -1.1	0.5	0.5	↗ 0.1
North	147.8	183.5	↘ -35.7	237.1	241.6	— -4.4	0.5	0.7	↘ -0.2
South	109.9	135.0	↘ -25.1	176.2	187.7	↘ -11.6	0.6	0.8	↘ -0.2
National	111.7	136.3	↘ -24.6	197.8	204.2	— -6.5	0.5	0.7	↘ -0.2

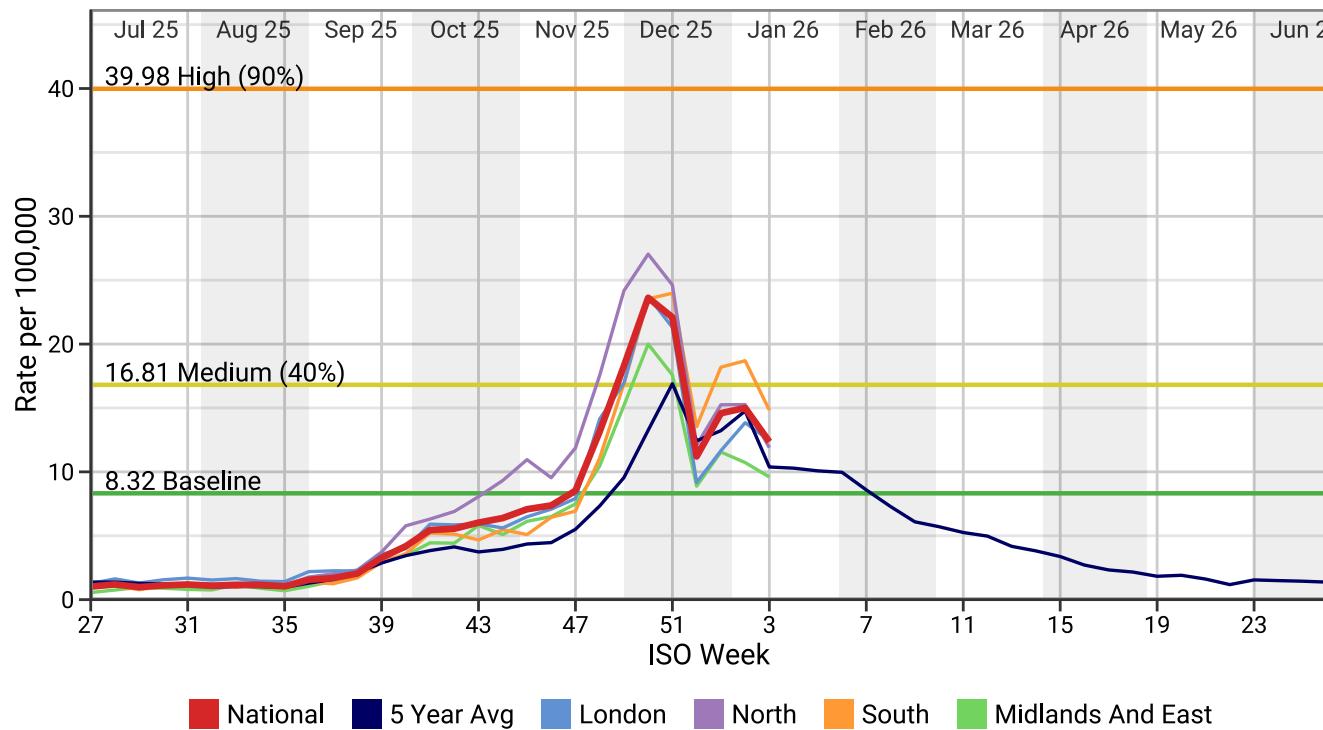
Age Group Breakdown

	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	1,117.2	1,336.7	↘ -219.5	12.2	12.4	— -0.2	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
1-4yrs	959.0	658.6	↗ 300.3	14.9	10.9	↗ 4.0	1.2	0.8	↗ 0.4
5-14yrs	308.6	240.8	↗ 67.8	6.7	5.1	↗ 1.6	4.8	5.1	↘ -0.3
15-64yrs	251.0	307.9	↘ -56.9	12.5	16.1	↘ -3.6	17.6	22.8	↘ -5.2
65+yrs	426.6	519.8	↘ -93.2	15.0	18.4	↘ -3.4	63.5	77.4	↘ -13.9
All ages	324.1	360.5	↘ -36.3	12.4	15.0	↘ -2.6	23.6	29.6	↘ -6.0
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	302.2	396.6	↘ -94.5	911.7	1,090.7	↘ -179.1	1.3	3.3	↘ -2.0
1-4yrs	145.6	109.7	↗ 35.9	881.3	613.5	↗ 267.7	0.9	0.5	↗ 0.4
5-14yrs	29.6	28.0	↗ 1.5	281.5	216.6	↗ 64.8	0.2	0.2	— 0.0
15-64yrs	79.9	102.9	↘ -23.0	156.9	185.4	↘ -28.5	0.3	0.5	↘ -0.2
65+yrs	263.8	320.6	↘ -56.8	112.8	137.2	↘ -24.4	1.3	1.5	↘ -0.2
All ages	111.7	136.3	↘ -24.6	197.8	204.2	— -6.5	0.5	0.7	↘ -0.2

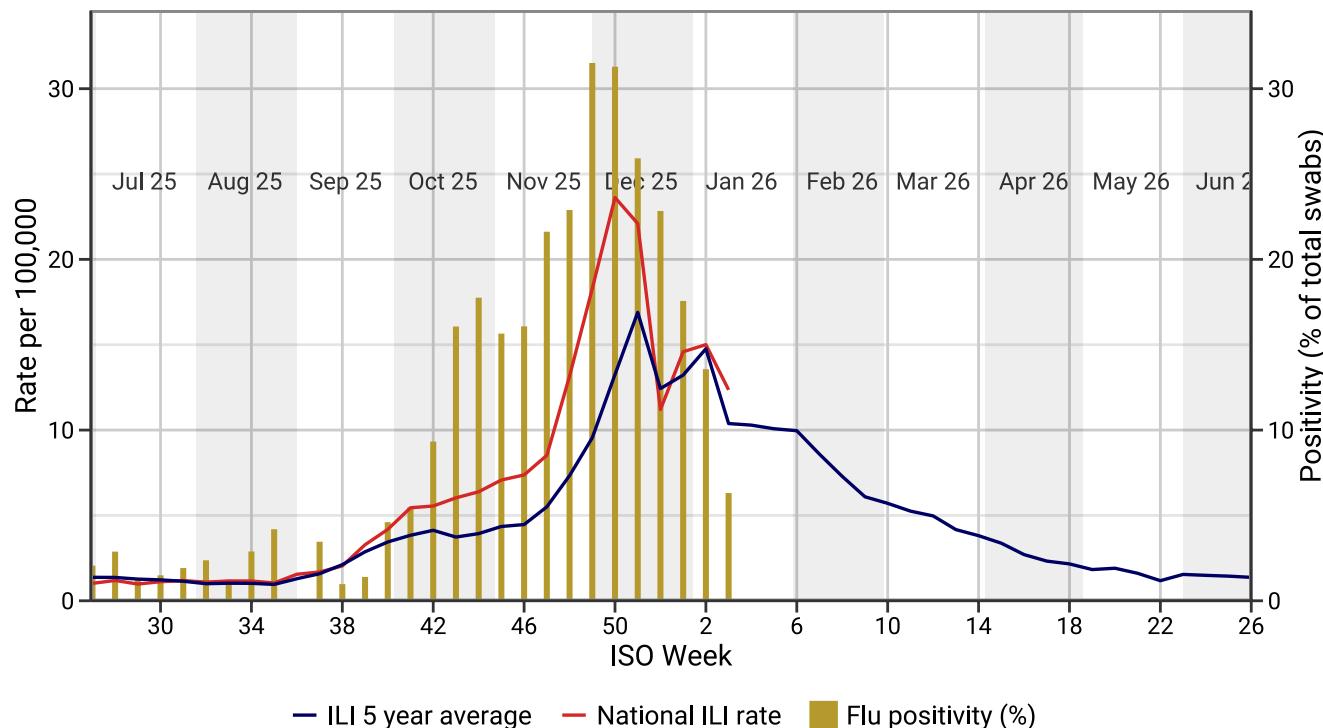
2025/26 Focus

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

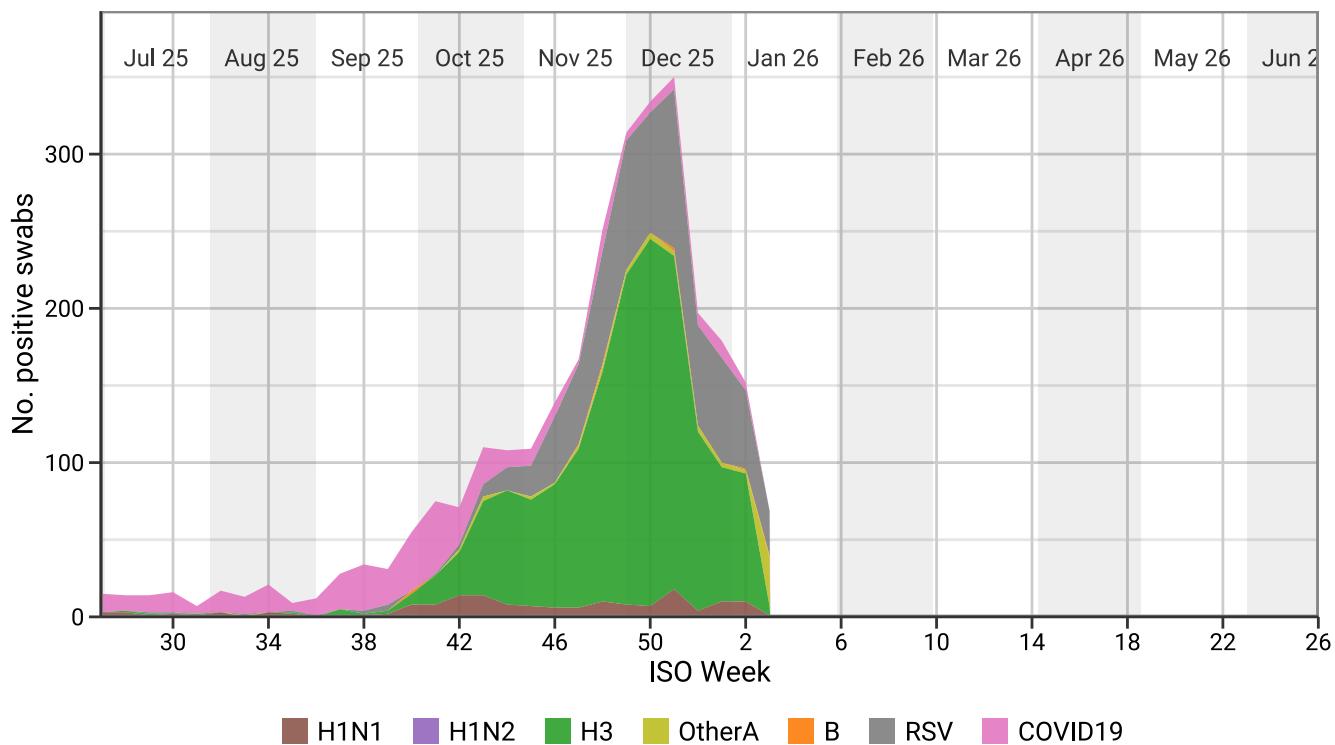
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.



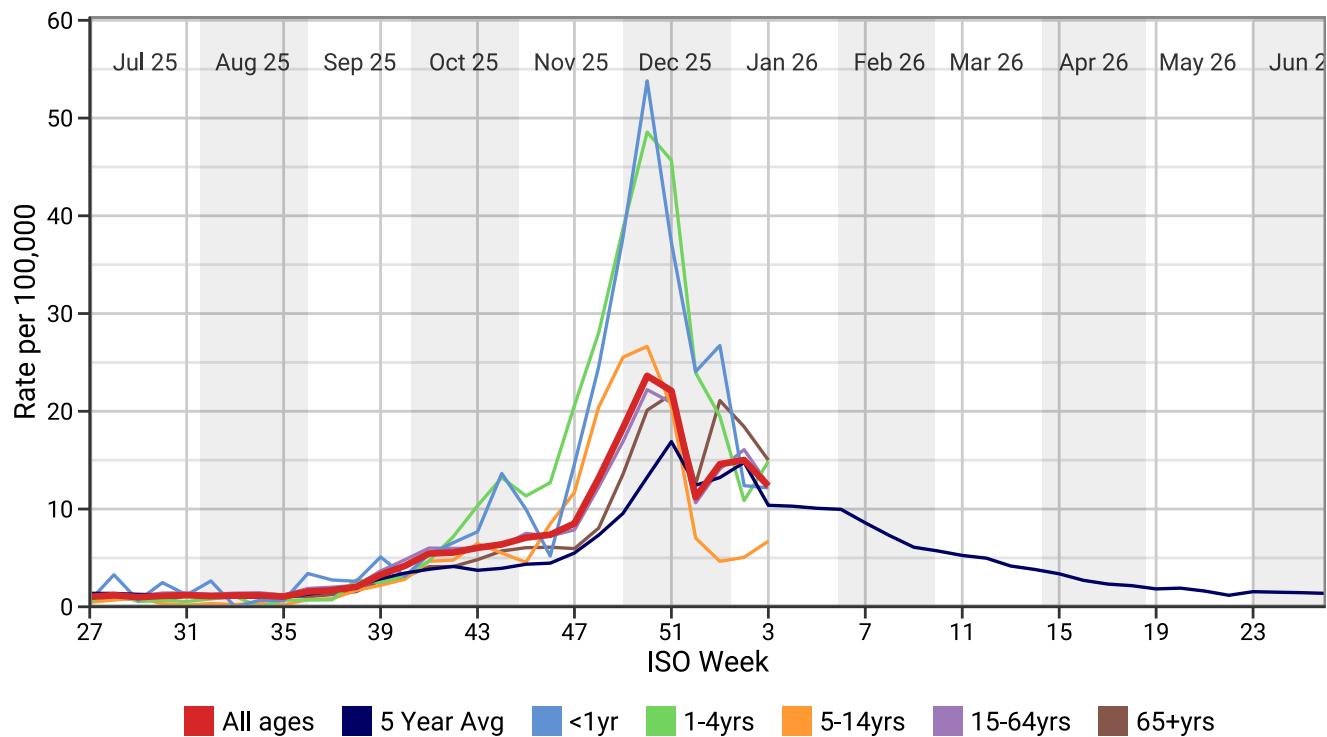
(B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance



(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

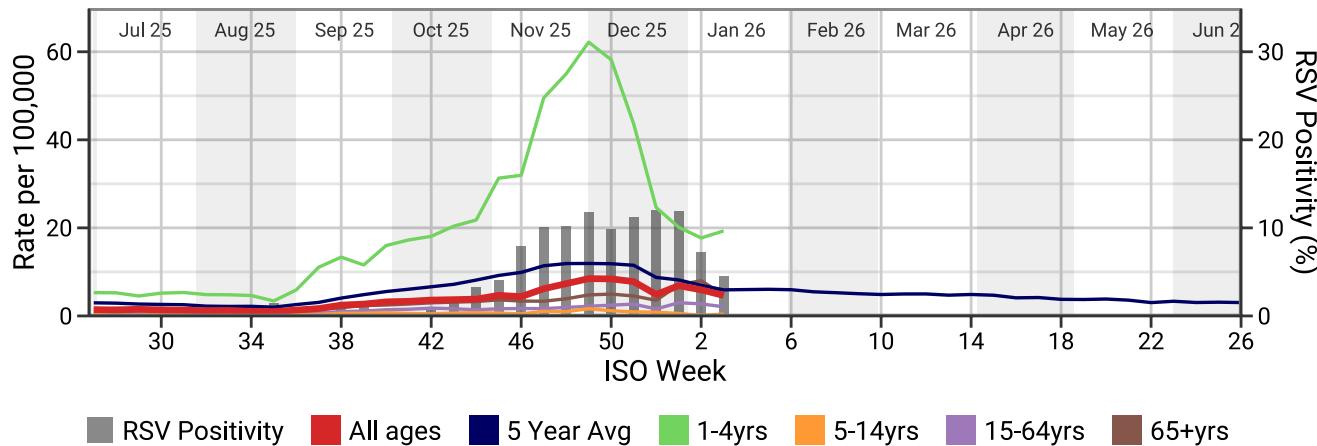
This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - thresholds are shown in the second table. Refer to page 19 for more information.

	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
1-4yrs	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.5	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7
5-14yrs	0.9	1.3	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.8
15-64yrs	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.9	2.0
65+yrs	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
All ages	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.7
	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3
1-4yrs	2.8	2.5	3.2	4.7	7.2	10.3	13.2	11.3	12.7	20.6	28.0	38.7	48.6	45.7	23.9	19.5	10.9	14.9
5-14yrs	1.7	2.2	2.8	4.6	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.5	8.5	11.7	20.4	25.5	26.6	20.5	7.0	4.7	5.1	6.7
15-64yrs	2.2	3.7	4.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	7.5	7.2	7.9	12.3	16.9	22.2	20.9	10.6	14.1	16.1	12.5
65+yrs	1.6	2.7	3.1	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.9	8.1	13.5	20.1	21.7	12.6	21.1	18.4	15.0
All ages	2.0	3.3	4.2	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.4	7.1	7.4	8.5	13.2	18.3	23.6	22.1	11.2	14.6	15.0	12.4

	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

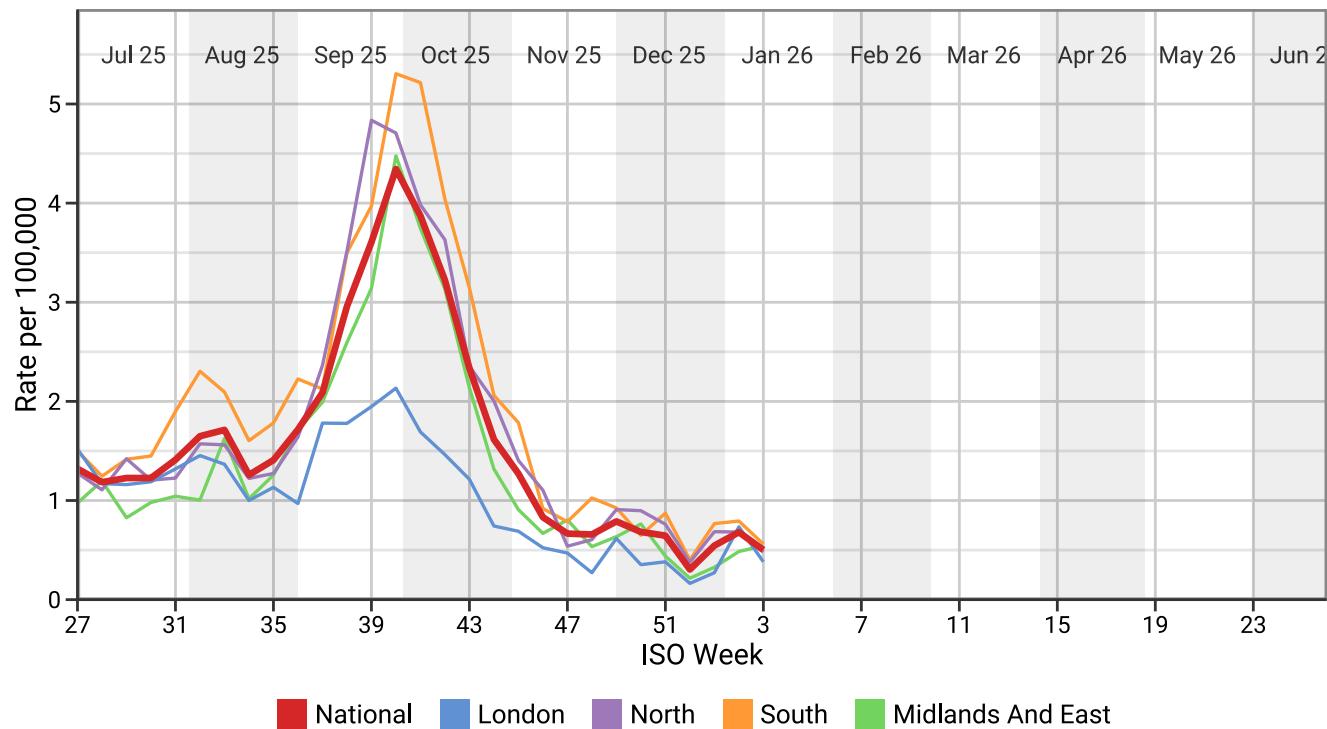
Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.



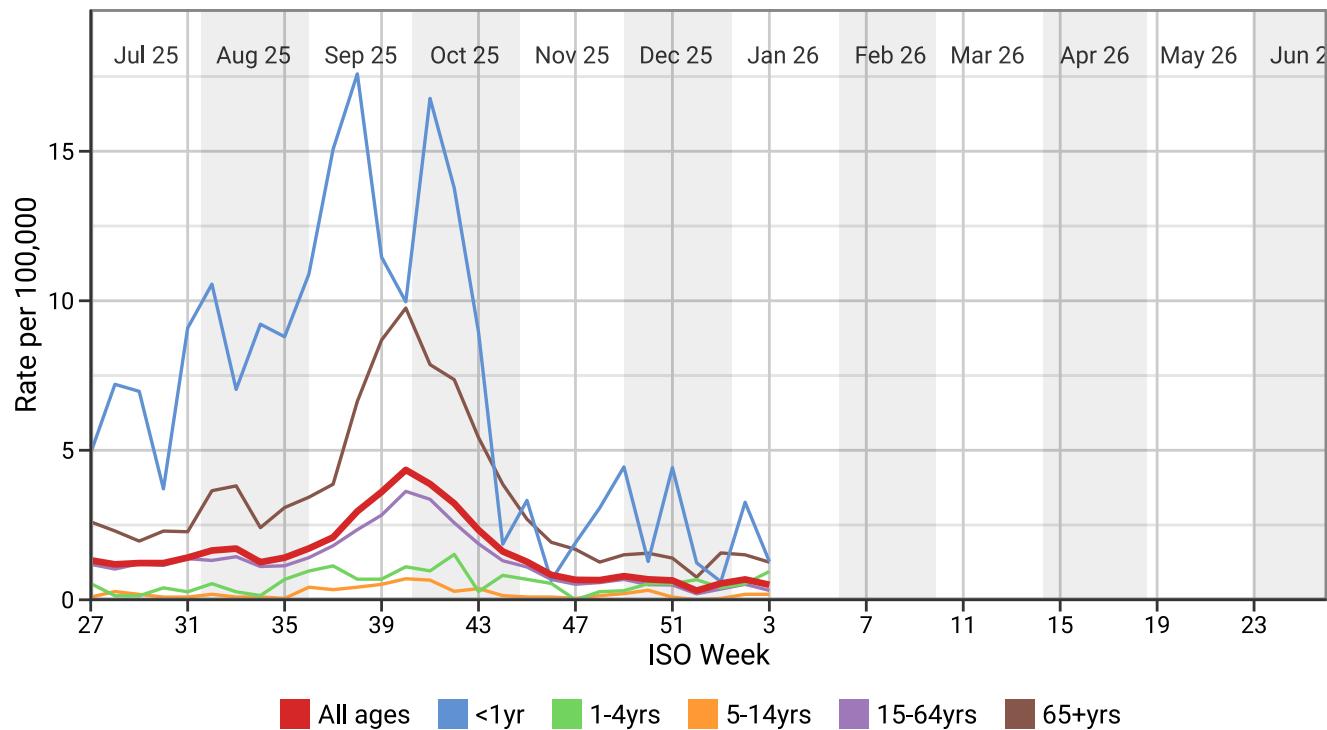
Weekly incidence rates of influenza-like illness, and acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis (per 100,000)

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis		Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	12.2	195.3	London	12.5	3.4
1-4yrs	14.9	19.3	Midlands And East	9.6	5.2
5-14yrs	6.7	0.4	North	11.9	4.9
15-24yrs	10.7	1.0	South	14.8	4.7
25-44yrs	12.3	1.5	National	12.4	4.6
45-64yrs	13.5	3.3			
65-74yrs	11.6	4.2			
75-84yrs	16.5	4.5			
85+yrs	23.3	7.4			
All ages	12.4	4.6			

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

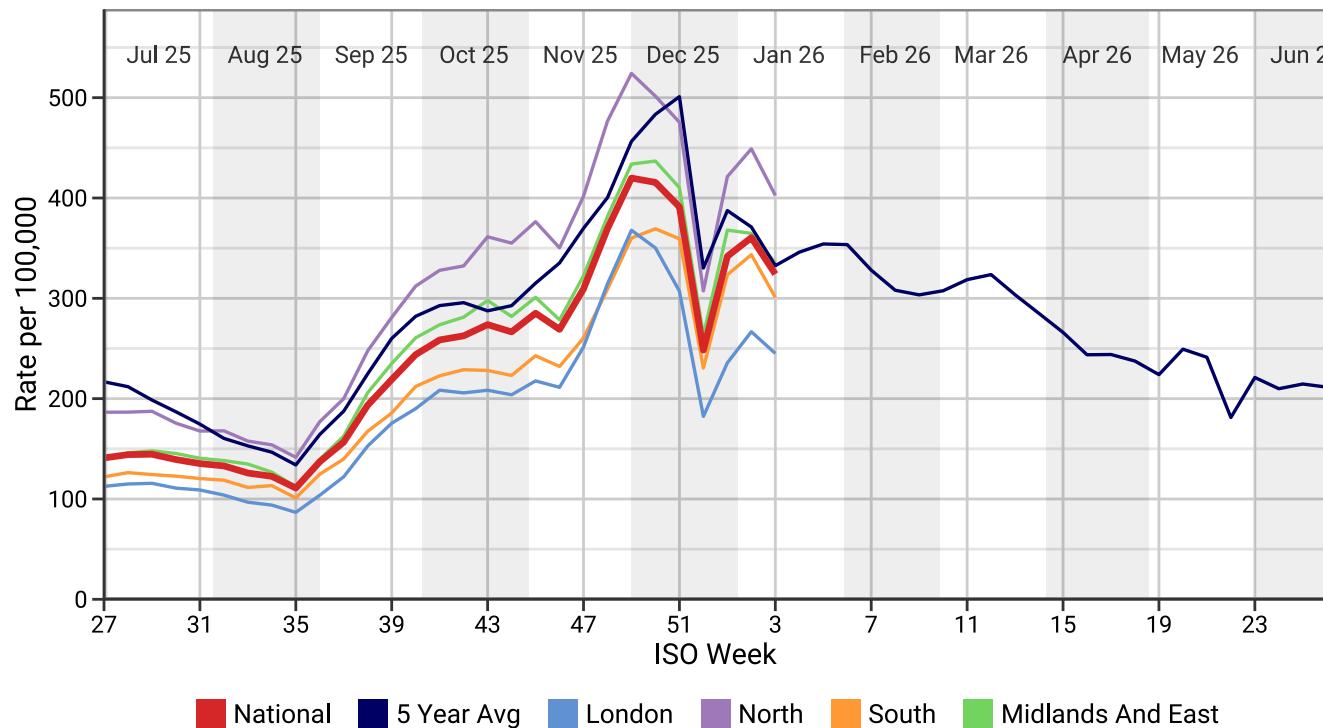


(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

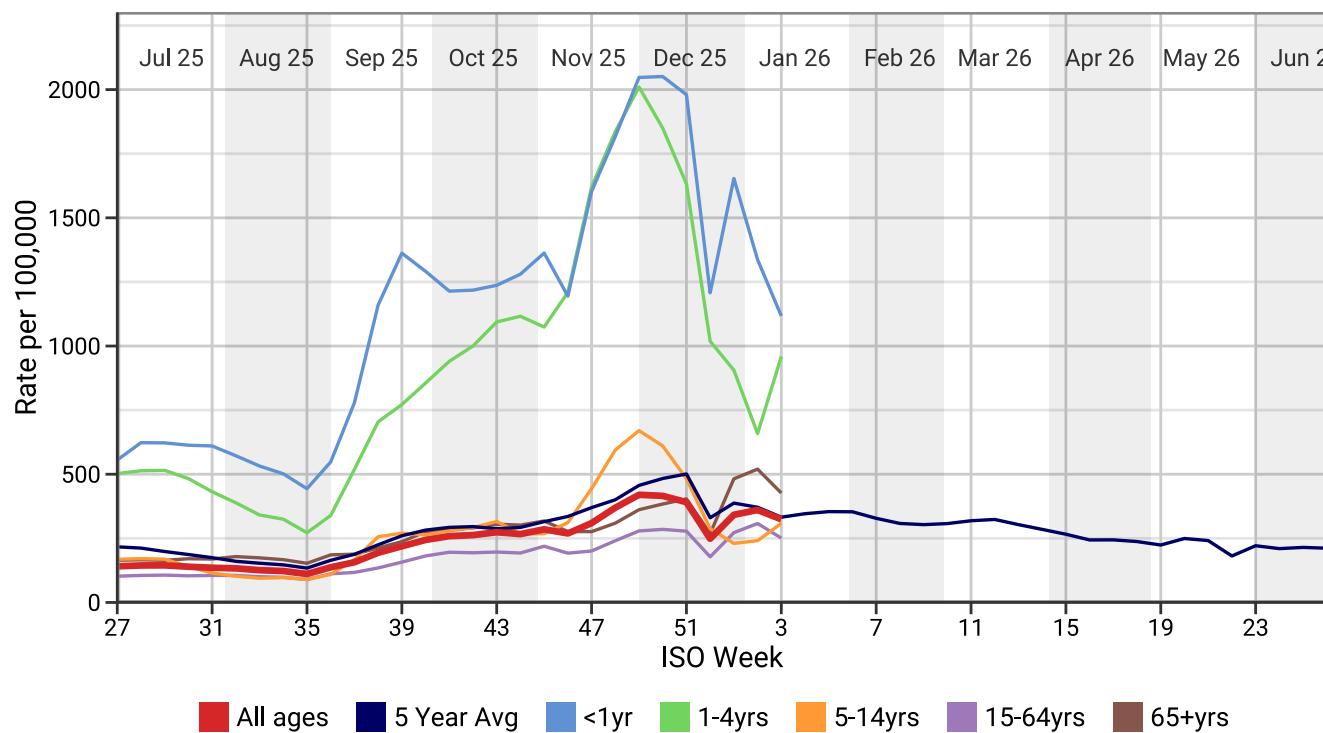


1. Respiratory Infections

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



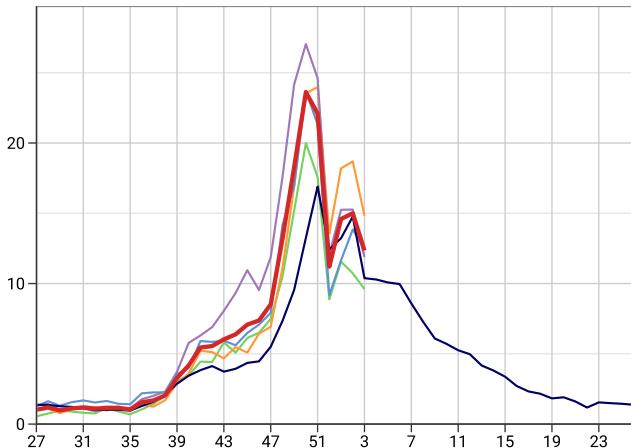
(J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band



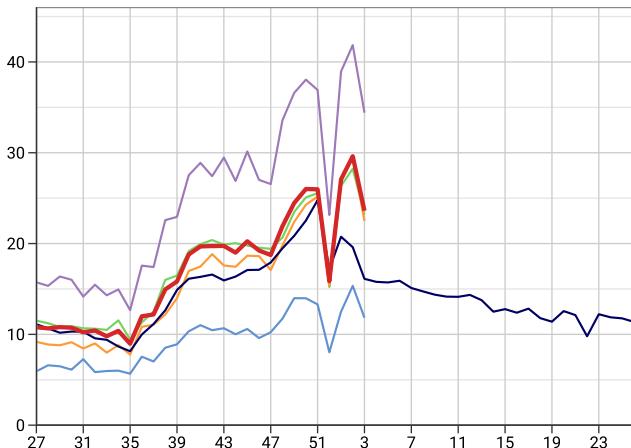
Respiratory Infections - by region

National London South
 5 Year Avg North Midlands And East

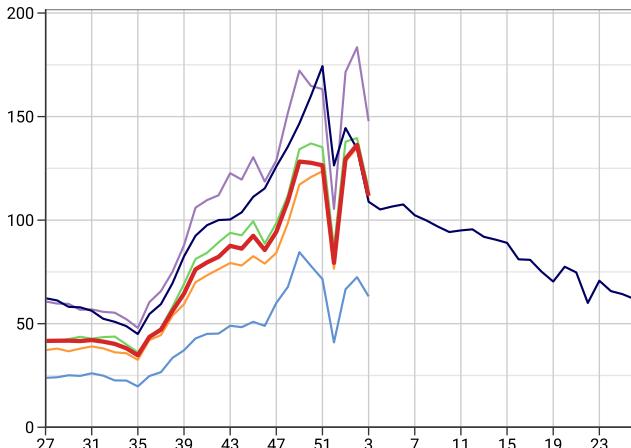
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
 compared with 5 year average



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



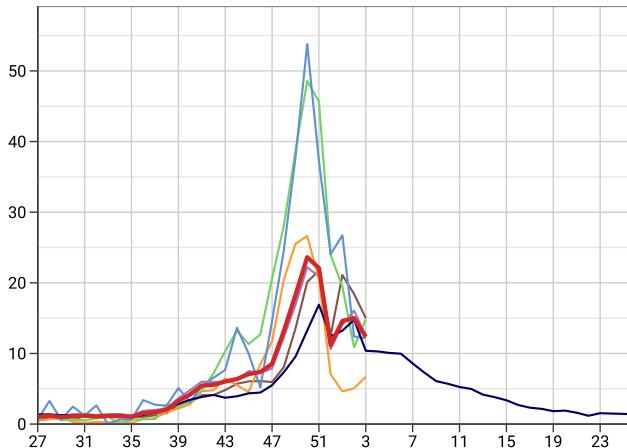
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
 compared with 5 year average



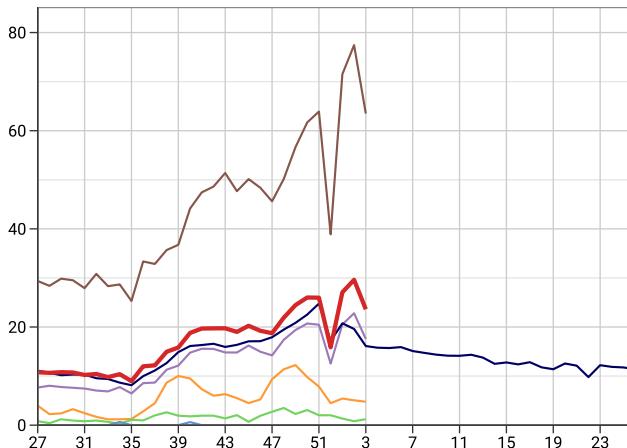
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

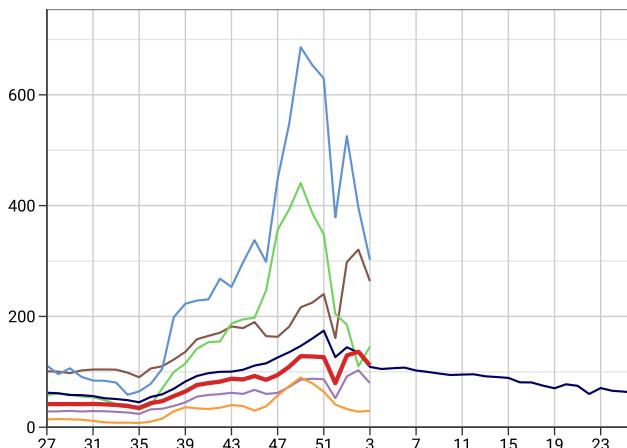
Influenza-like illness (ILI)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for
 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



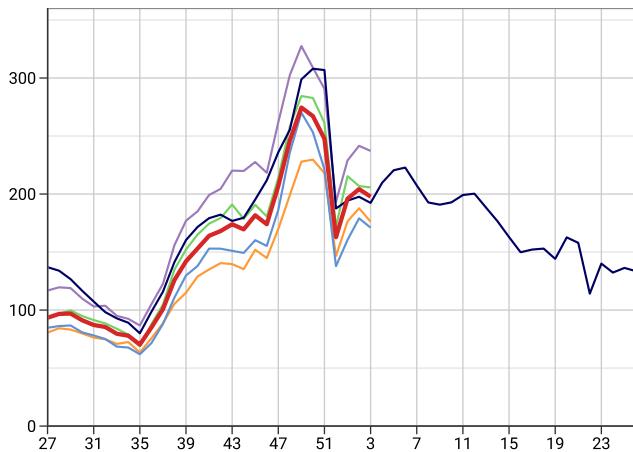
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for
 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



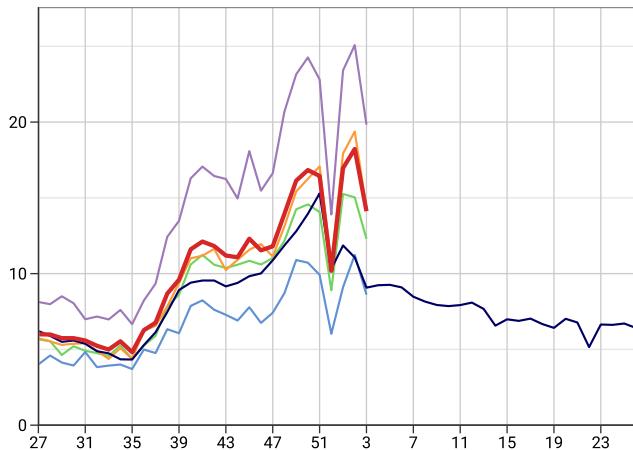
Respiratory Infections - by region

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

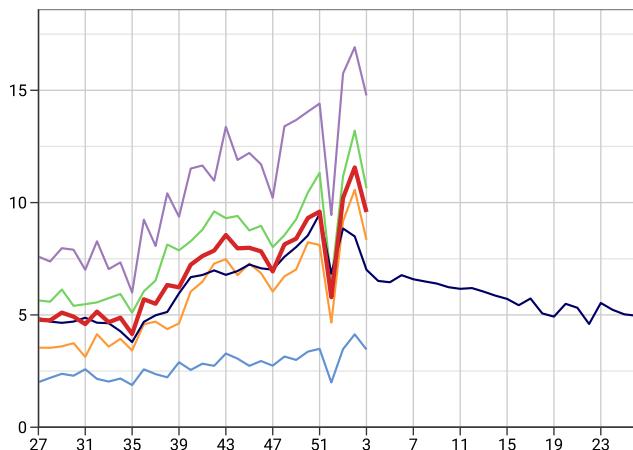
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



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



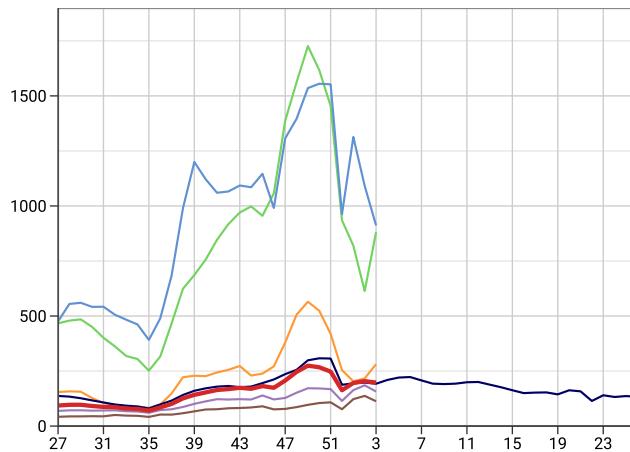
ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



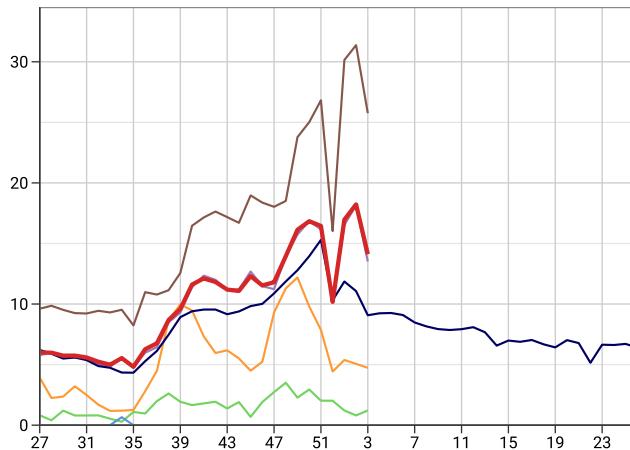
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

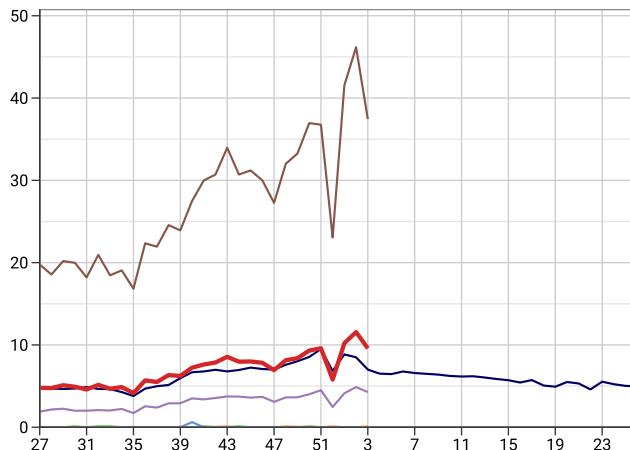
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for
2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



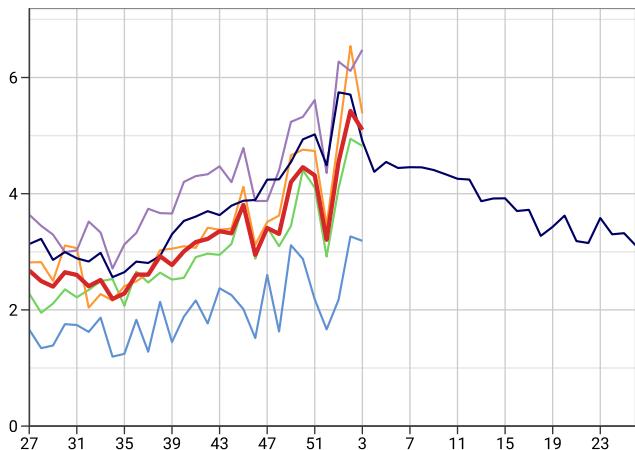
ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for
2025/26 compared with 5 year average



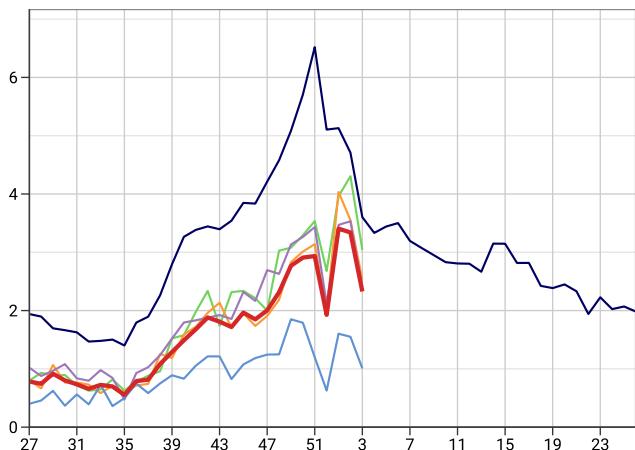
Respiratory Infections - by region

National London South
 5 Year Avg North Midlands And East

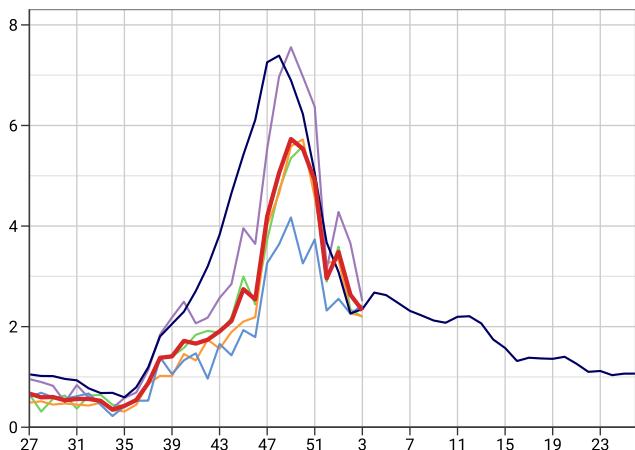
LRTI - Pneumonia
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



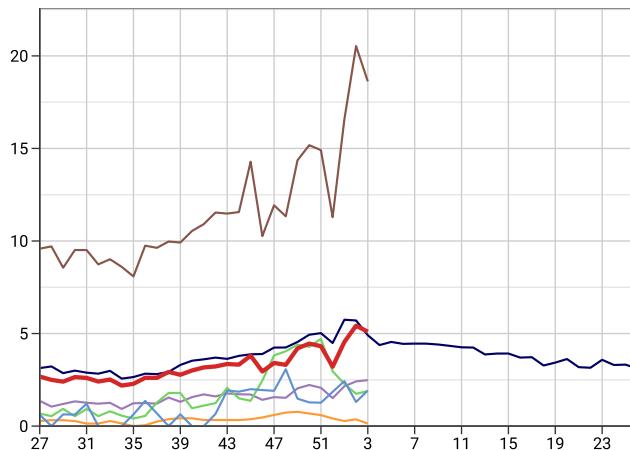
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



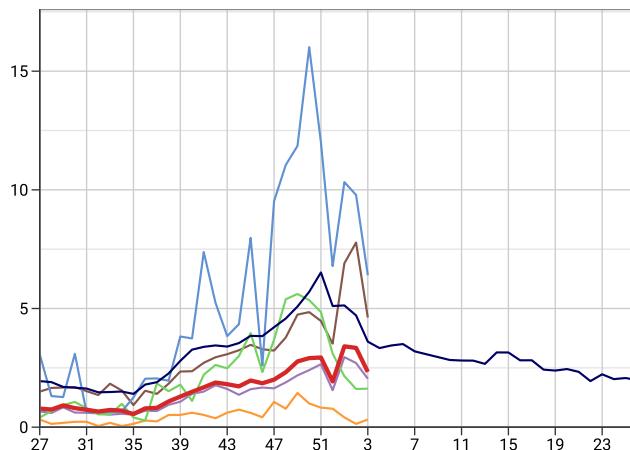
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

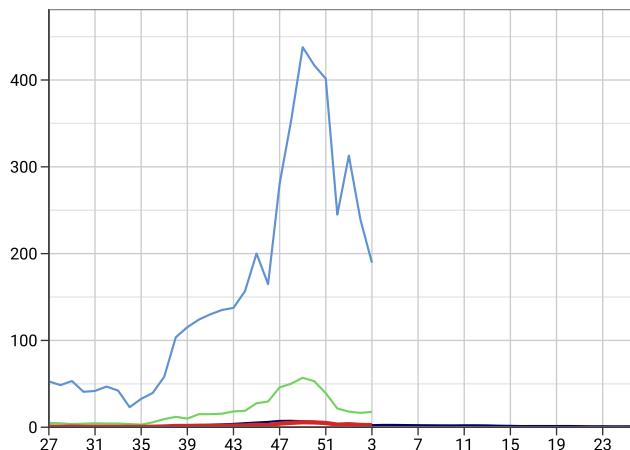
LRTI - Pneumonia
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



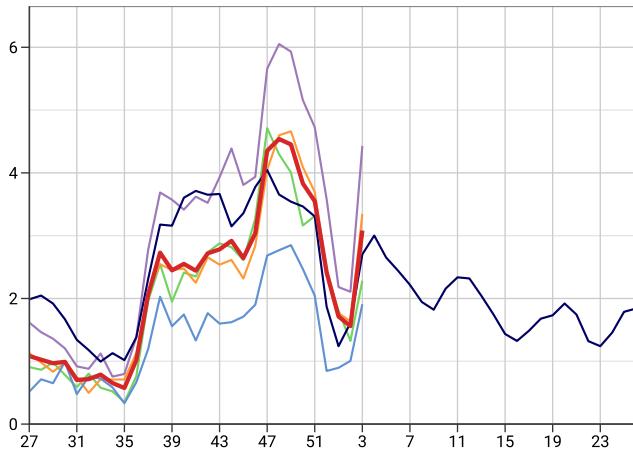
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



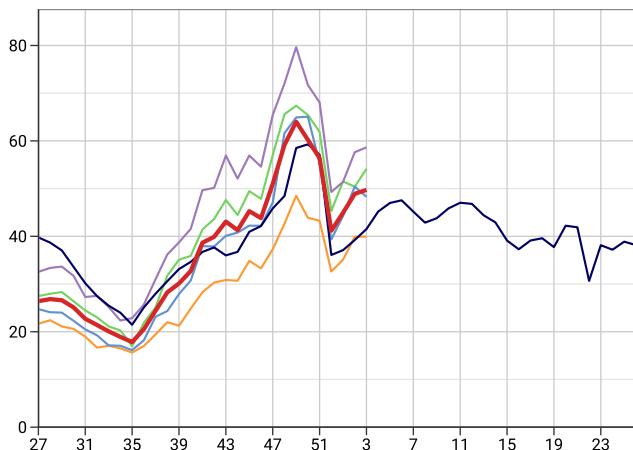
Respiratory Infections - by region

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

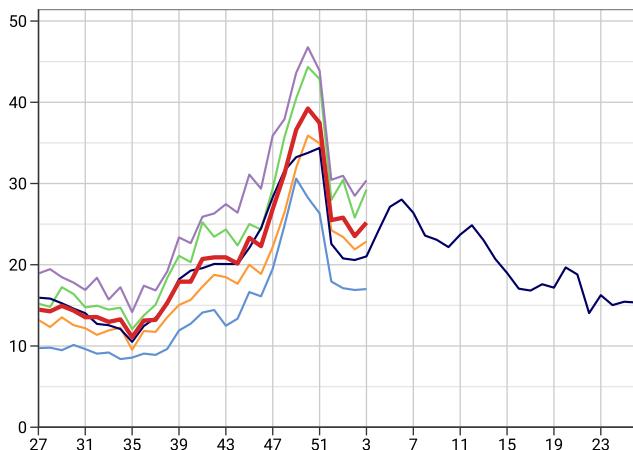
URTI - Croup
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



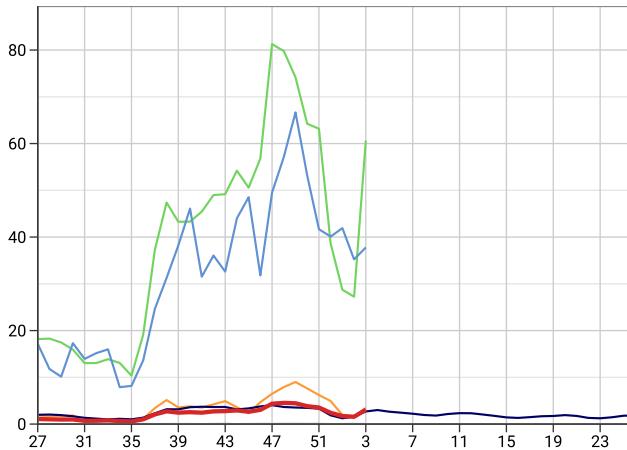
URTI - Otitis Media
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



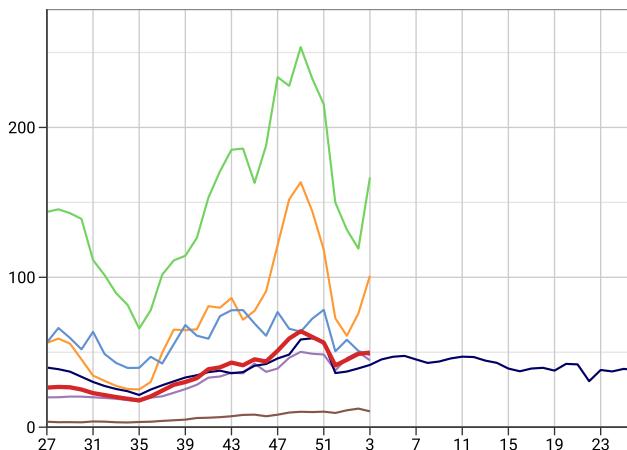
Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

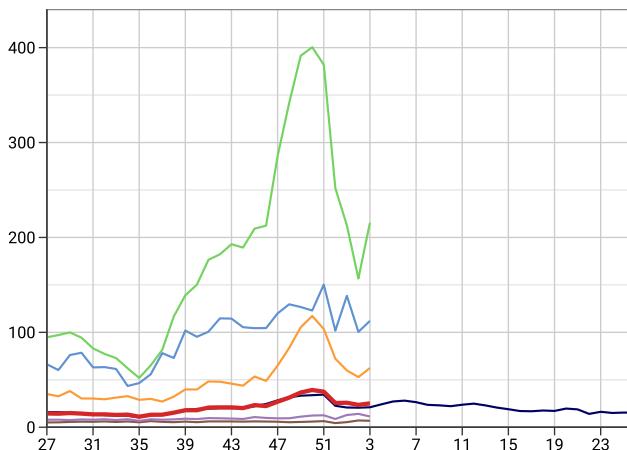
URTI - Croup
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



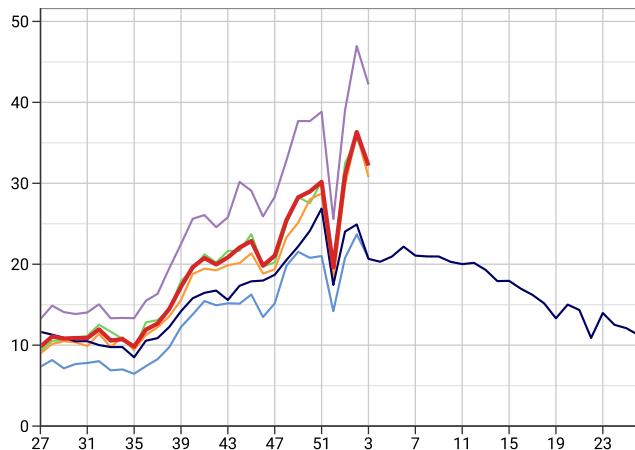
URTI - Otitis Media
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



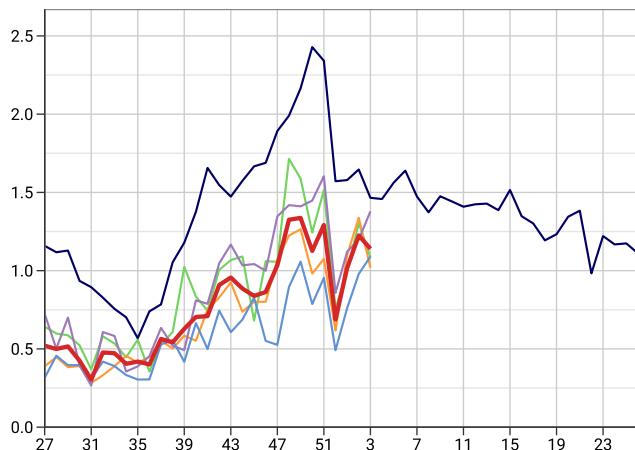
Respiratory Infections - by region

█ 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



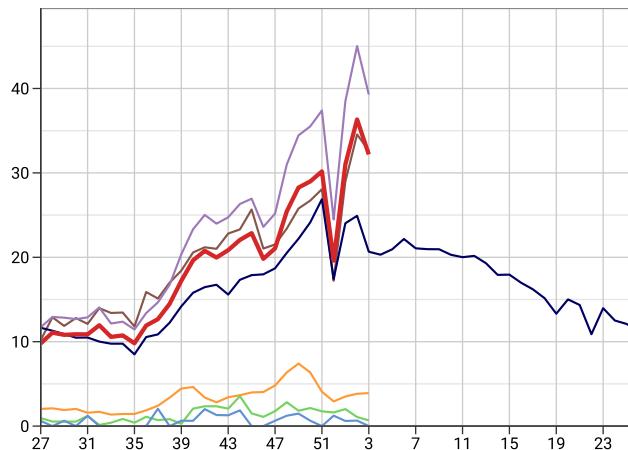
URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



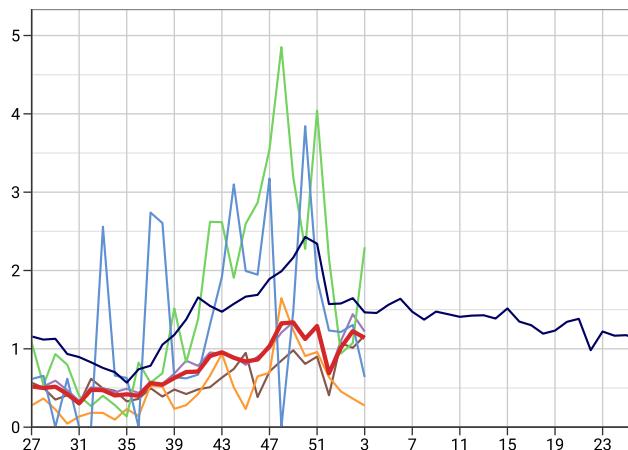
Respiratory Infections - by age band

█ 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



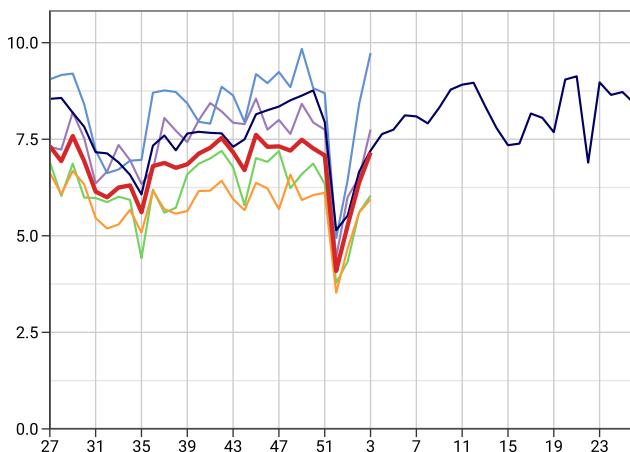
URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



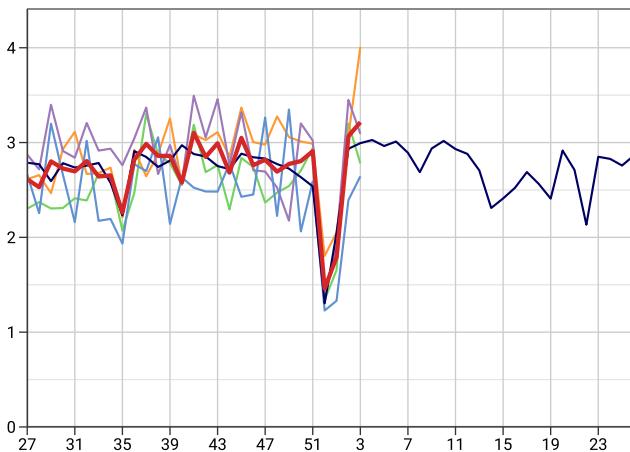
2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

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

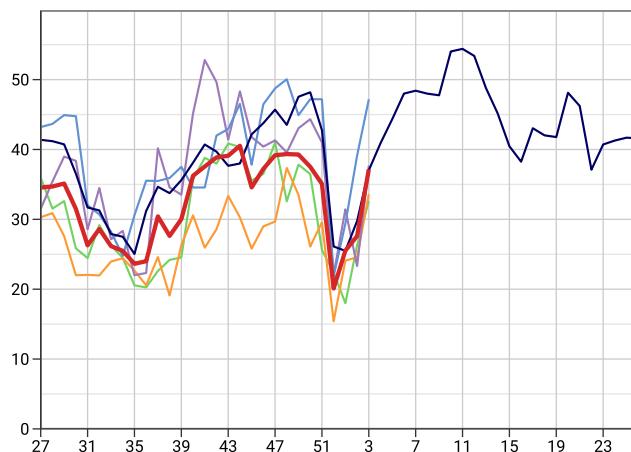
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



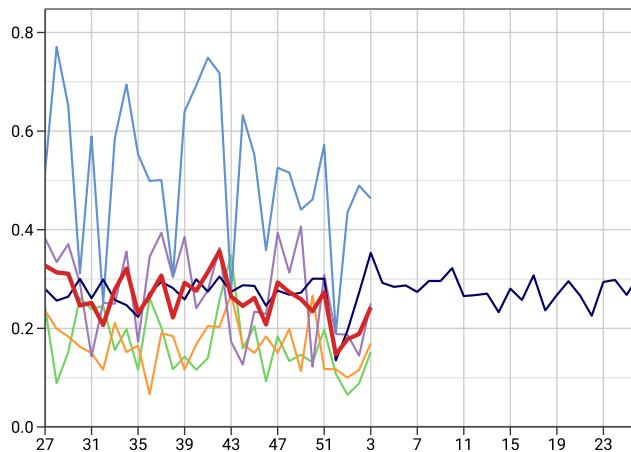
Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



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



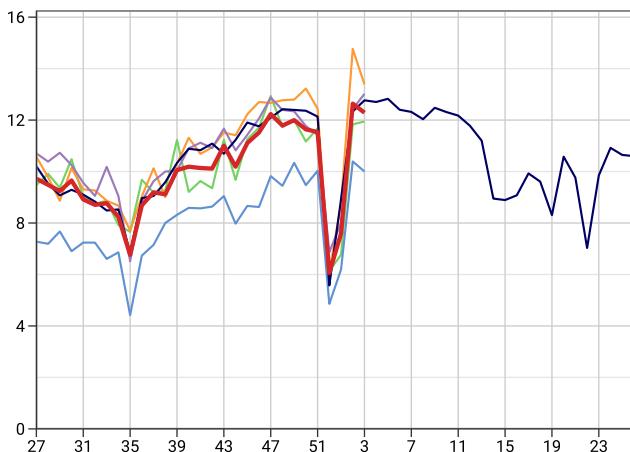
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



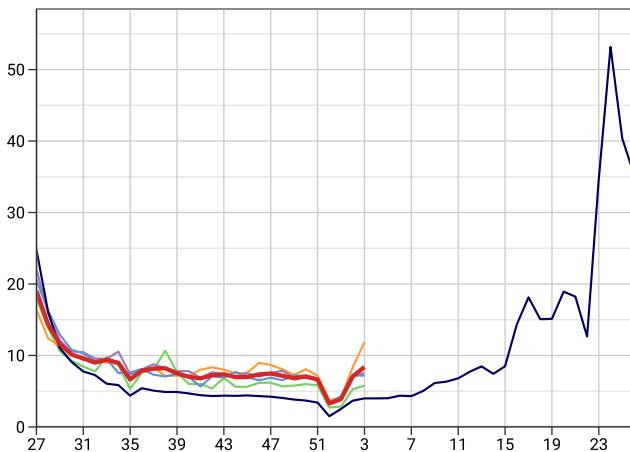
3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

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

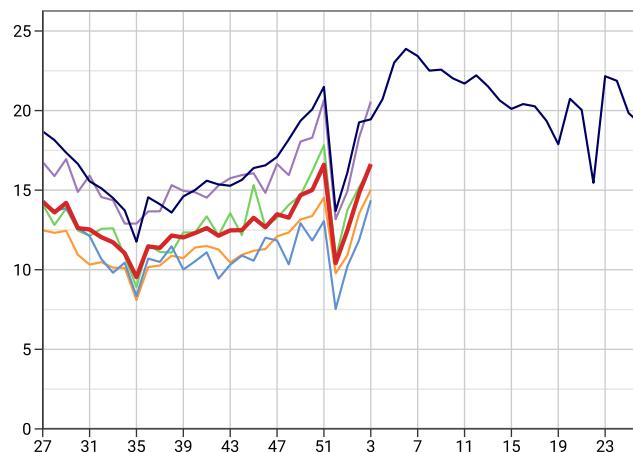
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



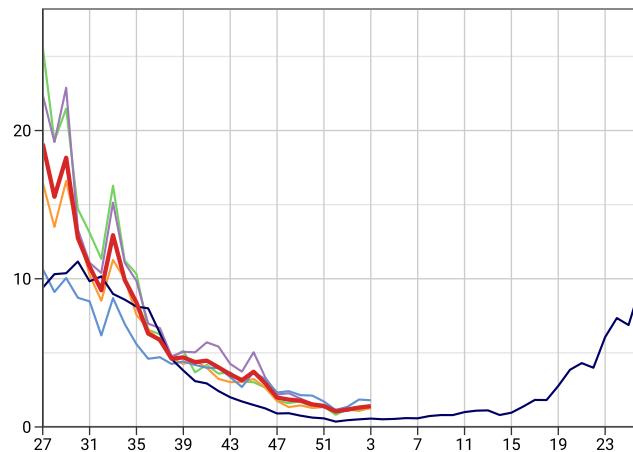
Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



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



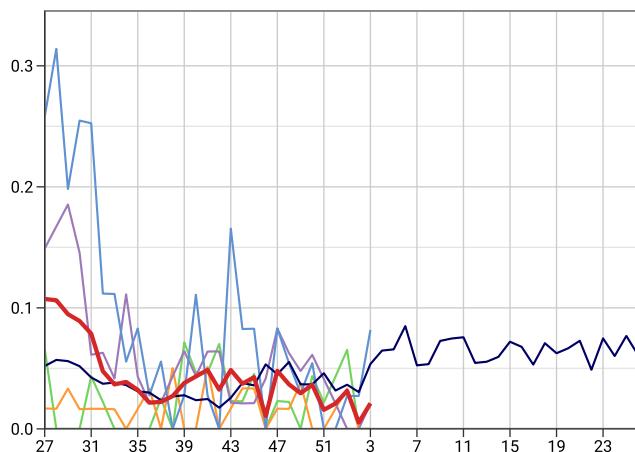
Infected Insect Bites
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



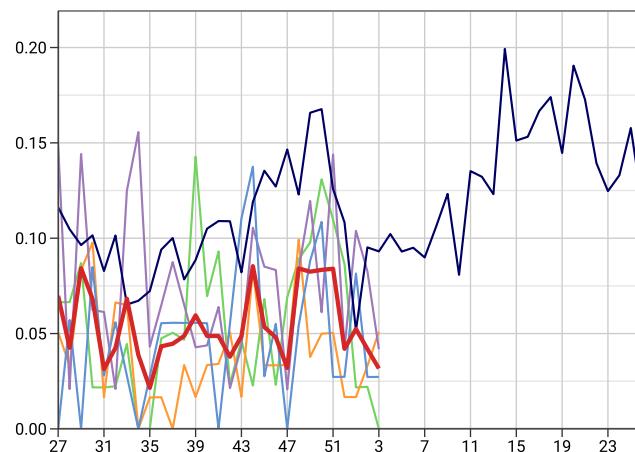
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

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

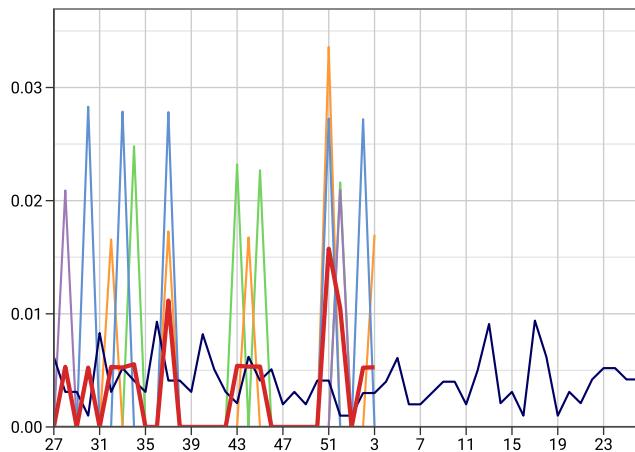
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



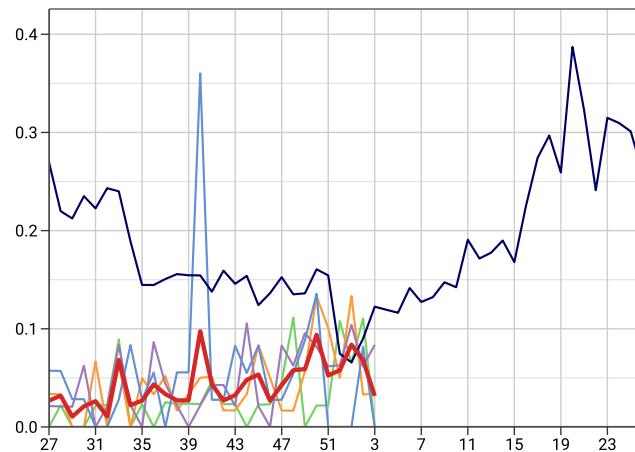
Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average



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

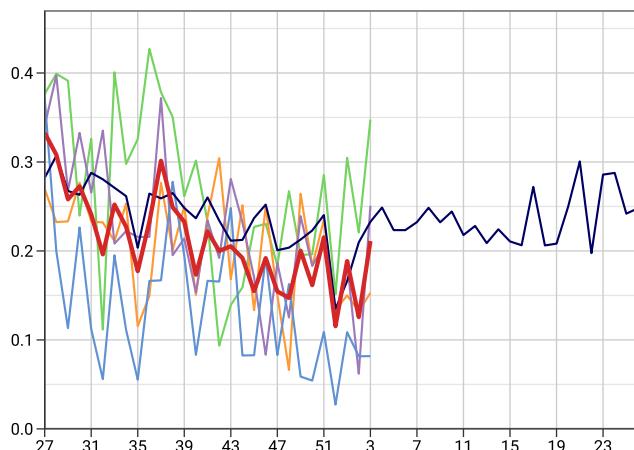


5. Skin Contagions

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

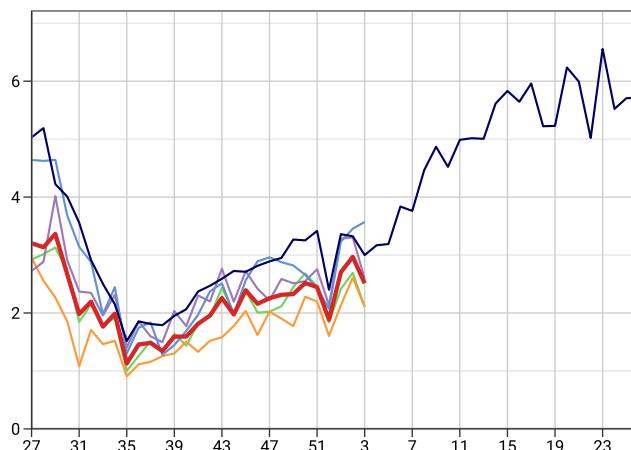
Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)

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



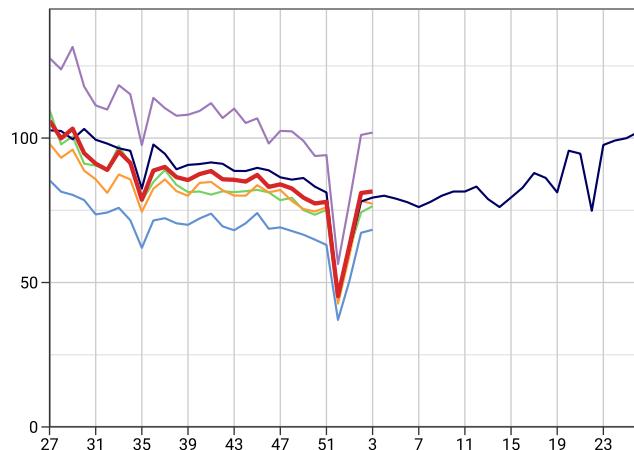
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)

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



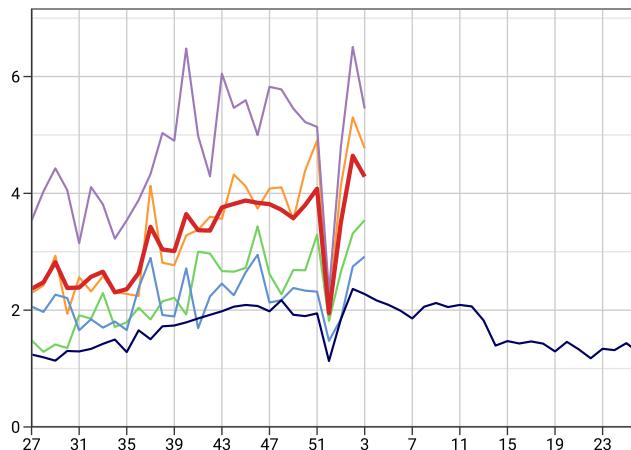
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)

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



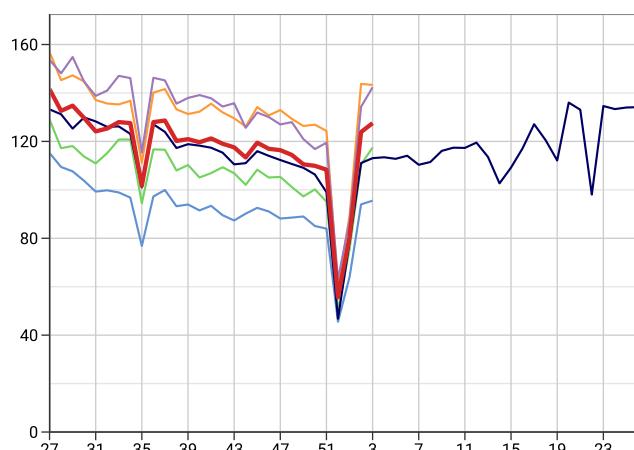
Scabies (ICD10: B86)

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



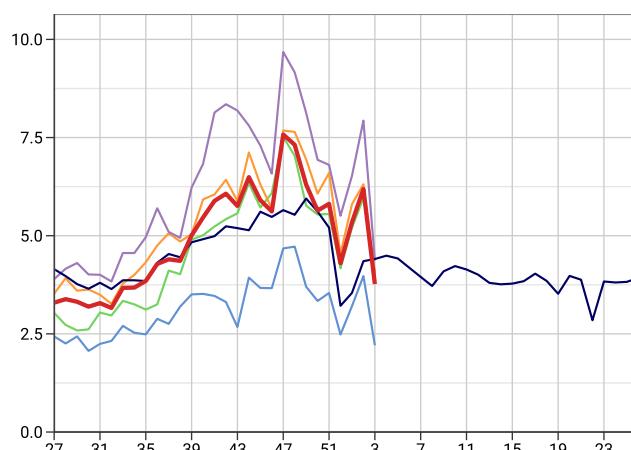
Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23)

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



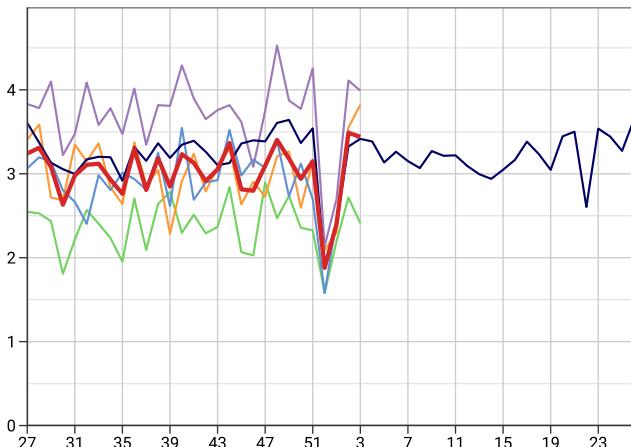
Impetigo (ICD10: L01)

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

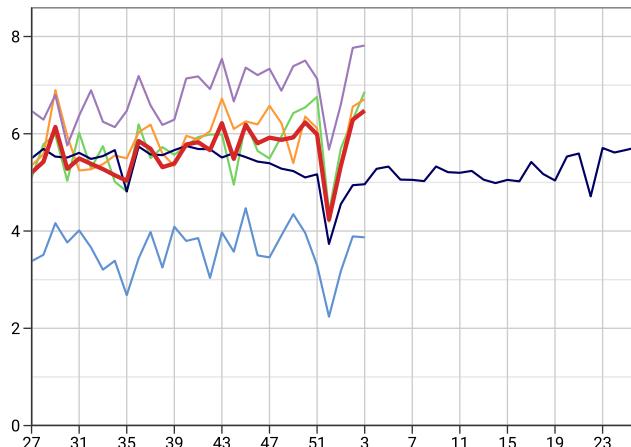


National 5 Year Avg London North South Midlands And East

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

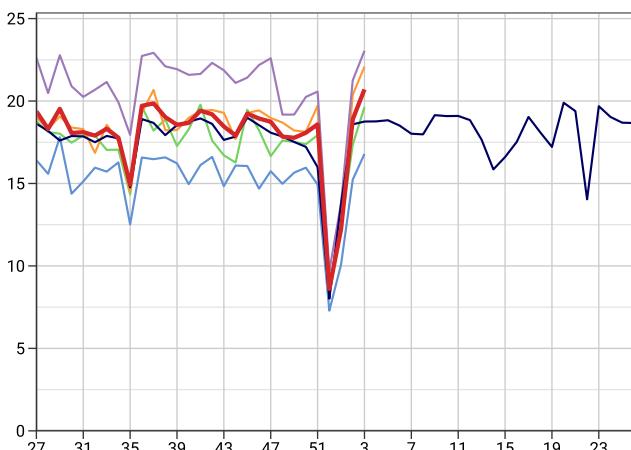


Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26
compared with 5 year average

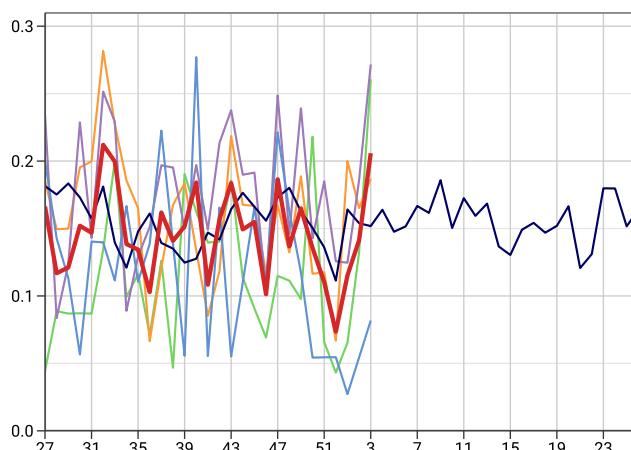


6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

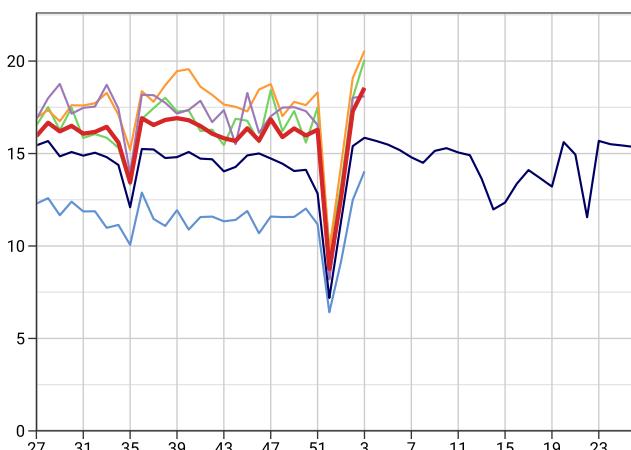
Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



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



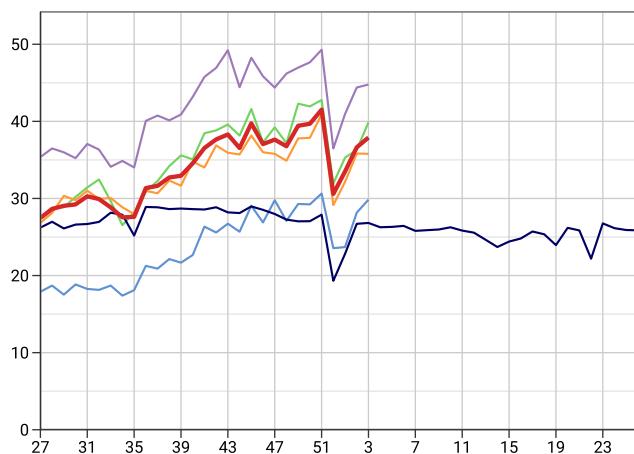
Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

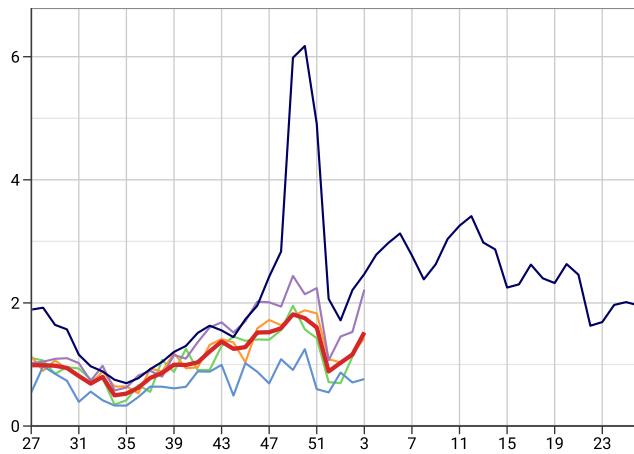
■ National ■ 5 Year Avg ■ London ■ North ■ South ■ Midlands And East

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

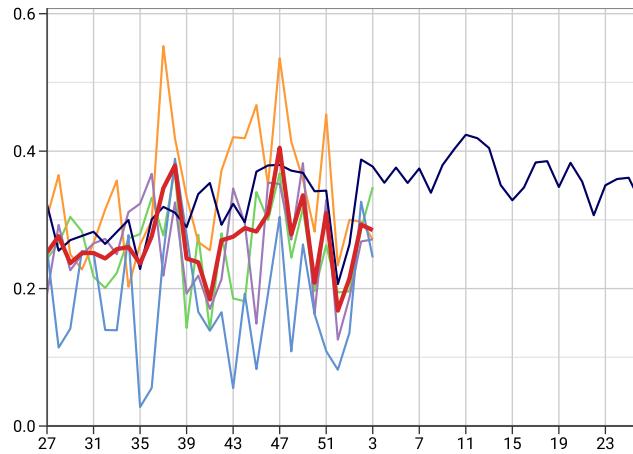


8. Other Disorders

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 52		Week 1		Week 2		Week 3	
Dates	22/12/2025 - 28/12/2025		29/12/2025 - 04/01/2026		05/01/2026 - 11/01/2026		12/01/2026 - 18/01/2026	
Population	19,053,097		19,087,909		19,100,498		18,945,840	
Practice Count	1,797		1,807		1,811		1,803	
Disease	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	1.9	367	3.4	650	3.3	638	2.3	441
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	248.4	47,328	341.9	65,266	360.5	68,855	324.1	61,411
Allergic Rhinitis	3.3	626	3.9	743	7.1	1,352	8.4	1,587
Asthma	6.1	1,155	7.6	1,449	12.6	2,414	12.3	2,328
Bronchiolitis	3.0	564	3.5	665	2.6	503	2.3	440
Bullous Dermatoses	0.1	22	0.2	36	0.1	24	0.2	40
COVID-19	0.3	58	0.5	104	0.7	130	0.5	95
Chickenpox	1.9	359	2.7	516	3.0	567	2.5	476
Conjunctival Disorders	10.4	1,984	12.5	2,381	14.8	2,829	16.6	3,152
Croup	2.4	460	1.7	327	1.6	298	3.1	584
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	5.8	1,103	10.2	1,949	11.6	2,209	9.6	1,815
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	10.2	1,940	17.0	3,238	18.2	3,481	14.1	2,675
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	15.9	3,022	27.1	5,167	29.6	5,657	23.6	4,473
Herpes Simplex	1.9	358	2.4	459	3.5	666	3.4	652
Herpes Zoster	4.2	807	5.3	1,020	6.3	1,201	6.5	1,227
Impetigo	4.3	819	5.3	1,019	6.2	1,182	3.8	714
Infected Insect Bites	1.0	200	1.2	225	1.3	250	1.4	266
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	4.1	779	5.3	1,005	6.4	1,217	7.2	1,356
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.2	32	0.2	41	0.3	56	0.3	54
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	11.2	2,135	14.6	2,785	15.0	2,866	12.4	2,341
Laryngitis	0.7	131	1.0	194	1.2	234	1.1	216
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	79.4	15,119	129.6	24,741	136.3	26,040	111.7	21,161
Measles	0.0	4	0.0	6	0.0	1	0.0	4
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	14	0.1	22	0.1	27	0.2	39
Mumps	0.0	8	0.1	10	0.0	8	0.0	6
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	1.5	278	1.8	342	3.1	586	3.2	609
Otitis Media	25.5	4,857	25.8	4,924	23.5	4,494	25.2	4,770
Peripheral Nervous Disease	8.6	1,640	12.2	2,333	18.9	3,609	20.7	3,923
Pneumonia	3.2	611	4.5	868	5.4	1,036	5.1	966
Rubella	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	1
Scabies	1.9	371	3.5	669	4.6	887	4.3	812
Sinusitis	19.6	3,735	31.0	5,919	36.3	6,939	32.2	6,098
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	45.3	8,624	62.9	12,007	81.0	15,470	81.5	15,447
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	0.9	169	1.0	196	1.2	222	1.5	288
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	55.6	10,600	80.5	15,359	123.9	23,660	127.5	24,163
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	8.8	1,670	12.6	2,408	17.3	3,302	18.6	3,515
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	41.2	7,847	44.9	8,577	48.9	9,341	49.7	9,423
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	162.8	31,020	196.0	37,408	204.2	39,011	197.8	37,467
Urinary Tract Infections	30.6	5,828	33.5	6,393	36.6	6,997	37.9	7,181
Viral Hepatitis	0.1	28	0.2	34	0.2	36	0.2	46
Whooping Cough	0.1	11	0.1	16	0.1	13	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 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 EMIS-X Analytics (EXA).

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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RESEARCH &
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