# Royal College of General Practitioners

# RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

## Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year.................... **19/2024**
Week Starting - Ending............. **01/05/2024 - 07/05/2024**
No. of Practices.......................... **1,452**
Population................................... **14,544,096**

### National (England)

- **Acute Respiratory Infections:** decreased from **268.7** in week 18 to **223.4** in week 19.
- **Influenza-like illness:** decreased from **2.8** in week 18 to **2.1** in week 19.
- **Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease:** decreased from **16.4** in week 18 to **13.2** in week 19.
- **Lower Respiratory Tract Infections:** decreased from **95.5** in week 18 to **78.4** in week 19.
- **Upper Respiratory Tract Infections:** decreased from **165.0** in week 18 to **138.9** in week 19.
- **COVID-19:** decreased from **2.3** in week 18 to **1.9** in week 19.

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

**Acute Respiratory Infections:** decreased from **210.4** in week 18 to **172.5** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **314.7** in week 18 to **262.0** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **244.4** in week 18 to **204.4** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **296.9** in week 18 to **244.8** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

**Influenza-like illness:** decreased from **3.6** in week 18 to **2.4** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **2.6** in week 18 to **1.9** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **2.9** in week 18 to **2.2** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **2.4** in week 18 to **2.1** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease:** decreased from **10.4** in week 18 to **8.0** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **21.9** in week 18 to **18.1** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **15.0** in week 18 to **11.6** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **17.1** in week 18 to **13.8** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections:** decreased from **62.0** in week 18 to **51.6** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **118.6** in week 18 to **95.6** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **89.5** in week 18 to **74.7** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **104.6** in week 18 to **85.0** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections:** decreased from **142.8** in week 18 to **117.6** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **186.5** in week 18 to **159.2** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **146.6** in week 18 to **123.8** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **183.6** in week 18 to **152.7** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

- **COVID-19:** decreased from **2.0** in week 18 to **1.7** in week 19 in the London region, decreased from **2.0** in week 18 to **1.6** in week 19 in the North region, decreased from **3.0** in week 18 to **2.4** in week 19 in the South region, and decreased from **1.9** in week 18 to **1.6** in week 19 in the Midlands And East region.

## Comment:

Rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) have decreased across all regions (graph I, page 6). Rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased a little but remain above the seasonal average in most regions (graph A, page 2). COVID-19 rates have decreased a little this week in all regions (page 5). Rates of pneumonia (page 9) have increased in some regions but has fallen to just below the season average nationally. Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (page 7) have decreased in all regions.

Rates of measles and whooping cough (page 14), and scabies (page 15) remain above their seasonal averages. Rates of strep sore throat, scarlatina and peritonsillar abscess (page 17) have decreased but remain above the seasonal average in most regions.

This report includes a respiratory virology update. Influenza, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2 are the predominant circulating viruses detected by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Reference Virology Lab.This report includes the May bank holiday when most general practices will be closed.
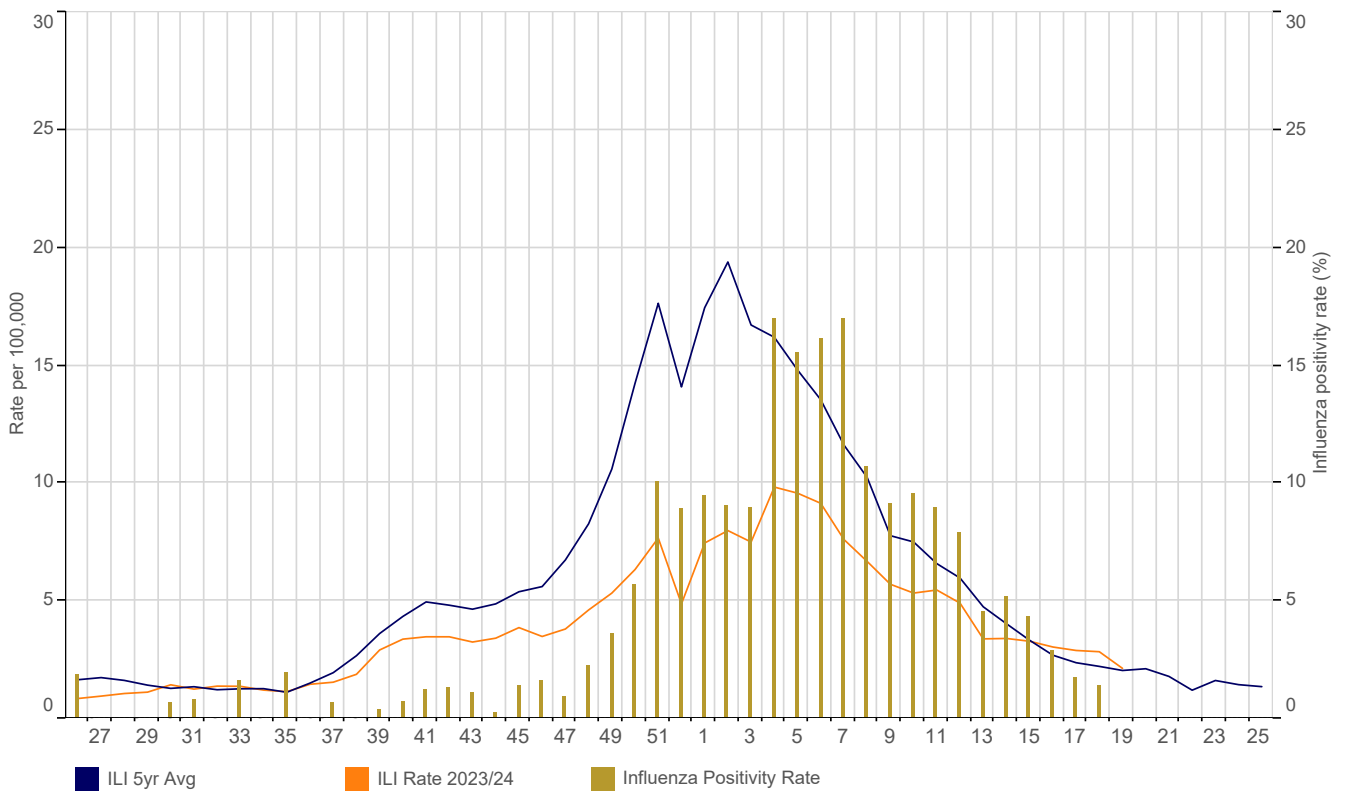
# 2023/24 Focus

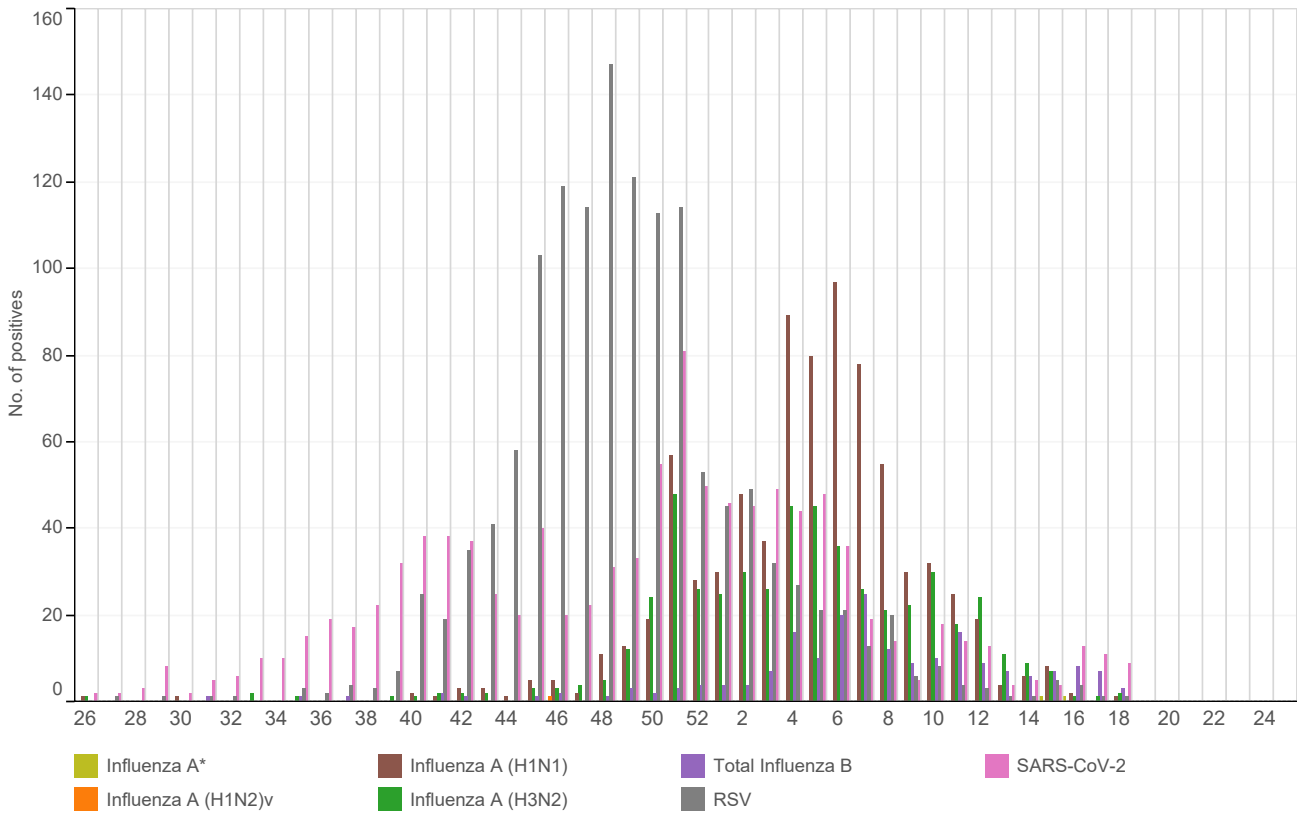Please see page 19 for explanatory notes on the data.

## (A) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023/24 by region
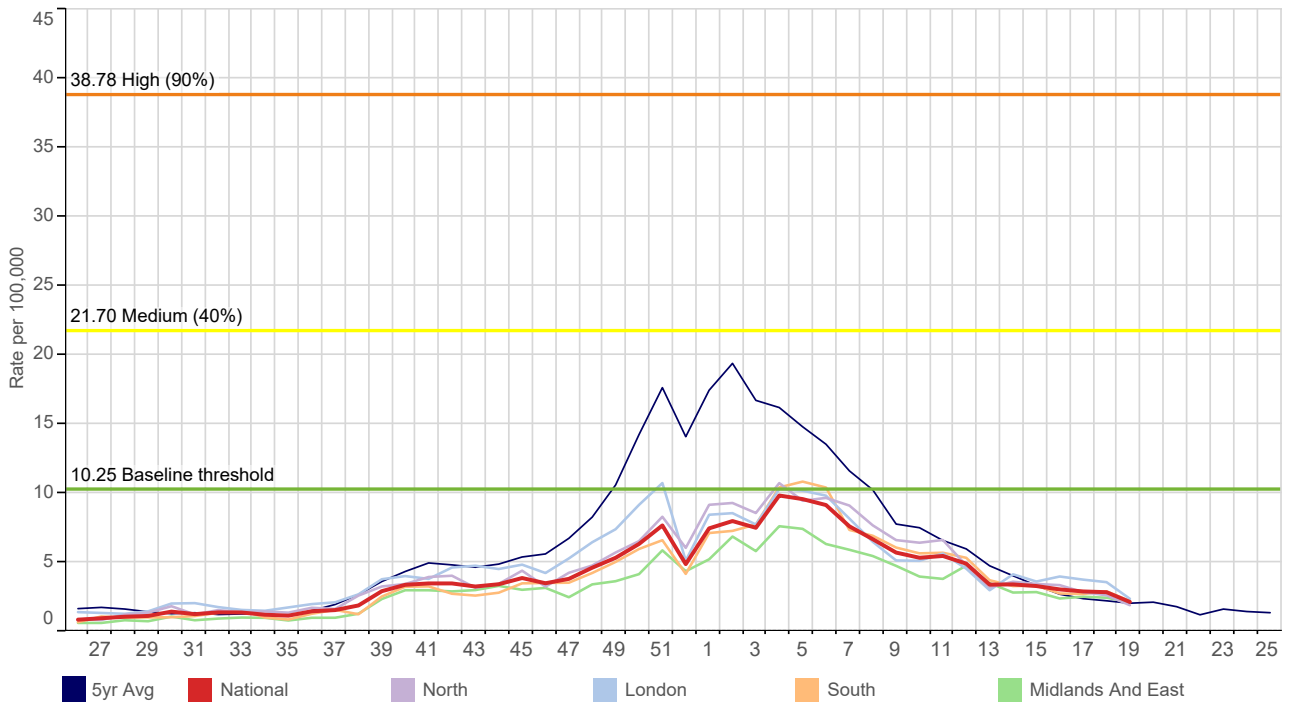


## (B) RCGP/UKHSA Influenza Virology Swab Surveillance 2023/24
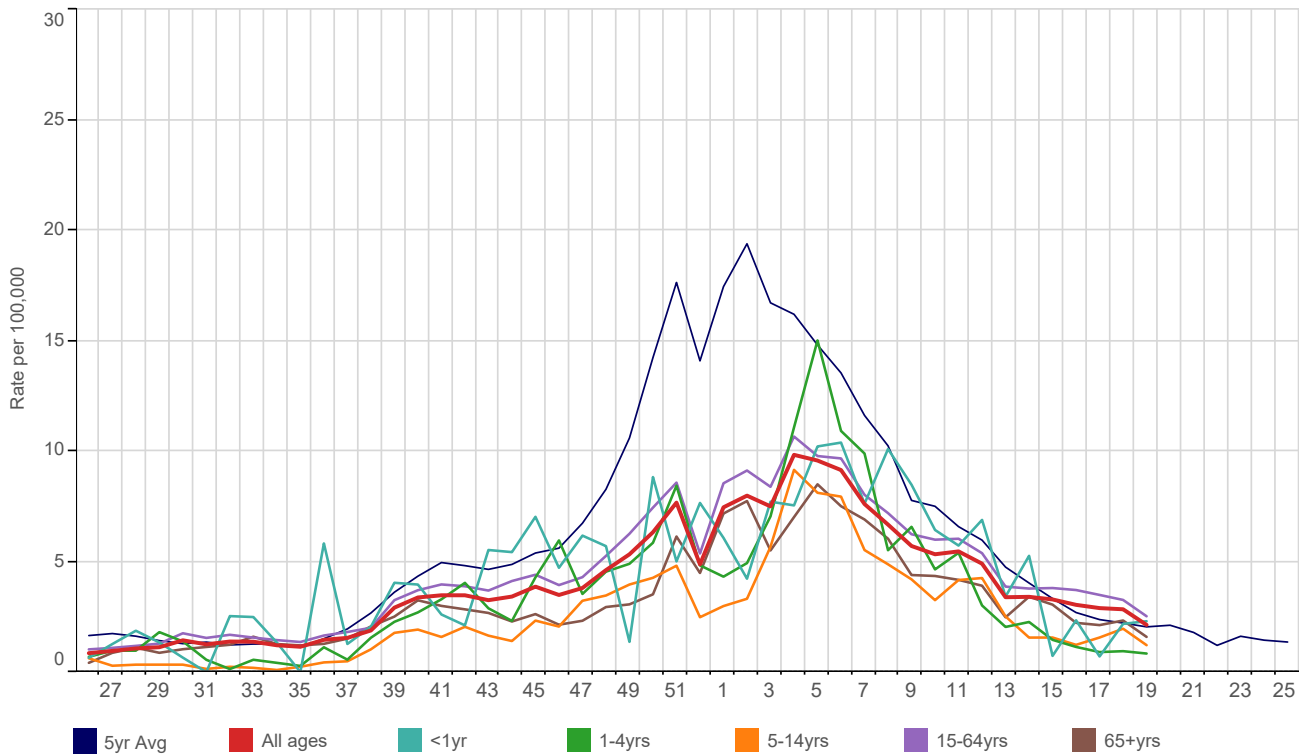
**(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2023/24 by viral strain**



The weekly virology samples displayed are offset from the ISO Week (Graph C).
*No specified subtype, or coinfection with H1N1 and H3N2.

**(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023/24 by age band**

## (E) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023/24 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 - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

| Table 1 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-4yrs | 4.0 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 6.0 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 8.4 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 7.1 | 11.1 | 15.0 | 10.9 | 9.9 |
| 5-14yrs | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 5.7 | 9.2 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 5.5 |
| 15-64yrs | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 8.6 | 5.4 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 8.0 |
| 65+yrs | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 6.1 | 4.5 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 5.5 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 6.9 |
| All ages | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 7.7 | 4.9 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 9.1 | 7.6 |

| | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-4yrs | 5.5 | 6.6 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | | | | | | |
| 5-14yrs | 4.9 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | | | | | | |
| 15-64yrs | 7.2 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 2.5 | | | | | | |
| 65+yrs | 6.0 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.6 | | | | | | |
| All ages | 6.7 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.1 | | | | | | |

| Table 2 | Below Threshold[1] | Threshold to Medium[2] | Medium to High[3] | High to Very High[4] | Above Very High[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-4yrs | <8.05 | 8.05 to 15.57 | 15.58 to 23.50 | 23.51 to 28.19 | 28.20+ |
| 5-14yrs | <6.53 | 6.53 to 15.55 | 15.56 to 32.18 | 32.19 to 44.39 | 44.40+ |
| 15-64yrs | <12.23 | 12.23 to 24.53 | 24.54 to 45.08 | 45.09 to 58.99 | 59.00+ |
| 65+yrs | <9.62 | 9.62 to 16.69 | 16.70 to 35.98 | 35.99 to 50.52 | 50.53+ |
| All Ages | <10.25 | 10.25 to 21.69 | 21.70 to 38.77 | 38.78 to 50.11 | 50.12+ |

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 and Bronchiolitis: national incidence rate 2023/24 by age band
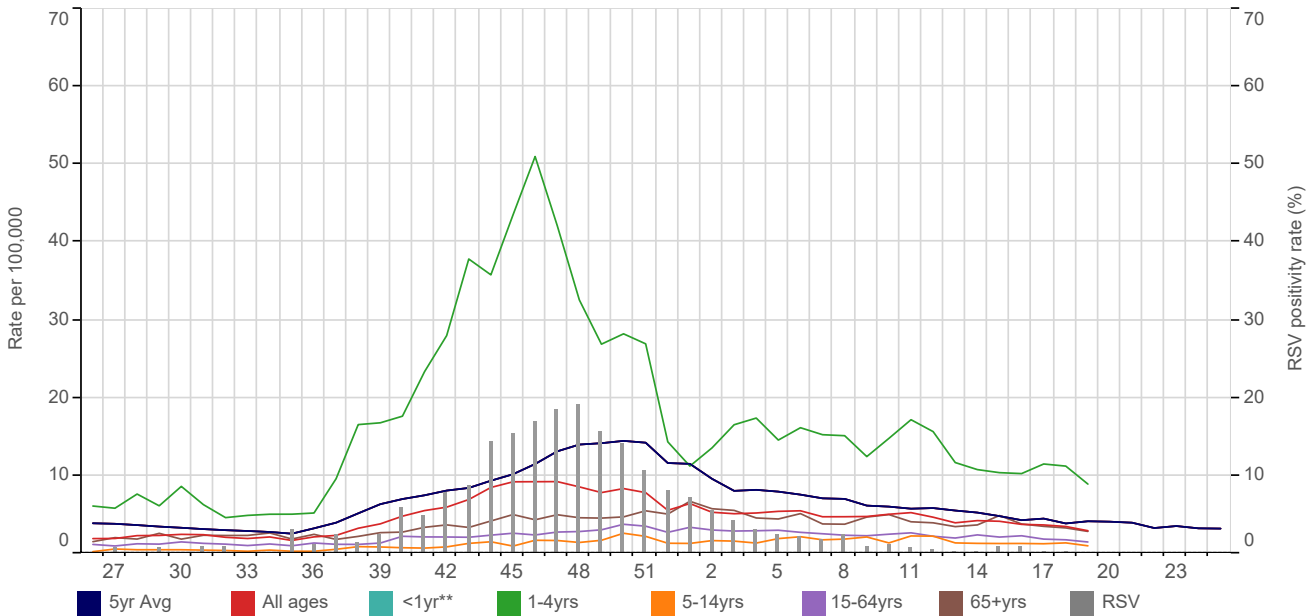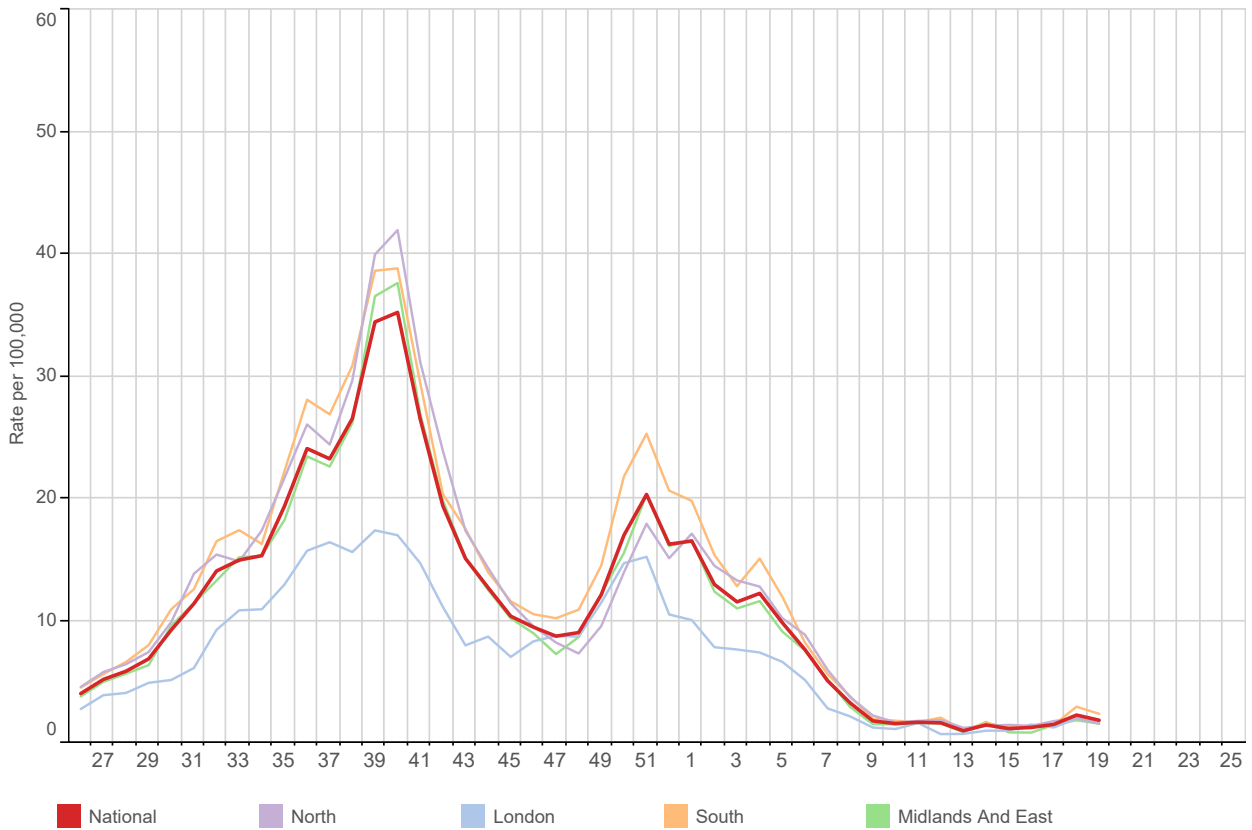


**Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**
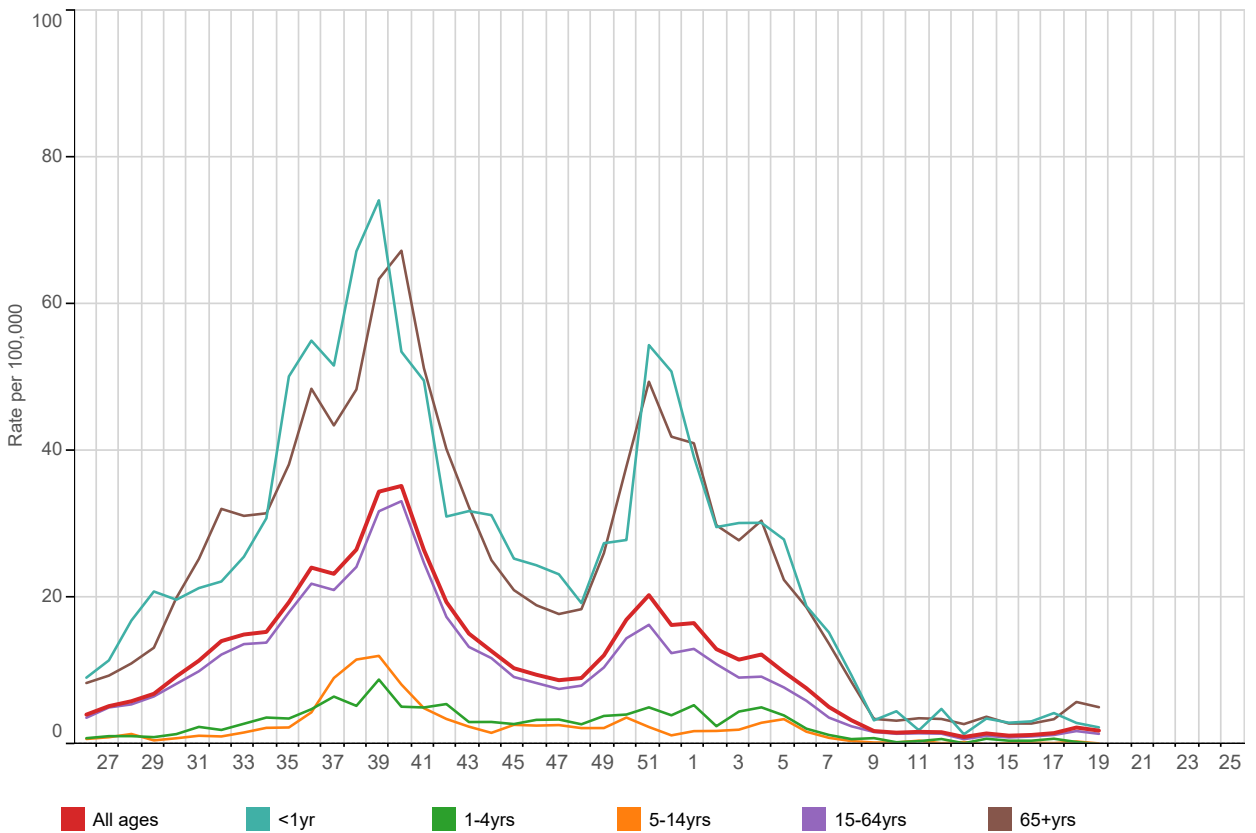
| | Influenza-like illness | Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis | | | Influenza-like illness | Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <1yr | 2.3 | 109.1 | **London** | | 2.4 | 2.1 |
| 1-4yrs | 0.8 | 8.9 | **North** | | 1.9 | 3.1 |
| 5-14yrs | 1.2 | 1.0 | **South** | | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| 15-24yrs | 2.8 | 0.7 | **Midlands And East** | | 2.1 | 3.5 |
| 25-44yrs | 3.1 | 1.5 | **National** | | 2.1 | 2.9 |
| 45-64yrs | 1.8 | 1.8 | | | | |
| 65-74yrs | 1.4 | 3.0 | | | | |
| 75-84yrs | 1.8 | 2.9 | | | | |
| 85+yrs | 1.7 | 2.0 | | | | |
| All ages | 2.1 | 2.9 | **The <1yr age band is not presented (Graph F). | | | |

**(G) COVID-19: national incidence rate 2023/24 by region**



Legend: National, North, London, South, Midlands And East

**(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate 2023/24 by age band**



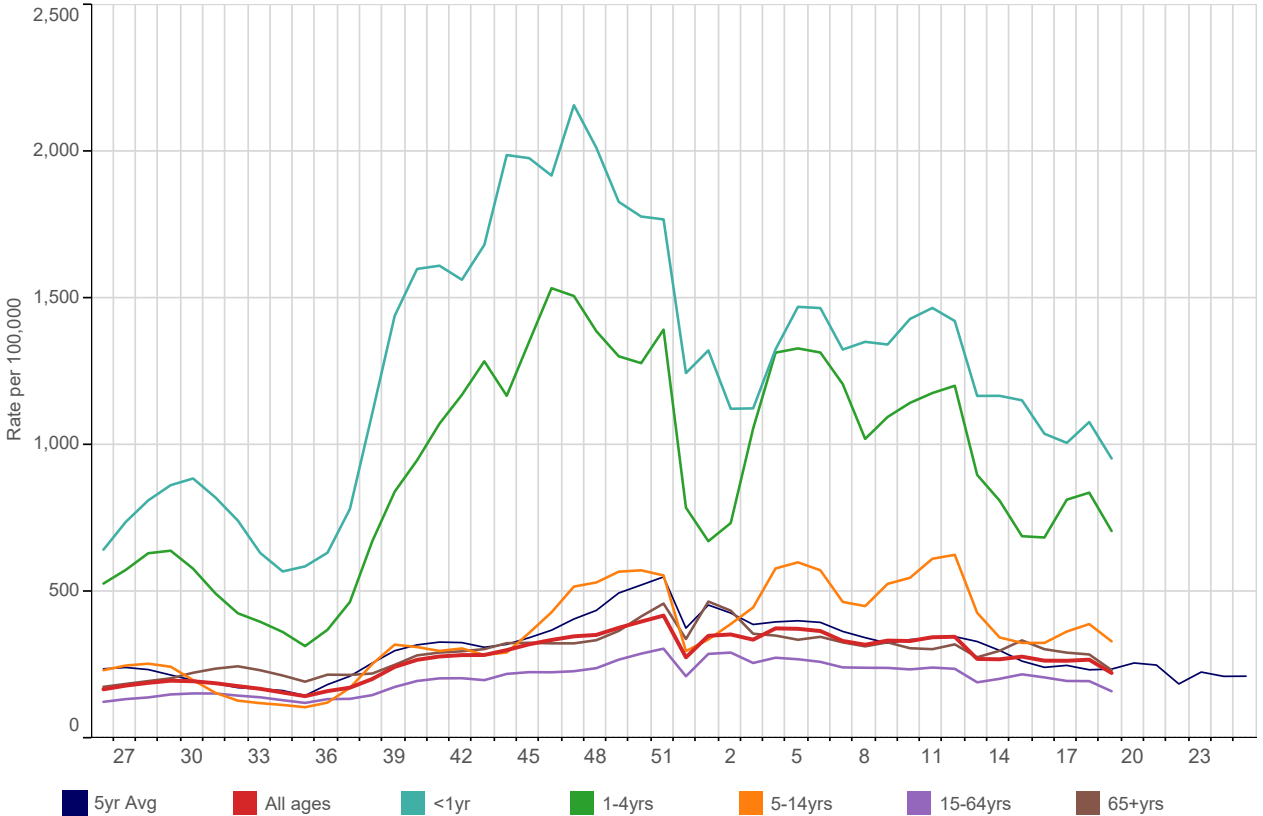Legend: All ages, <1yr, 1-4yrs, 5-14yrs, 15-64yrs, 65+yrs

# 1. Respiratory Infections

**(I) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate 2023/24 by region**
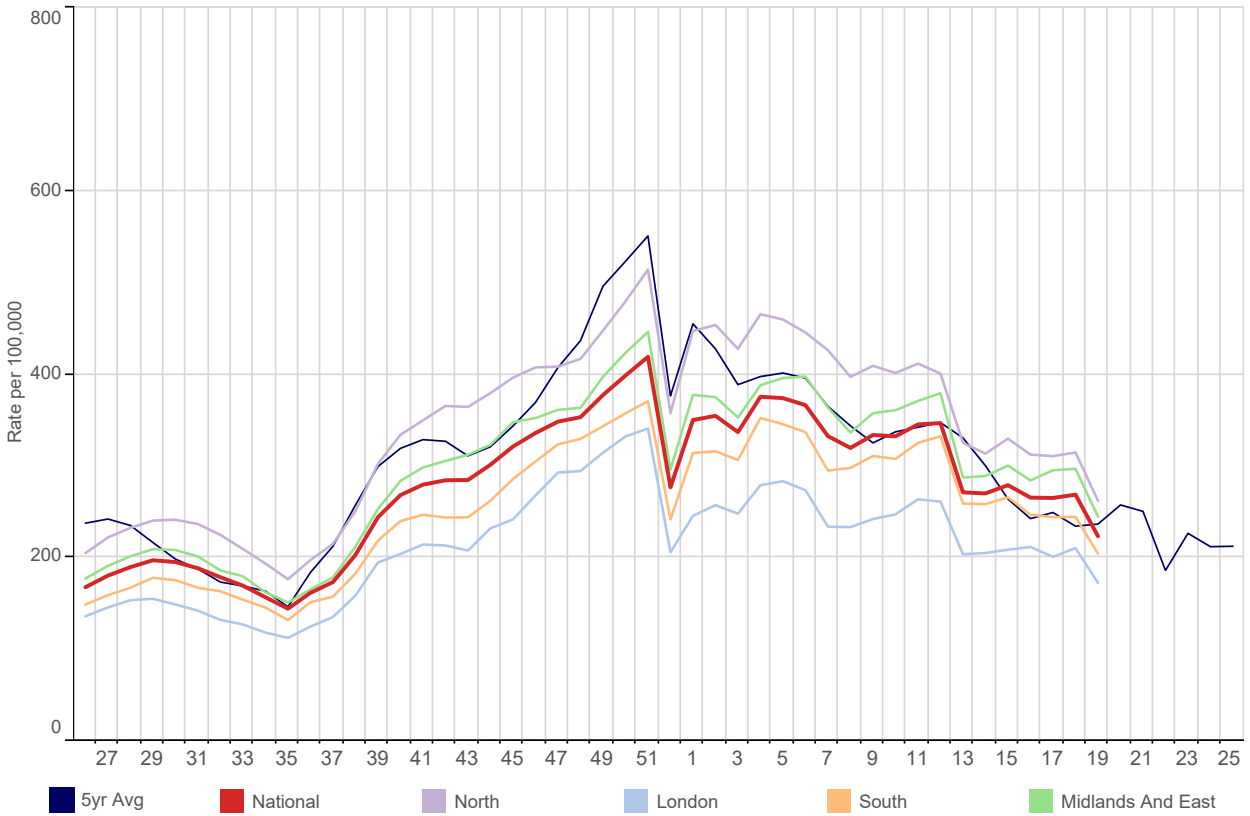


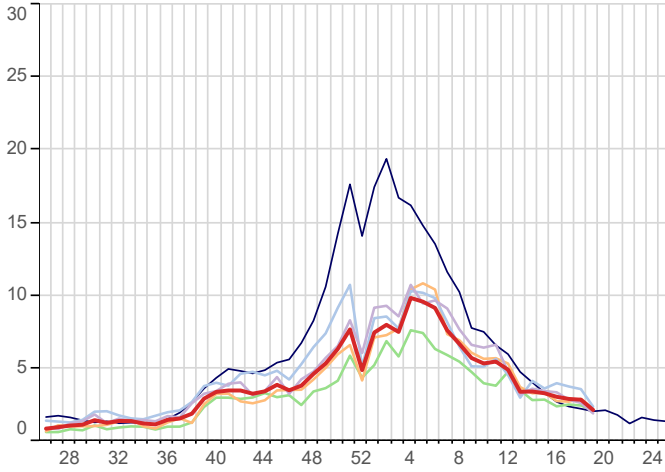**(J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate 2023/24 by age band**

# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by region*
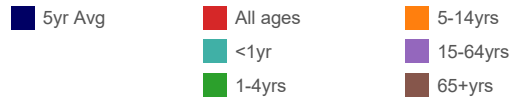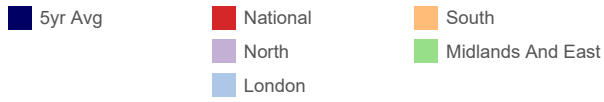
# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by age band*

**By region legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- National
- South
- North
- Midlands And East
- London

**By age band legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- All ages
- 5-14yrs
- <1yr
- 15-64yrs
- 1-4yrs
- 65+yrs

**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
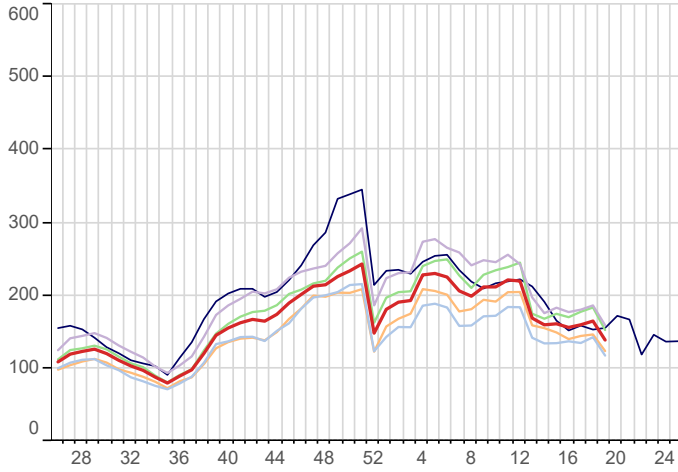for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average
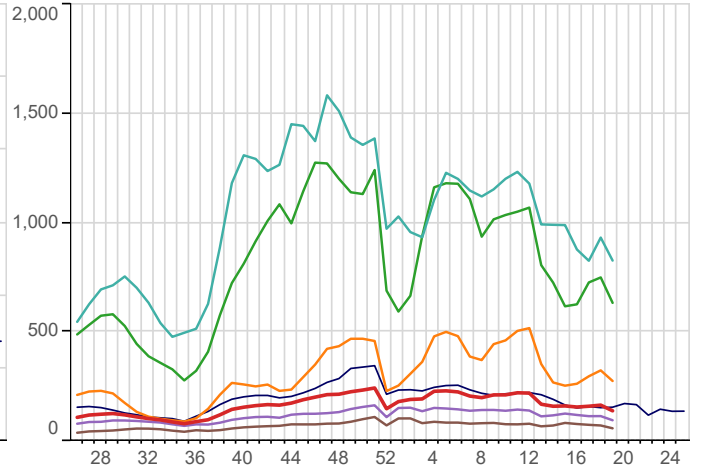
# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by region*
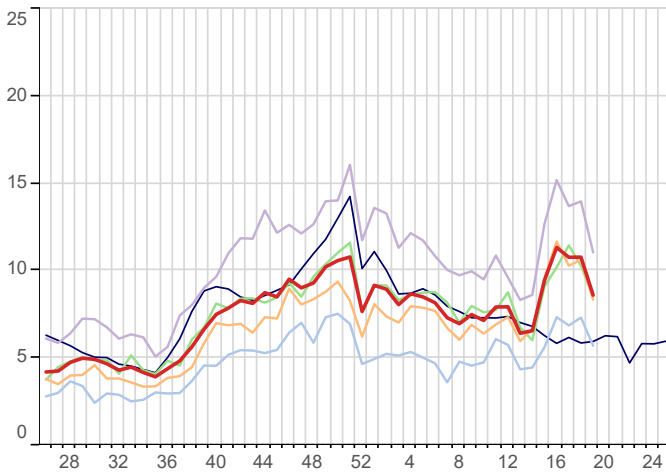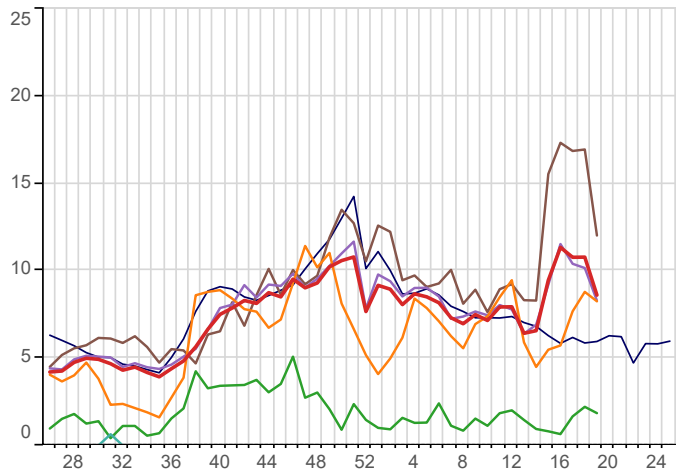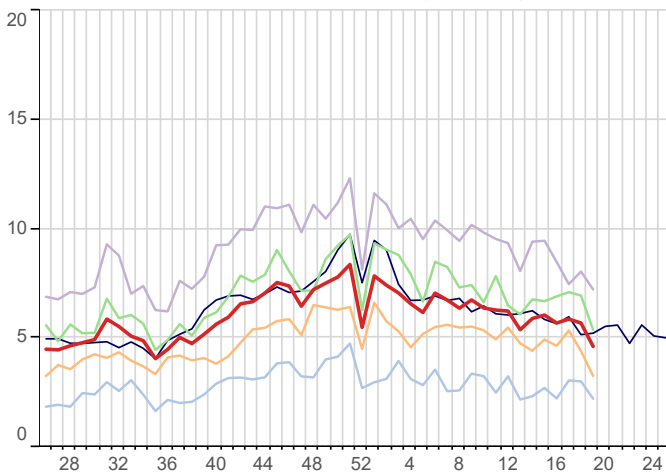
# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by age band*

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

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

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD) - Asthma Exacerbations**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
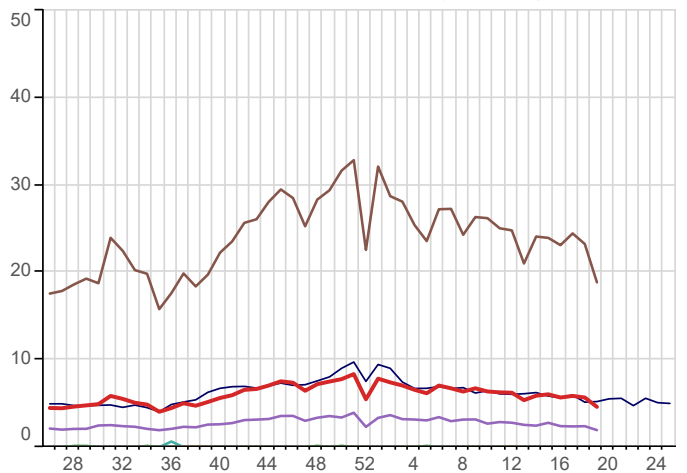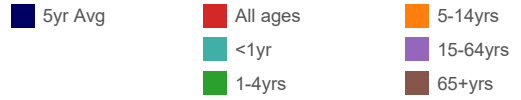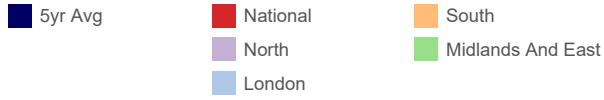for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD) - Asthma Exacerbations**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
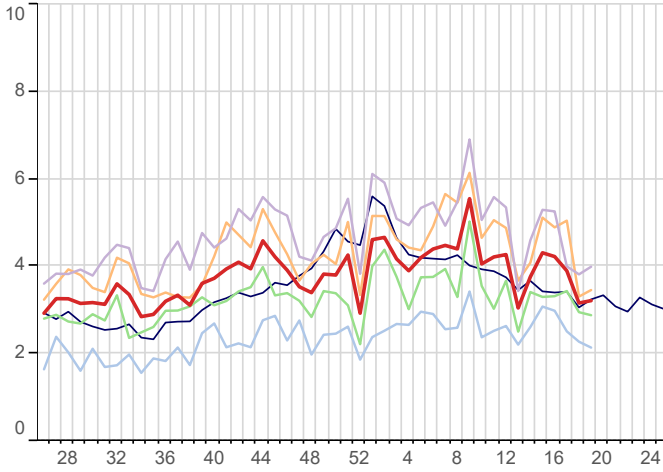for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD) - COPD Exacerbations**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD) - COPD Exacerbations**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

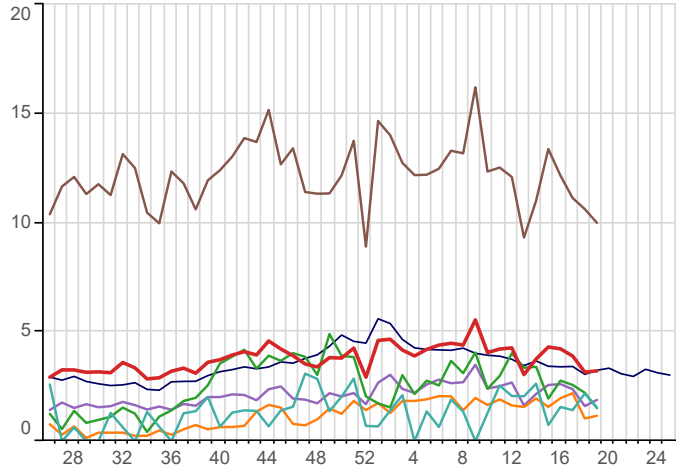# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by region*
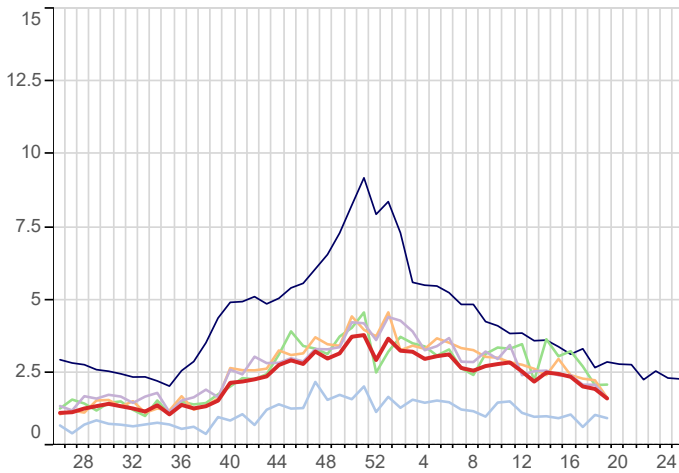
# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by age band*

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

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

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Pneumonia**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
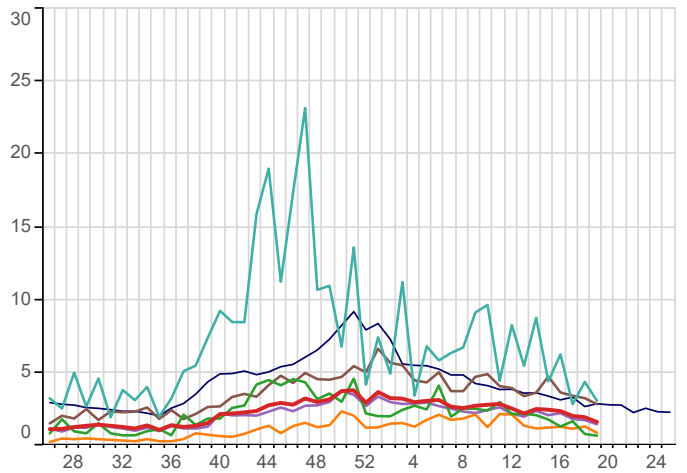**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Pneumonia**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band**
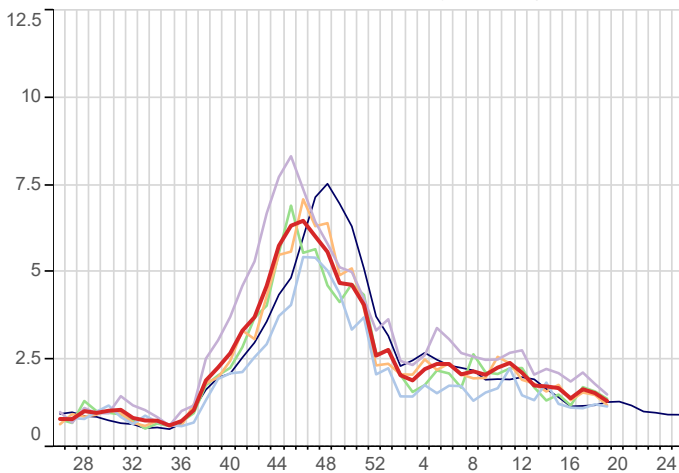**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Acute Bronchitis**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
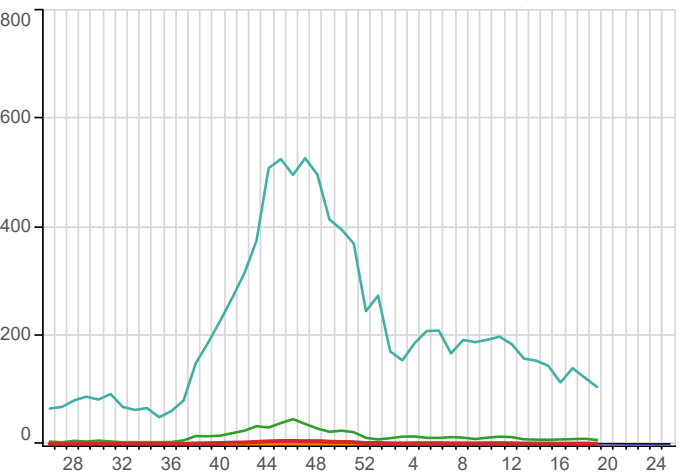**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Acute Bronchitis**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Bronchiolitis**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
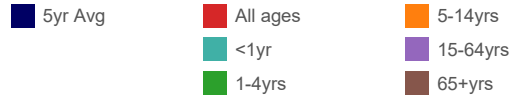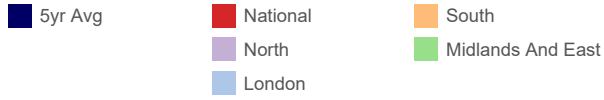**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**

**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) - Bronchiolitis**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**

# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by region*

# 1. Respiratory Infections - *by age band*

**By region legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- National
- South
- North
- Midlands And East
- London

**By age band legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- All ages
- 5-14yrs
- <1yr
- 15-64yrs
- 1-4yrs
- 65+yrs

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Croup**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Croup**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
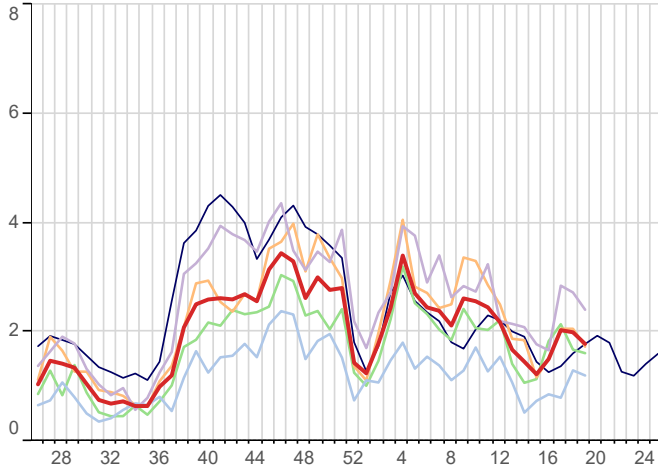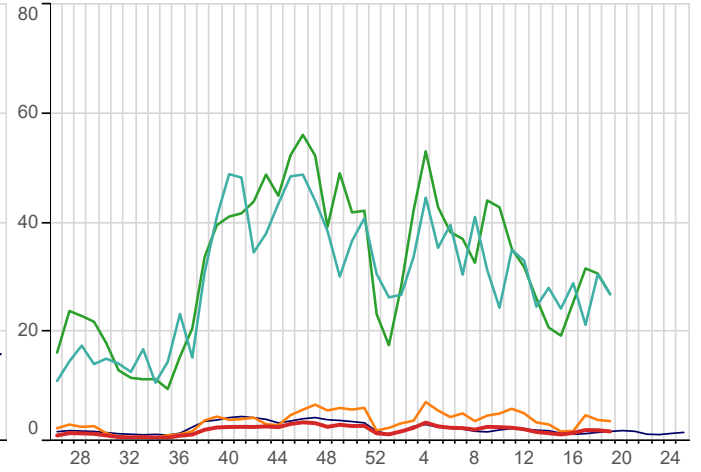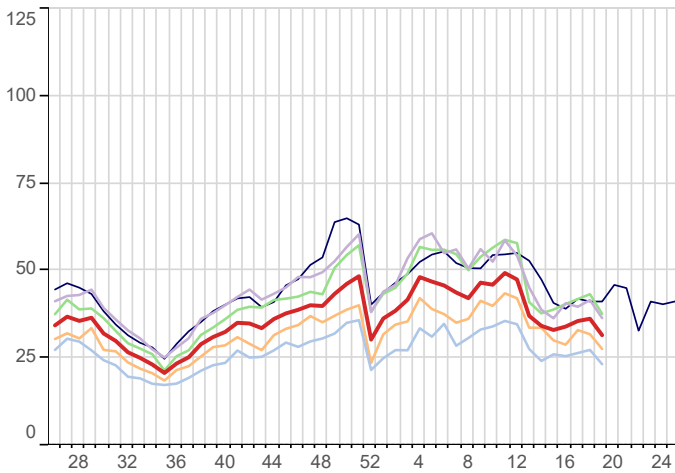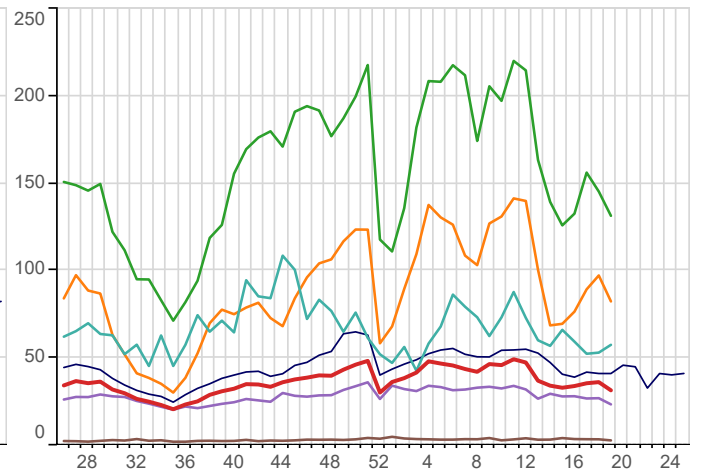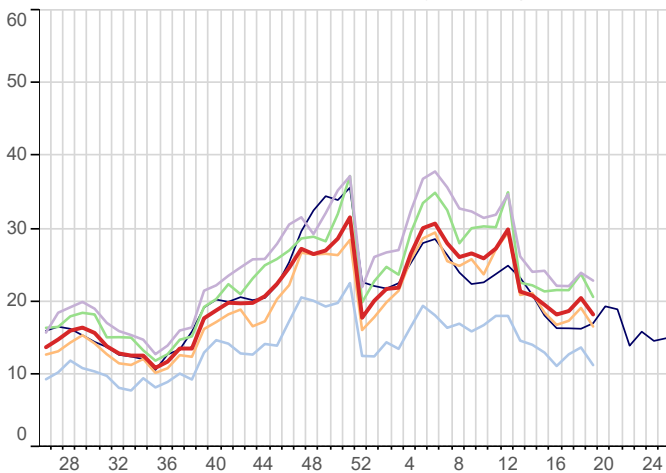for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Otitis Media**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



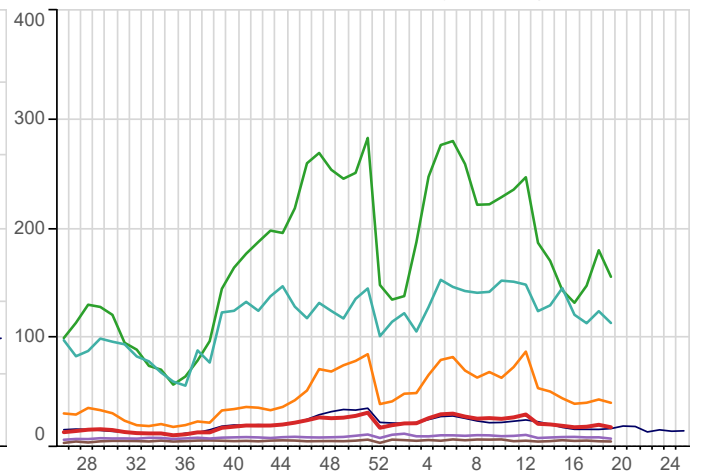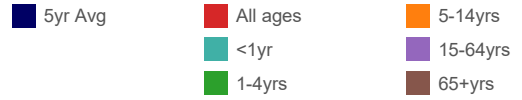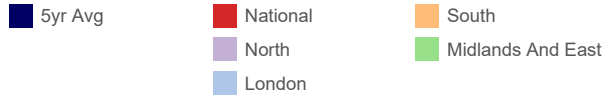**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Otitis Media**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all regions) by age band
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average
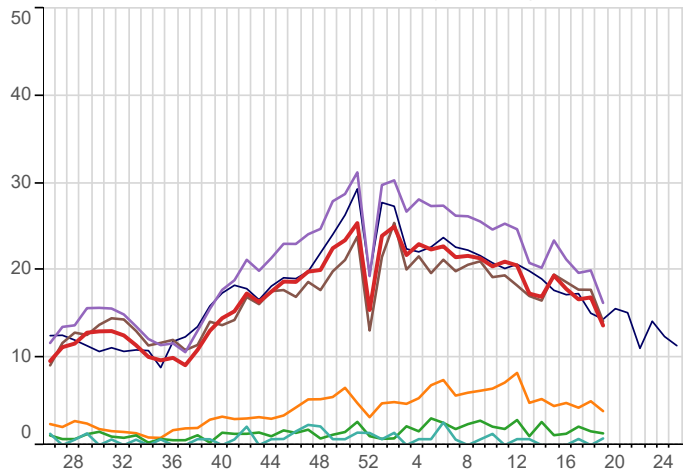
## 1. Respiratory Infections - *by region*

## 1. Respiratory Infections - *by age band*

**by region legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- National
- South
- North
- Midlands And East
- London

**by age band legend:**
- 5yr Avg
- All ages
- 5-14yrs
- <1yr
- 15-64yrs
- 1-4yrs
- 65+yrs

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Sinusitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Sinusitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
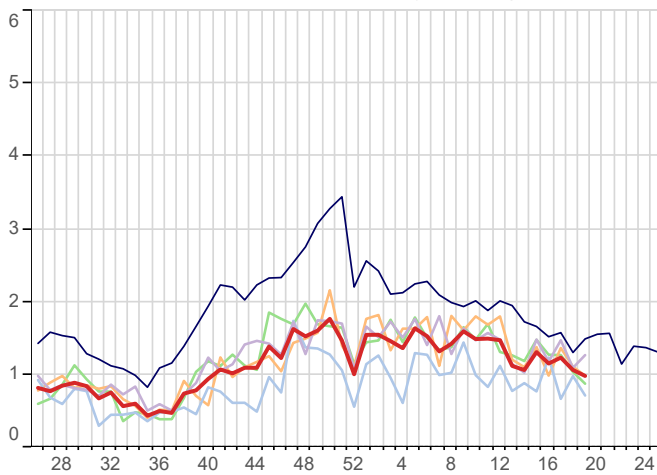for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Laryngitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
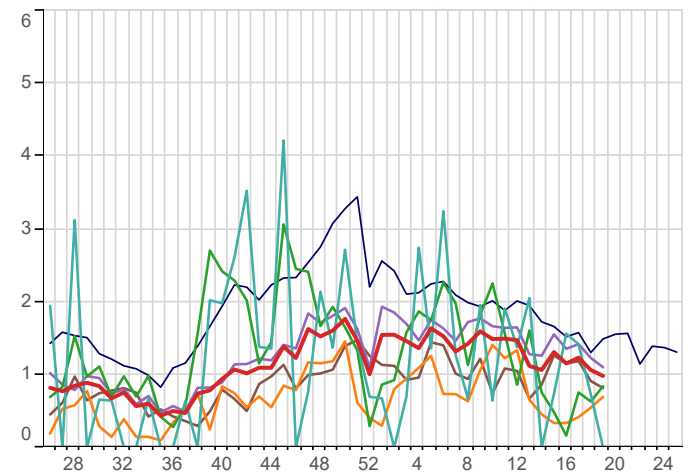for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) - Laryngitis**
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

# 2. 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 region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
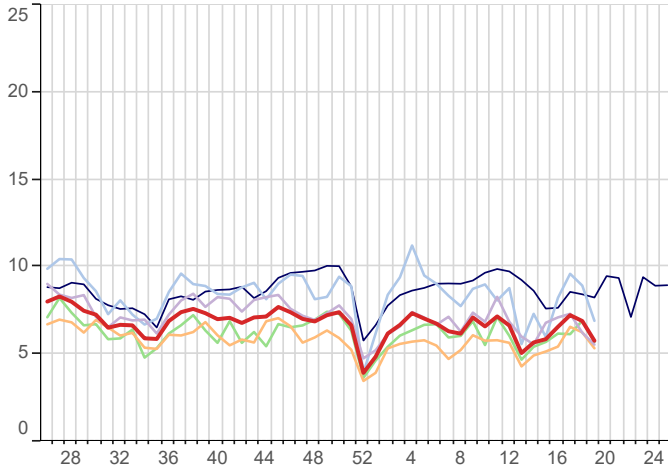
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
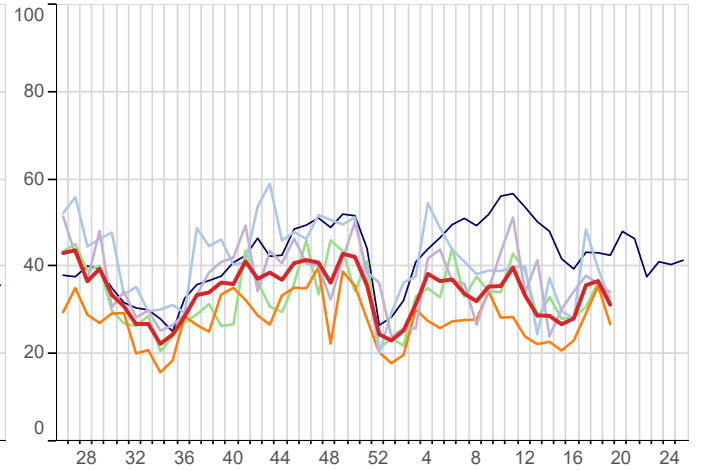
**Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
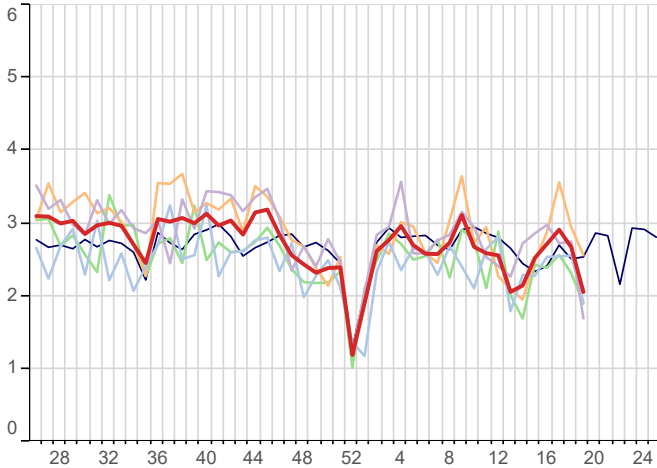
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
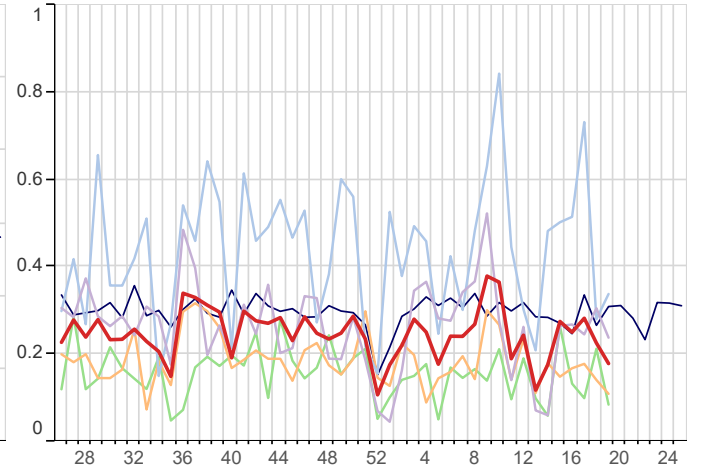
# 3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

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

**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
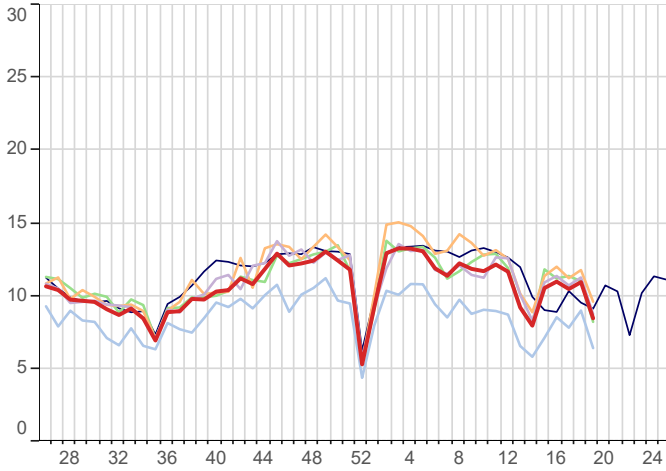


**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**



**Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
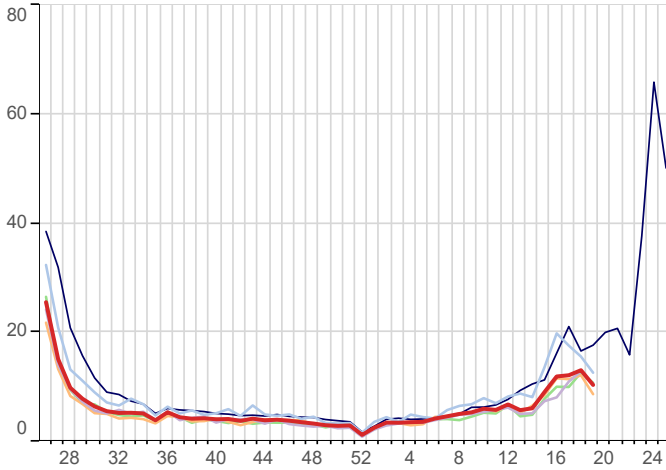
# 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

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

### Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average
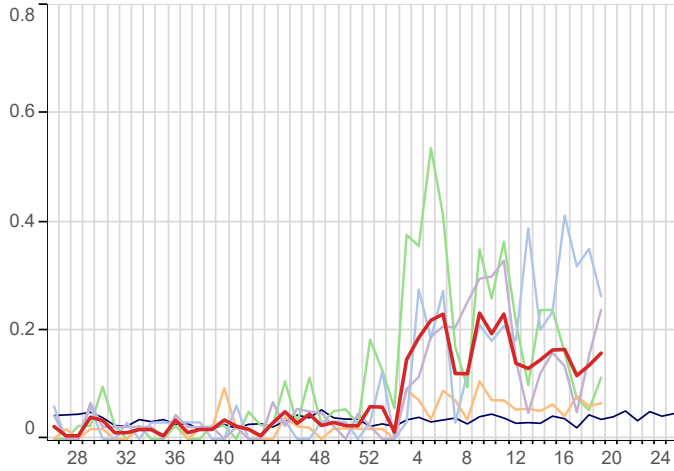
### Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

### Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

### Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

# 5. Skin Contagions

### Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average

### Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average
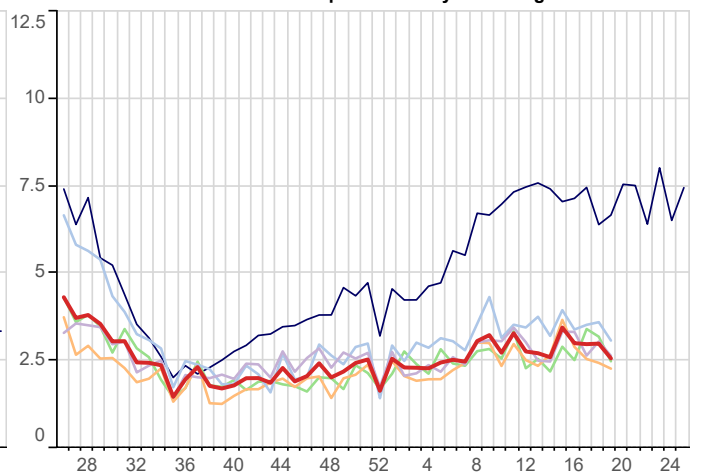
# 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)
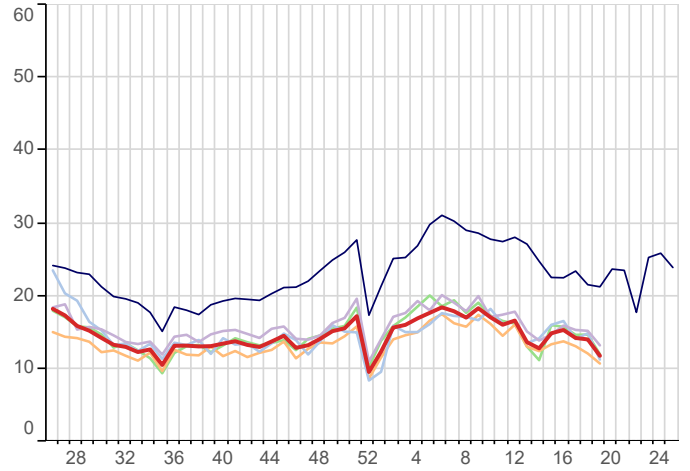
**5yr Avg**   **National**   North   London   South   Midlands And East

### Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
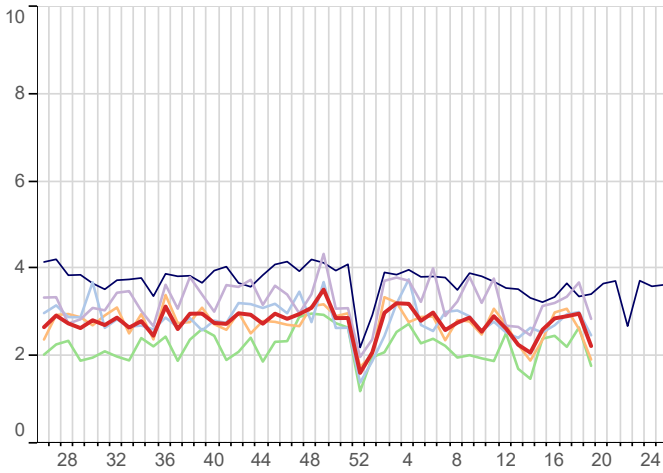


### Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
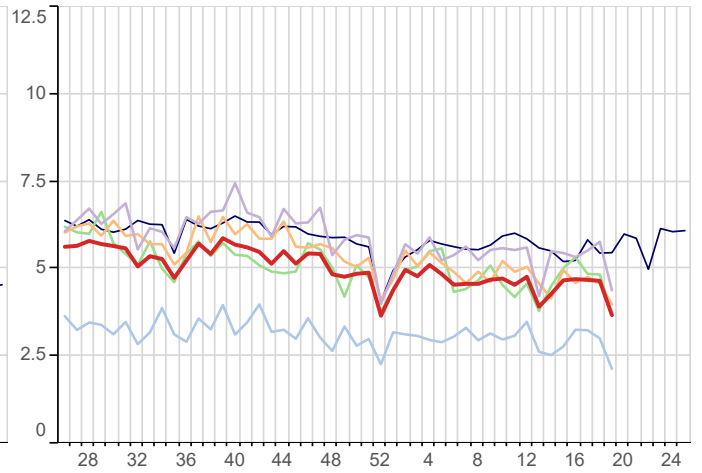


### Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
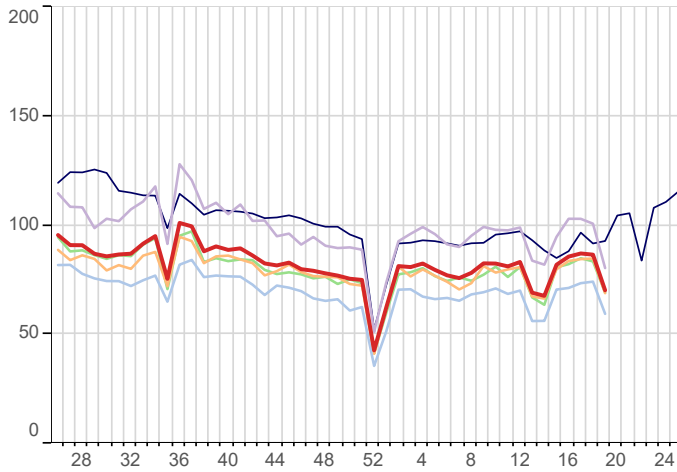


### Scabies (ICD10: B86)
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
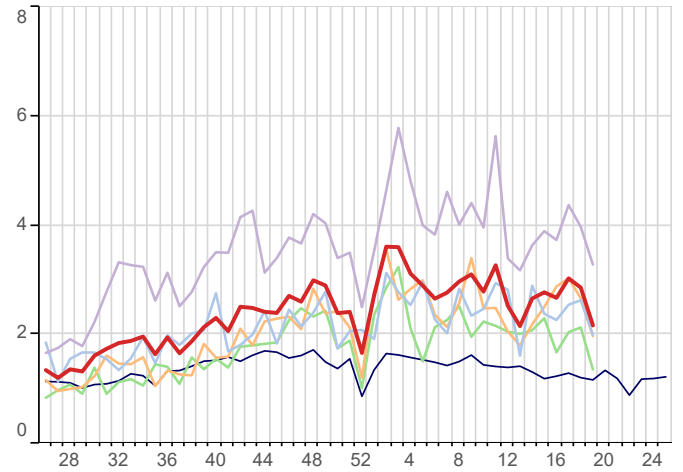


### Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
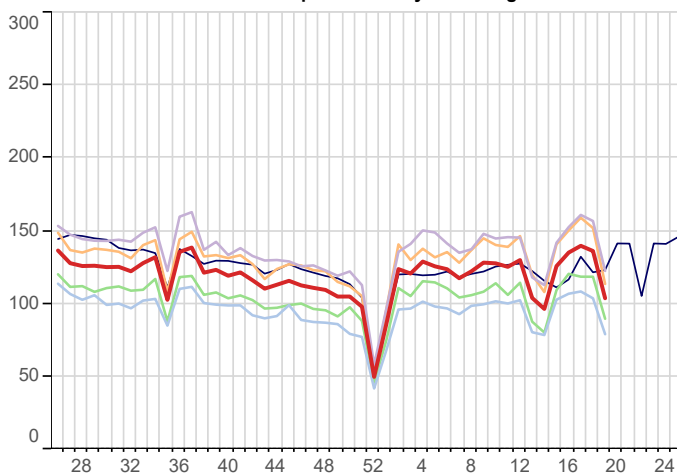


### Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
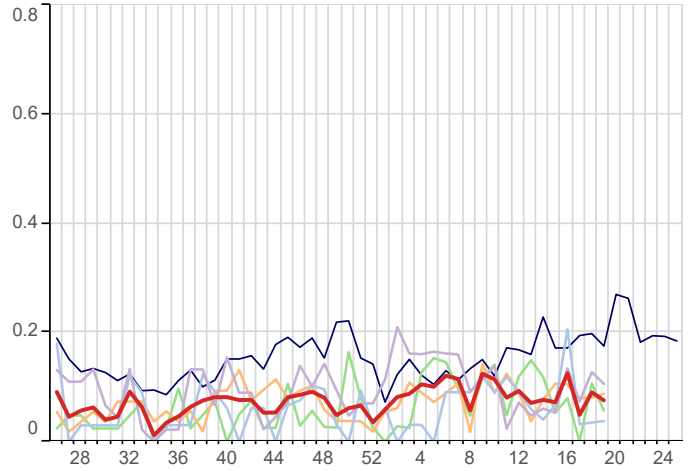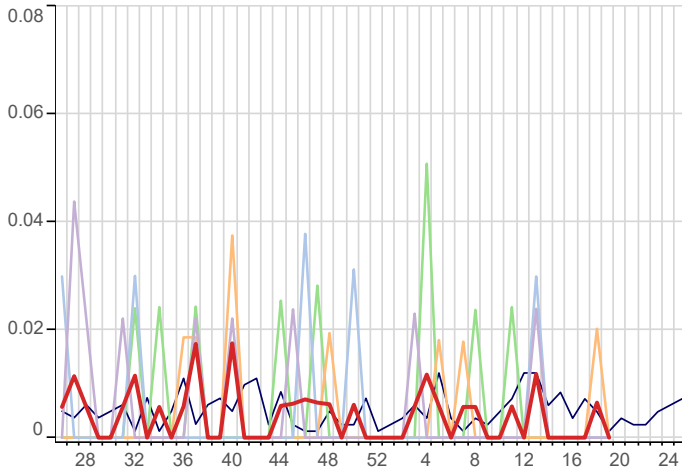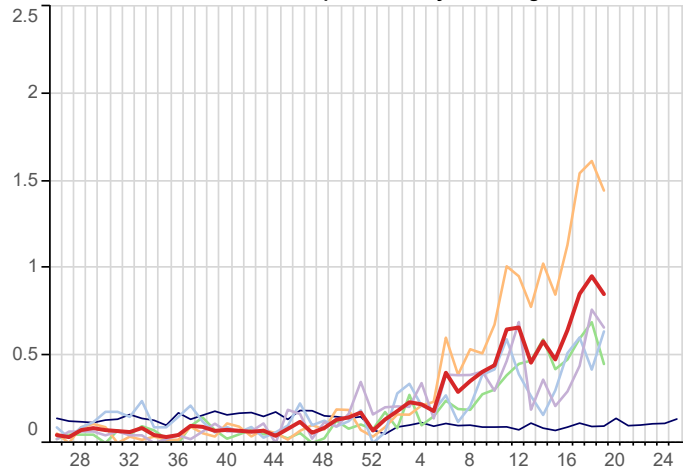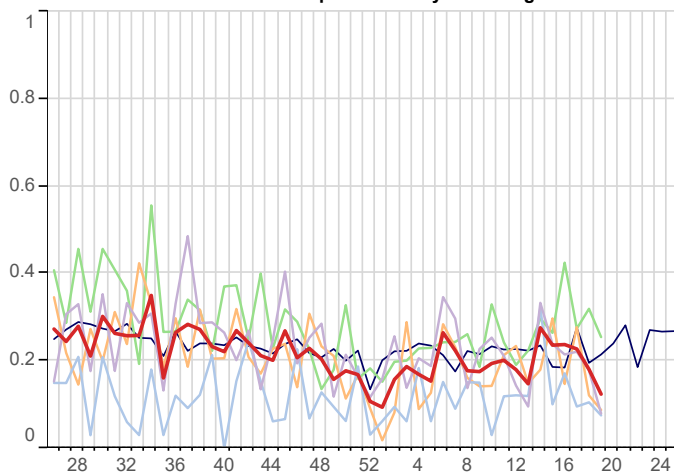**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
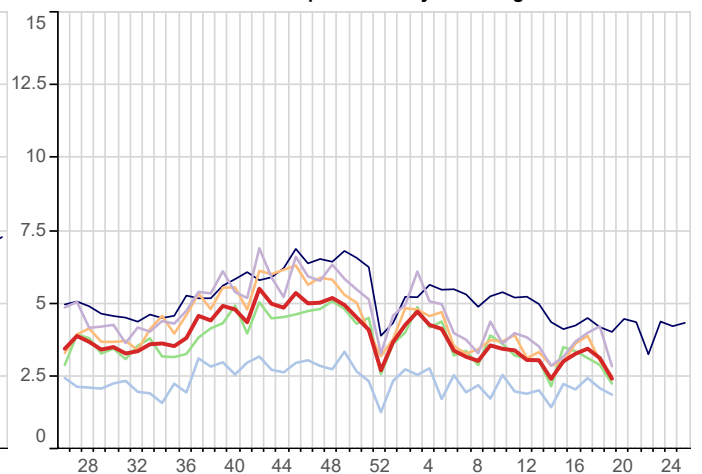
# 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

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

**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 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 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
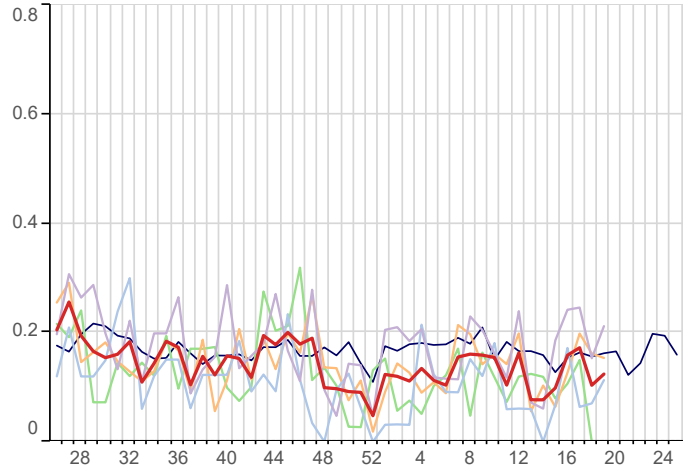


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
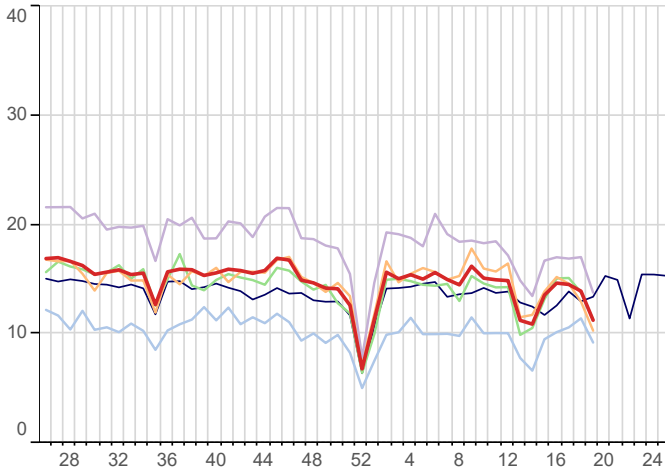


# 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
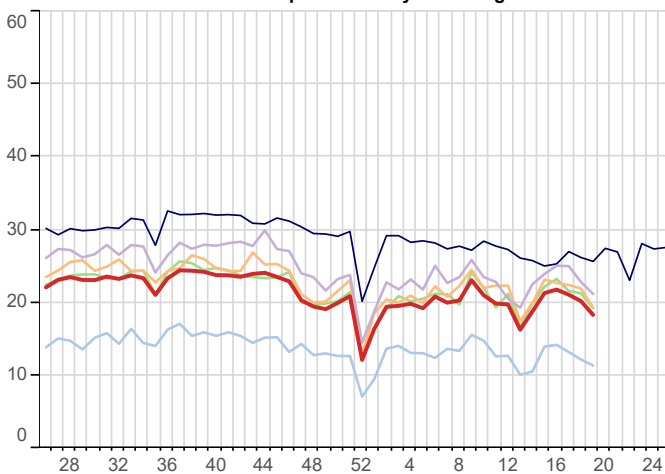
# 8. Other Disorders

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

**Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
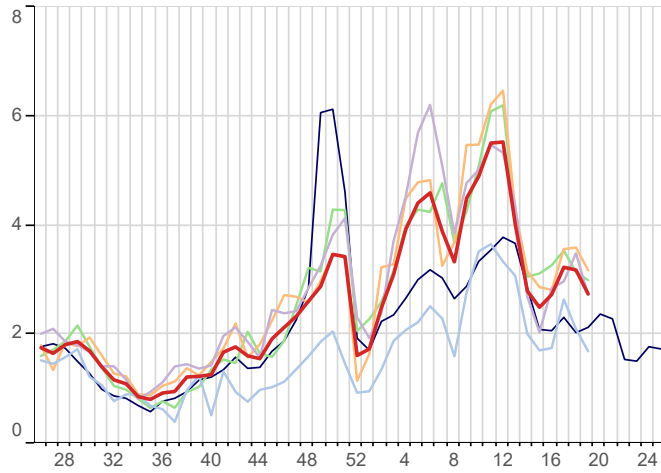
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**
**Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region**
**for 2023/24 compared with 5 year average**
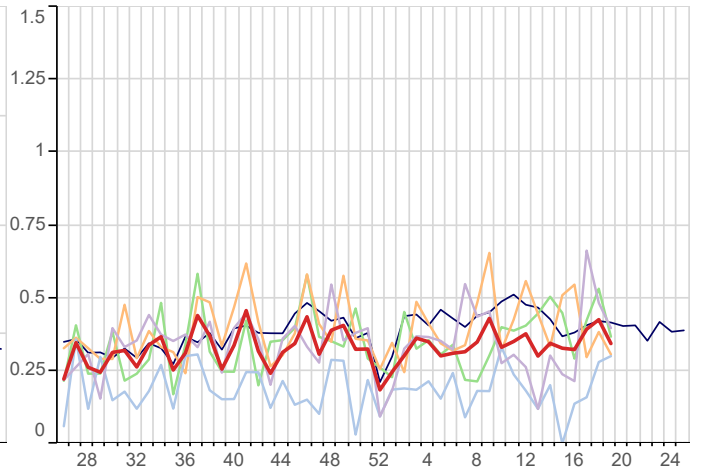
# 8. Tabular Summary by Disease

| Disease Name | Week beginning 06/05/2024 Week ending 02/05/2024 Rate | Numer | Week beginning 29/04/2024 Week ending 05/05/2024 Rate | Numer | Week beginning 22/04/2024 Week ending 28/04/2024 Rate | Numer | Week beginning 15/04/2024 Week ending 21/04/2024 Rate | Numer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acute Bronchitis | 1.6 | 235 | 1.9 | 301 | 2.0 | 330 | 2.4 | 358 |
| Acute respiratory infections (ARI) | 223.4 | 32,487 | 268.7 | 41,639 | 265.1 | 43,153 | 265.4 | 40,256 |
| Allergic Rhinitis | 10.4 | 1,511 | 13.1 | 2,028 | 12.2 | 1,981 | 11.9 | 1,811 |
| Asthma | 8.5 | 1,232 | 11.0 | 1,698 | 10.5 | 1,707 | 11.0 | 1,667 |
| Bronchiolitis | 1.3 | 192 | 1.5 | 240 | 1.7 | 270 | 1.4 | 212 |
| Bullous Dermatoses | 0.1 | 18 | 0.2 | 28 | 0.2 | 37 | 0.2 | 36 |
| Chickenpox | 2.6 | 374 | 3.0 | 464 | 3.0 | 485 | 3.0 | 456 |
| Conjunctival Disorders | 11.8 | 1,715 | 14.0 | 2,176 | 14.2 | 2,319 | 15.3 | 2,327 |
| COVID-19 | 1.9 | 271 | 2.3 | 354 | 1.5 | 248 | 1.3 | 193 |
| Croup | 1.8 | 259 | 2.0 | 309 | 2.0 | 331 | 1.5 | 228 |
| ECLD - Asthma exacerbations | 8.6 | 1,252 | 10.8 | 1,671 | 10.8 | 1,754 | 11.3 | 1,720 |
| ECLD - COPD exacerbations | 4.6 | 671 | 5.7 | 881 | 5.9 | 955 | 5.7 | 862 |
| Exacerbations of chronic lung disease | 13.2 | 1,916 | 16.4 | 2,546 | 16.6 | 2,705 | 17.0 | 2,584 |
| Herpes Simplex | 2.2 | 325 | 3.0 | 461 | 2.9 | 475 | 2.9 | 435 |
| Herpes Zoster | 3.7 | 535 | 4.7 | 722 | 4.7 | 763 | 4.7 | 714 |
| Impetigo | 2.4 | 353 | 3.1 | 486 | 3.5 | 563 | 3.3 | 498 |
| Infectious Intestinal Diseases | 5.8 | 840 | 6.9 | 1,070 | 7.2 | 1,179 | 6.6 | 997 |
| Infectious Mononucleosis | 0.3 | 50 | 0.4 | 66 | 0.4 | 64 | 0.3 | 49 |
| Influenza-like illness | 2.1 | 311 | 2.8 | 441 | 2.9 | 472 | 3.0 | 462 |
| Laryngitis | 1.0 | 143 | 1.1 | 165 | 1.2 | 201 | 1.2 | 175 |
| Lower respiratory tract infections | 78.4 | 11,405 | 95.5 | 14,796 | 97.3 | 15,847 | 100.2 | 15,192 |
| Measles | 0.2 | 23 | 0.1 | 21 | 0.1 | 19 | 0.2 | 25 |
| Meningitis and Encephalitis | 0.1 | 18 | 0.1 | 16 | 0.2 | 28 | 0.2 | 24 |
| Mumps | 0.1 | 11 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.1 | 19 |
| Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis | 2.1 | 299 | 2.7 | 414 | 2.9 | 474 | 2.7 | 412 |
| Otitis Media | 18.2 | 2,652 | 20.5 | 3,175 | 18.7 | 3,045 | 18.2 | 2,764 |
| Peripheral Nervous Disease | 14.5 | 2,116 | 18.6 | 2,875 | 19.6 | 3,196 | 18.6 | 2,818 |
| Pneumonia | 3.2 | 468 | 3.2 | 490 | 3.9 | 635 | 4.2 | 641 |
| Rubella | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Scabies | 2.2 | 315 | 2.9 | 443 | 3.0 | 493 | 2.7 | 405 |
| Sinusitis | 13.7 | 1,992 | 16.9 | 2,621 | 16.7 | 2,717 | 17.9 | 2,713 |
| Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections | 70.2 | 10,213 | 86.6 | 13,413 | 87.1 | 14,180 | 85.7 | 12,993 |
| Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess | 2.7 | 399 | 3.2 | 493 | 3.2 | 526 | 2.7 | 414 |
| Symptoms involving musculoskeletal | 11.2 | 1,636 | 13.9 | 2,156 | 14.5 | 2,365 | 14.7 | 2,222 |
| Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues | 103.8 | 15,098 | 136.3 | 21,115 | 139.8 | 22,765 | 135.2 | 20,499 |
| Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis | 31.6 | 4,593 | 36.3 | 5,622 | 35.6 | 5,800 | 34.0 | 5,162 |
| Upper respiratory tract infections | 138.9 | 20,201 | 165.0 | 25,566 | 159.9 | 26,029 | 156.2 | 23,692 |
| Urinary Tract Infections | 18.3 | 2,665 | 20.2 | 3,132 | 21.1 | 3,433 | 21.8 | 3,305 |
| Viral Hepatitis | 0.2 | 26 | 0.2 | 35 | 0.3 | 46 | 0.3 | 38 |
| Whooping Cough | 0.9 | 124 | 1.0 | 148 | 0.9 | 139 | 0.6 | 98 |
| **Practice Count** | | **1,452** | | **1,533** | | **1,610** | | **1,476** |
| **Denom** | | **14,544,096** | | **15,495,605** | | **16,279,768** | | **15,165,268** |

# FURTHER INFORMATION:

*About the report*

*Focus*

The first two pages of data within this report focus on influenza-like illness and virology data, in order to provide information about seasonal influenza and early warnings of any epidemic.

*Rate calculation*

Each weekly incidence rate is presented per 100,000 population. All presentations are for males and females, and for all age bands, unless otherwise stated.

The denominator used for this report is taken from our most recent extract of data from GP practice systems, and includes all patients currently registered with eligible practices. The denominator varies week-on-week as patients register and deregister; it may also be the case that all patients from an individual practice are excluded because of problems with the data extraction from that practice in a specific week. As stated above, patients who have withheld consent for data-sharing are excluded.

In addition to the national rate, we present data for the four NHS England regions: North; Midlands and East; South; and London.

*Five-year averages*

Weekly rates are set against a five-year average (navy blue lines), previously we reported against a ten-year average. The change to a five-year average was made because longer-term trends in the incidence of disease have led to weekly rates for certain diseases becoming increasingly divergent from their ten-year average. The use of five-year averages lessens this effect and enables more meaningful comparison.

*Threshold calculation for influenza-like illness (ILI)*

We are now using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) to calculate threshold and intensity levels for influenza-like illness (Graph A, page 2 and Table E, page 4 of this report). MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculates thresholds and intensity levels based on the pre and post epidemic values. This allows us to report the severity of ILI against multiple thresholds, rather than a simple comparison with the five-year average as the wide variation in ILI year on year, especially during the seasonal peak, makes the average less representative.

In addition to the All Ages thresholds, we have also calculated thresholds for four age bands: those aged 1-4, 5-14, 15-64 and those aged 65 and over. ILI incidence rates vary among different age bands, and the age-specific thresholds allow us to highlight epidemics where ILI disproportionately affects a particular age band.

This methodology is used by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to standardise reporting of influenza activity across Europe, and is also in use by the UK Health Security Agency. Full details of the methodology can be found in: Vega *et al.* (2012) Influenza surveillance in Europe: establishing epidemic thresholds by the moving epidemic method. Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses 7(4), 546–558.

Both the *all-ages* thresholds and the *age-specific* thresholds are shown in Table E, page 4. Five years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2022/23, excluding 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22).

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

*What we do*

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

The RSC data and analytics hub is housed 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 Analytics (EXA) 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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