Royal College of General Practitioners

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 45/2023
Week Starting - Ending..... 06/11/2023 - 12/11/2023
No. of Practices..... 1,567
Population..... 15,612,047

National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis :** increased from **13.2** in week 44 to **14.7** in week 45.
- **Asthma :** increased from **11.5** in week 44 to **12.5** in week 45.
- **Common Cold :** increased from **3.2** in week 44 to **3.3** in week 45.
- **Influenza-like illness :** increased from **3.3** in week 44 to **3.8** in week 45.
- **Respiratory System Diseases :** increased from **343.6** in week 44 to **361.8** in week 45.
- **COVID-19 :** decreased from **12.1** in week 44 to **9.8** in week 45.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis :** increased from **6.9** in week 44 to **8.1** in week 45 in the London region, increased from **18.7** in week 44 to **19.6** in week 45 in the North region, increased from **11.9** in week 44 to **12.6** in week 45 in the South region, and increased from **14.2** in week 44 to **17.4** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

- **Asthma :** increased from **9.8** in week 44 to **10.4** in week 45 in the London region, increased from **11.9** in week 44 to **12.9** in week 45 in the North region, increased from **12.8** in week 44 to **13.3** in week 45 in the South region, and increased from **11.0** in week 44 to **12.5** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

- **Common Cold :** decreased from **3.8** in week 44 to **3.4** in week 45 in the London region, increased from **3.2** in week 44 to **3.3** in week 45 in the North region, increased from **2.5** in week 44 to **3.1** in week 45 in the South region, and decreased from **3.5** in week 44 to **3.3** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

- **Influenza-like illness :** increased from **4.4** in week 44 to **4.8** in week 45 in the London region, increased from **3.1** in week 44 to **4.4** in week 45 in the North region, increased from **2.8** in week 44 to **3.3** in week 45 in the South region, and decreased from **3.4** in week 44 to **3.0** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

- **Respiratory System Diseases :** increased from **252.9** in week 44 to **267.3** in week 45 in the London region, increased from **430.6** in week 44 to **443.7** in week 45 in the North region, increased from **317.0** in week 44 to **337.7** in week 45 in the South region, and increased from **360.9** in week 44 to **380.3** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

- **COVID-19 :** decreased from **8.5** in week 44 to **6.6** in week 45 in the London region, decreased from **13.7** in week 44 to **11.2** in week 45 in the North region, decreased from **13.2** in week 44 to **10.7** in week 45 in the South region, and decreased from **12.0** in week 44 to **9.8** in week 45 in the Midlands And East region.

Comment:

Overall presentations of respiratory diseases have increased this week and they follow the seasonal trend and are at or below the 5-year average in all regions except for the North, where incidence is higher.

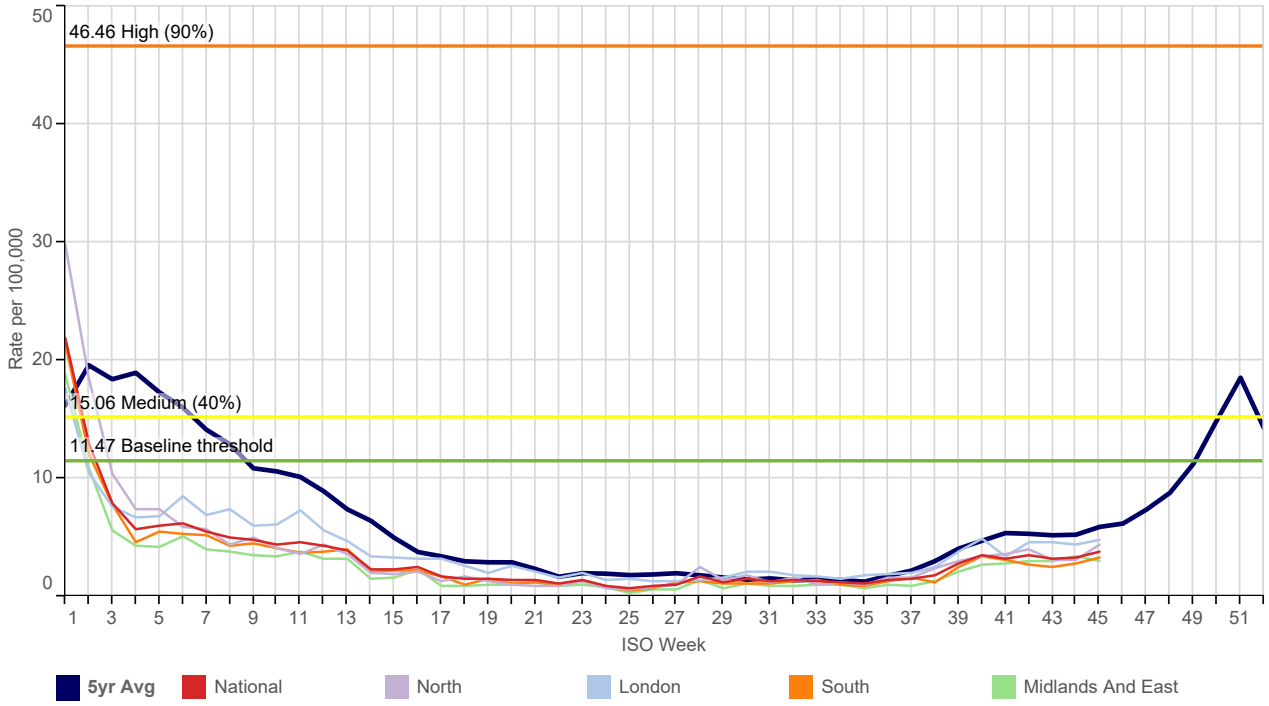
COVID-19 has continued to decrease in all regions and age bands except those under 15 years. Rates of acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis have continued to increase and are above the seasonal average particularly in children aged 1-4 years and those aged under 1 and is associated with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections (graph F, page 4). Scabies rates remain above the seasonal norm in all regions (page 12).

This report includes a virology update. SARS-CoV-2 and RSV are the predominant circulating viruses reported.

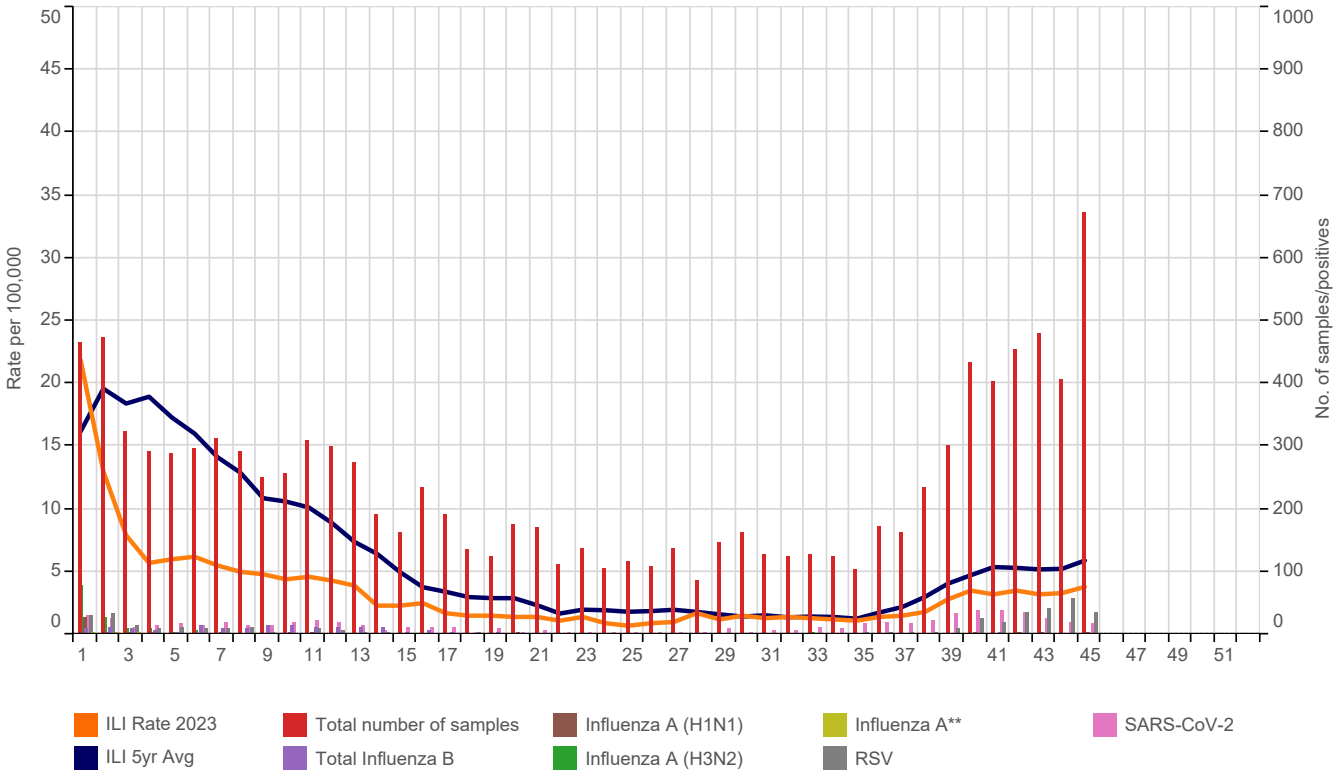
2023 Focus

Please see page 15 for explanatory notes on the data.

(A) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023 by region*

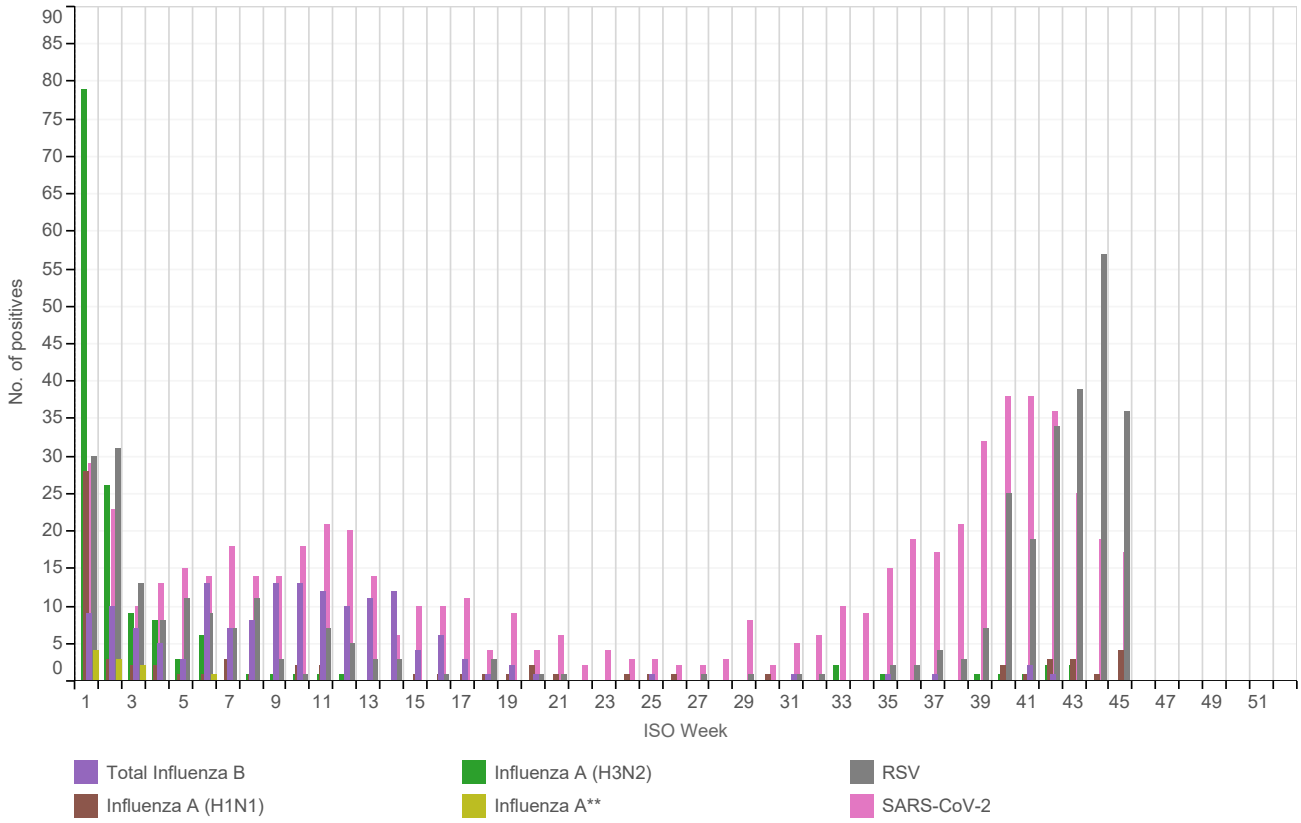


(B) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2023*

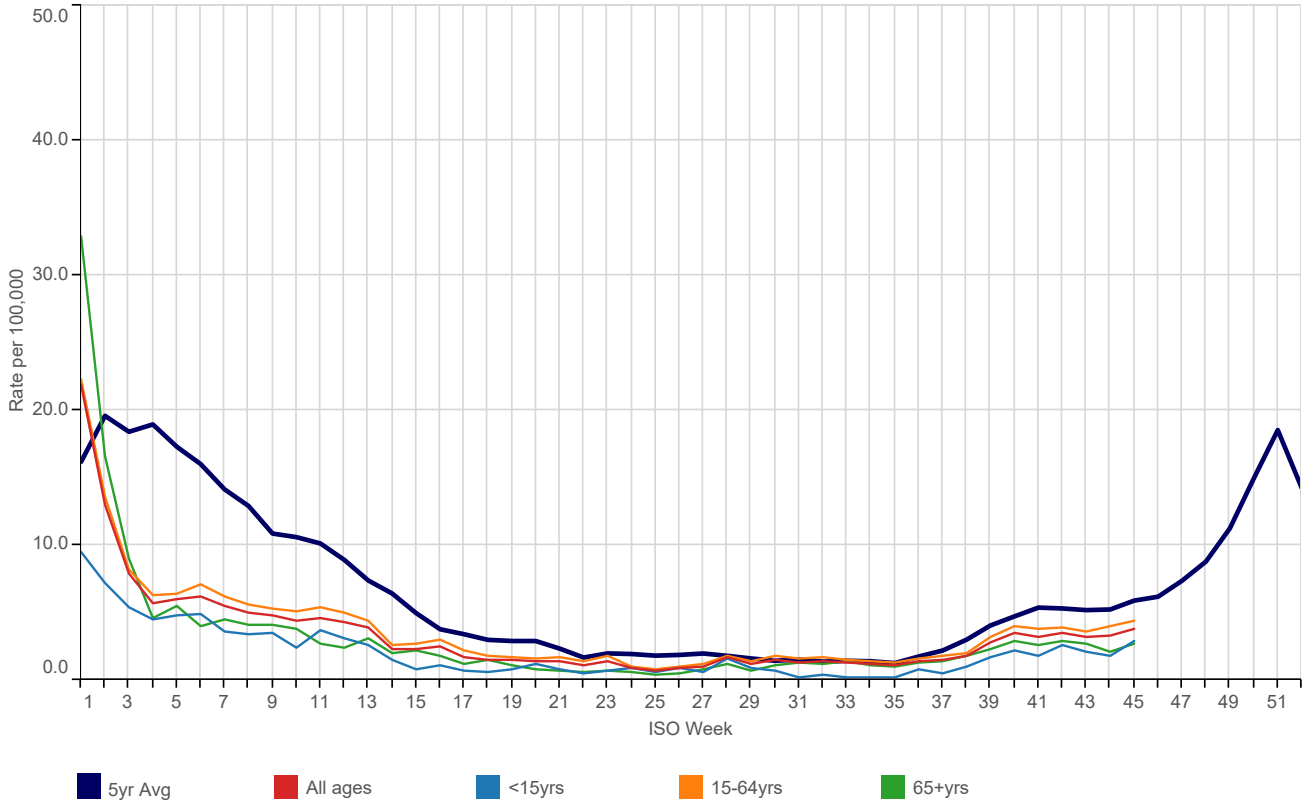


* The seasonal average line (blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC data (Graph A & B). The weekly virology samples displayed are offset from the ISO Week (Graphs B & C). **No specified subtype, or coinfection with H1N1 and H3N2.

(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2023 by viral strain*



(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023 by age group*



(E) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023 by age group*

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

Table 1	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
15-64yrs	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.4
65+yrs	1.2	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1
<15yrs	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
All ages	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2

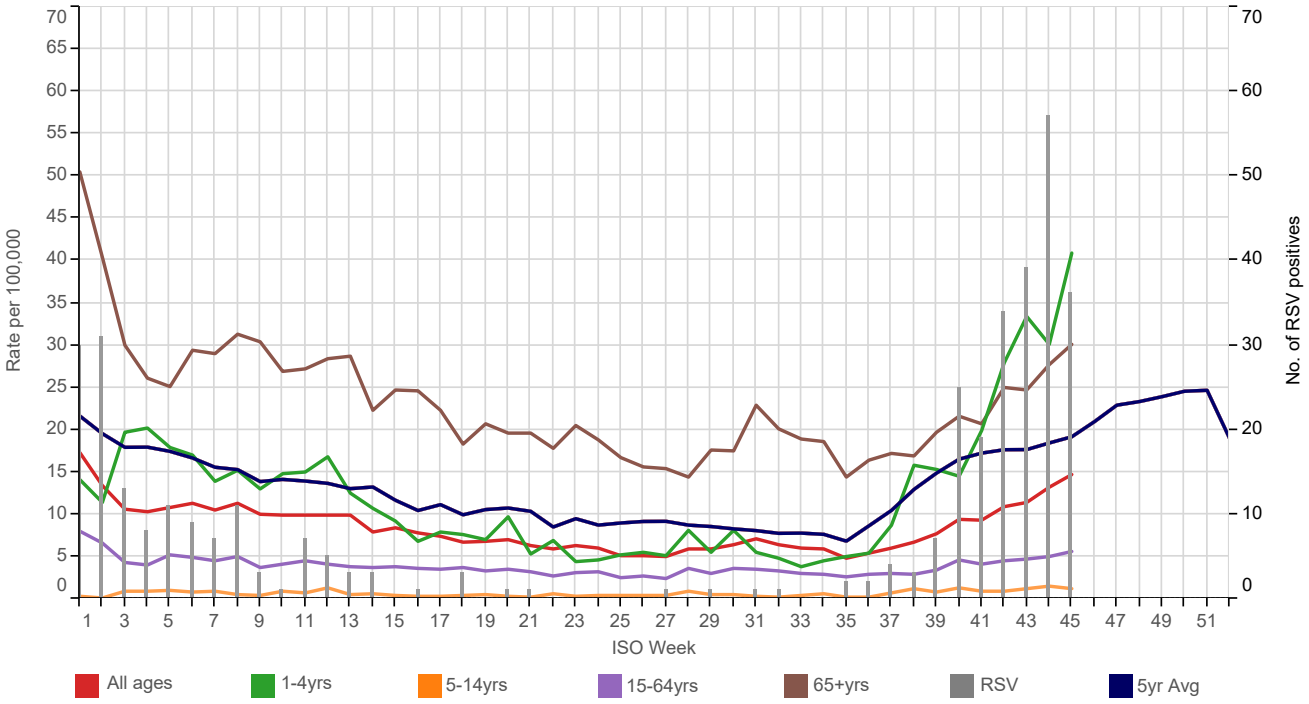
	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
<15yrs	0.2	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.2	1.8	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.9							
15-64yrs	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.0	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.4							
65+yrs	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.1	2.7							
All ages	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.8	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.8							

Table 2	Below Threshold	Threshold to Medium	Medium to High[3]	High to Very High	/
15-64yrs	<14.62	14.62 to 16.81	16.81 to 60.16	60.16 to 105.70	105.70+
65+yrs	<12.54	11.03 to 12.54	12.54 to 45.79	45.79 to 81.19	81.19+
<15yrs	<8.05	8.05 to 13.38	13.38 to 30.96	30.96 to 44.85	44.85+
All Ages	<11.47	11.47 to 15.06	15.06 to 46.46	46.46 to 76.44	76.44+

Threshold levels

[1]*Below baseline threshold*
[2]*baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile*
[3]*40th to <90th percentile*
[4]*90th to <97.5th percentile*
[5]*97.5th+ percentile*

(F) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2023 by age group*

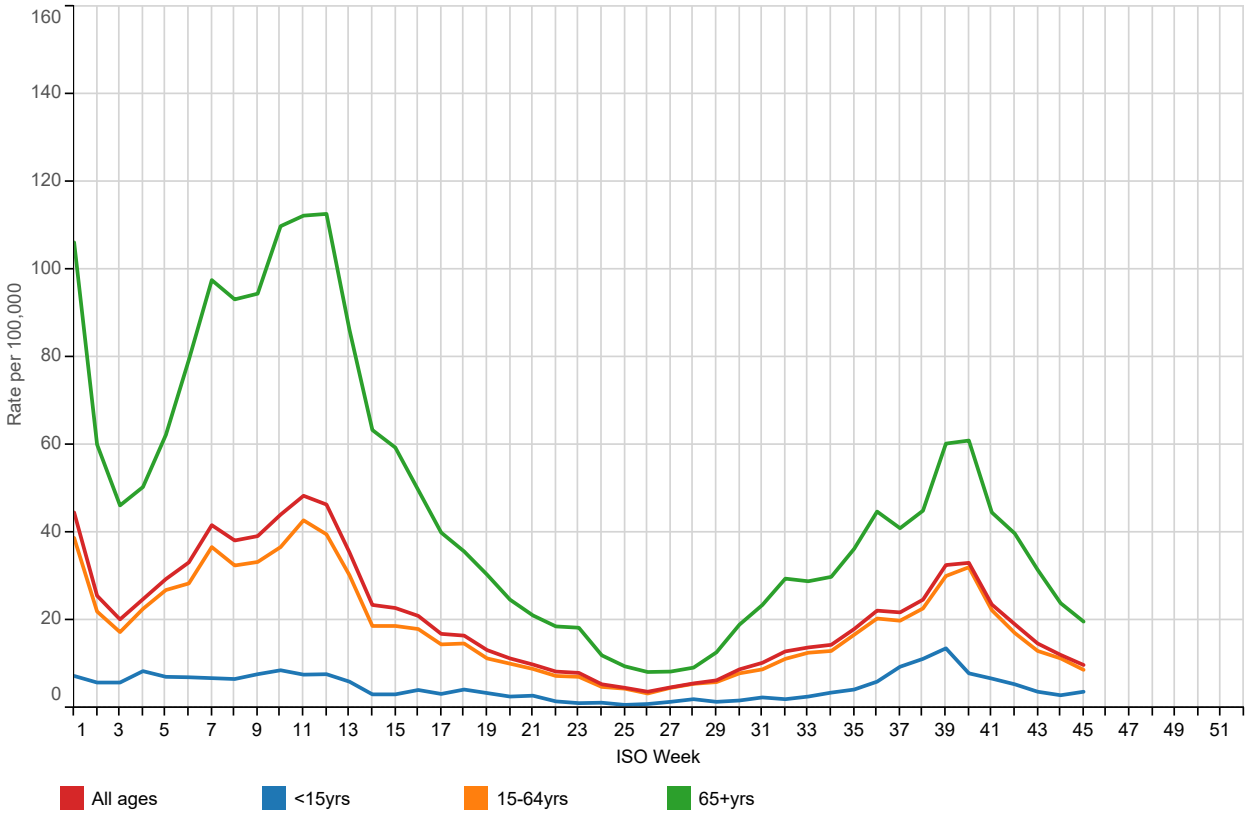


Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons

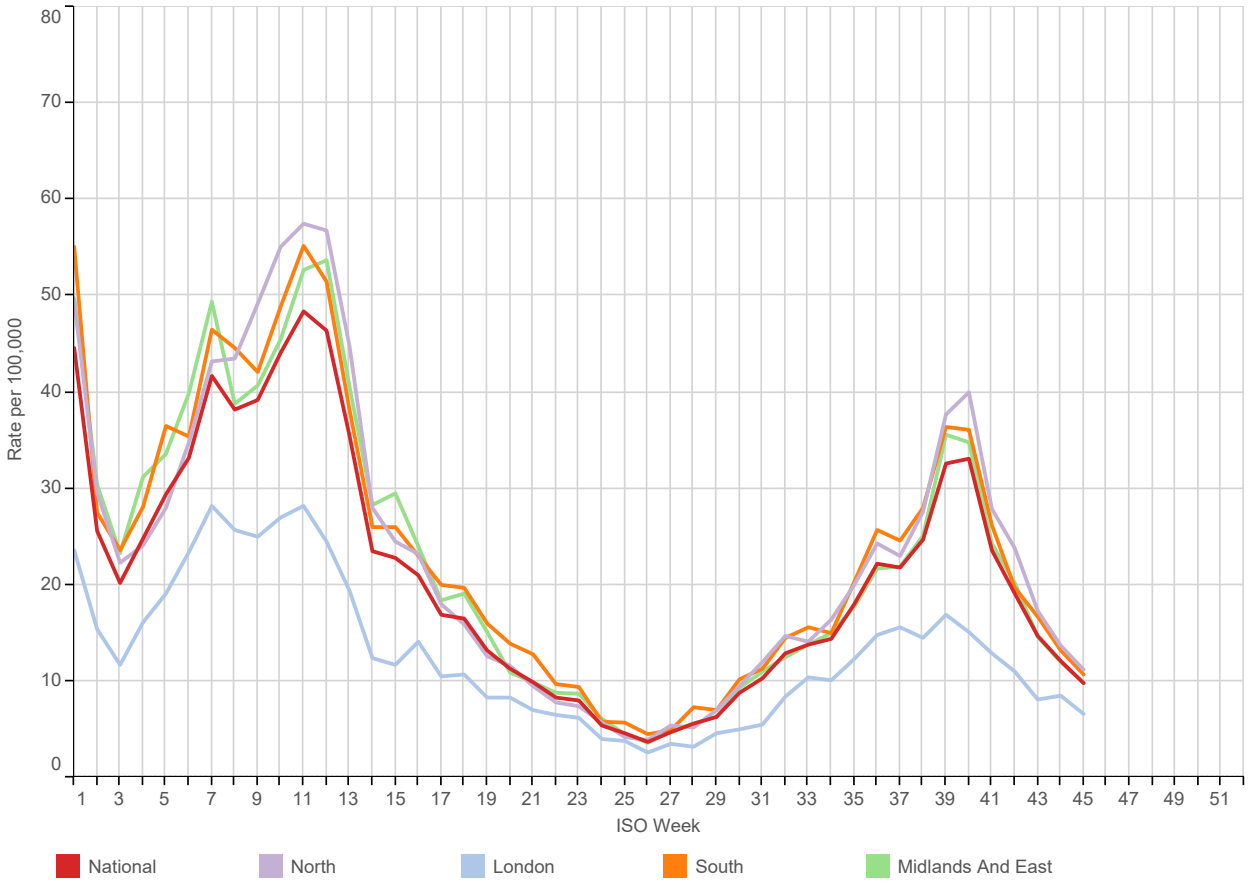
	Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<1yr	6.5	434.4
1-4yrs	4.1	40.9
5-14yrs	2.2	1.2
15-24yrs	3.9	1.4
25-44yrs	4.8	2.7
45-64yrs	4.0	11.1
65-74yrs	3.3	27.6
75-84yrs	2.1	32.9
85+yrs	1.6	31.8
All ages	3.8	14.7

	Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
London	4.8	8.1
North	4.4	19.6
South	3.3	12.6
Midlands And East	3.0	17.4
National	3.8	14.7

(G) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2023 by age group*



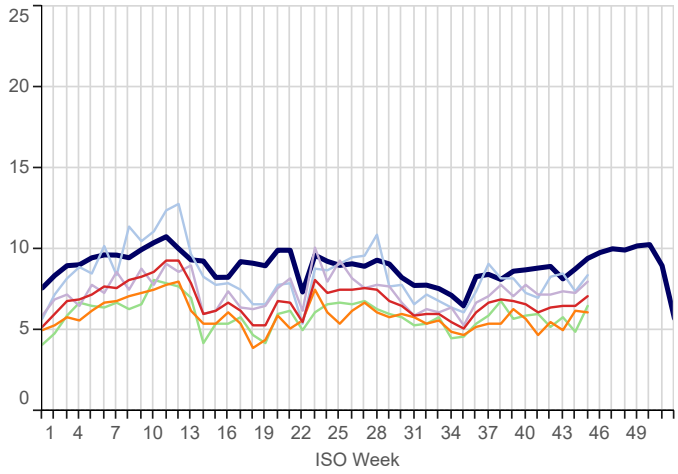
(H) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2023 by region*



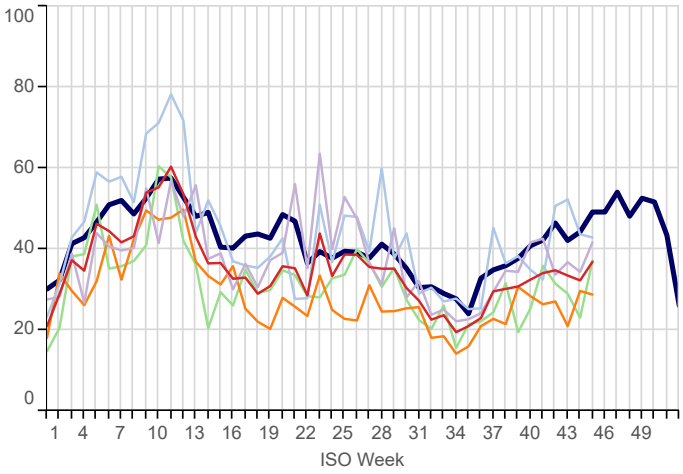
1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

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

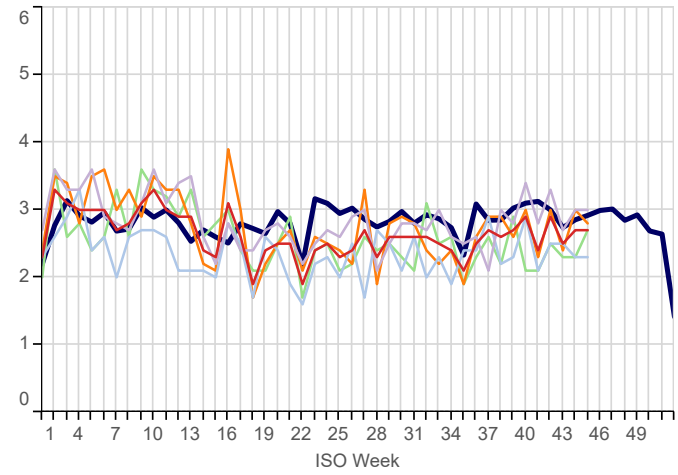
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by regions
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



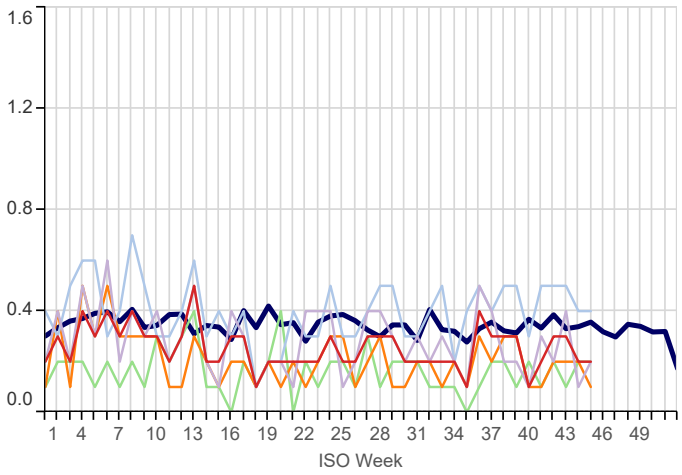
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by regions
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



About the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

Acknowledgement:

Staff from the Data Science department at the National Physical Laboratory (https://www.npl.co.uk/data-science) assisted in the provision of and extension of the primary care national surveillance reports during the 2020 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic; as well as adding resilience.

What we do

The RCGP RSC was established in 1957, with the current name in use since 2009. The Centre is an internationally renowned source of information, analysis and interpretation concerning the onset, patterns, prevalence and trends over time of morbidity in primary care. The RSC is an active research and surveillance unit that collects and monitors data; its most important research is the surveillance of influenza and the monitoring of vaccine effectiveness.

The RSC data and analytics hub is housed at the Oxford-Royal College of General Practioners Research and Surveillance Centre.

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

http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc

Our data extraction process and information governance

Data are extracted twice weekly from practice systems by Magentus data management and EMIS-X on the RCGP's behalf. Patients who have withheld consent for data sharing are excluded from the extraction process.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the RCGP data and analytics hub at the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners Research and Surveillance Centre. Both Magentus data management and the University of Oxford are Registered and compliant with the Data Protection Act and fully compliant with all relevant NHS Digital data information governance best practice.

What the data is used for

The RCGP RSC has been providing reports weekly about health and disease, called the Weekly Returns Service (WRS) since 1964. The WRS monitors the number of patients consulting with new episodes of illness classified by diagnosis in England and provides weekly incidence rates per 100,000 population for these new episodes of illness. It is the key primary care element of the national disease monitoring systems run by the UK Health Security Agency. The bulletin can be found at the following URL:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses

In addition to the WRS, the data is used for other research studies. Any other uses of the data for research follow ethical approval or agreement from NIHR proportionate review, and where relevant Health Research Authority Confidential Advisory Group advice that further approval is not needed. Full details can be found on our website:

http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc

For further information

For further information about the work of the RSC, or if you would like to be included on our email notification list, please contact:

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