



Royal College of  
General Practitioners  
Research and Surveillance Centre

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

### Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year.....21/2019  
Week Starting - Ending.....20/05/2019 - 26/05/2019  
No. of Practices.....249  
Population.....2600862

### National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased a little from **49.0** in week 20 to **51.1** in week 21.
- **Asthma** : was unchanged at **12.2** in week 20 compared with **12.0** in week 21.
- **Common Cold** : was unchanged at **57.9** in week 20 compared with **58.2** in week 21.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from **2.2** in week 20 to **1.7** in week 21.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : was unchanged at **230.5** in week 20 compared with **231.4** in week 21.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : was unchanged at **32.9** in week 20 compared with **32.7** in week 21 in the London region, increased a little from **67.4** in week 20 to **70.3** in week 21 in the North region, increased a little from **40.3** in week 20 to **42.2** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **54.3** in week 20 to **59.9** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : was unchanged at **11.0** in week 20 compared with **11.3** in week 21 in the London region, decreased from **15.3** in week 20 to **12.0** in week 21 in the North region, increased from **11.5** in week 20 to **12.6** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **9.4** in week 20 to **11.1** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased a little from **84.3** in week 20 to **80.9** in week 21 in the London region, was unchanged at **62.7** in week 20 compared with **61.8** in week 21 in the North region, increased from **43.7** in week 20 to **46.0** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **51.4** in week 20 to **54.5** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza Like illness** : decreased from **2.7** in week 20 to **1.5** in week 21 in the London region, increased from **1.2** in week 20 to **1.3** in week 21 in the North region, decreased from **2.7** in week 20 to **2.1** in week 21 in the South region, and decreased from **2.4** in week 20 to **1.6** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : was unchanged at **231.7** in week 20 compared with **225.8** in week 21 in the London region, was unchanged at **270.5** in week 20 compared with **266.3** in week 21 in the North region, was unchanged at **202.5** in week 20 compared with **204.4** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **221.3** in week 20 to **240.4** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.

### Comment:

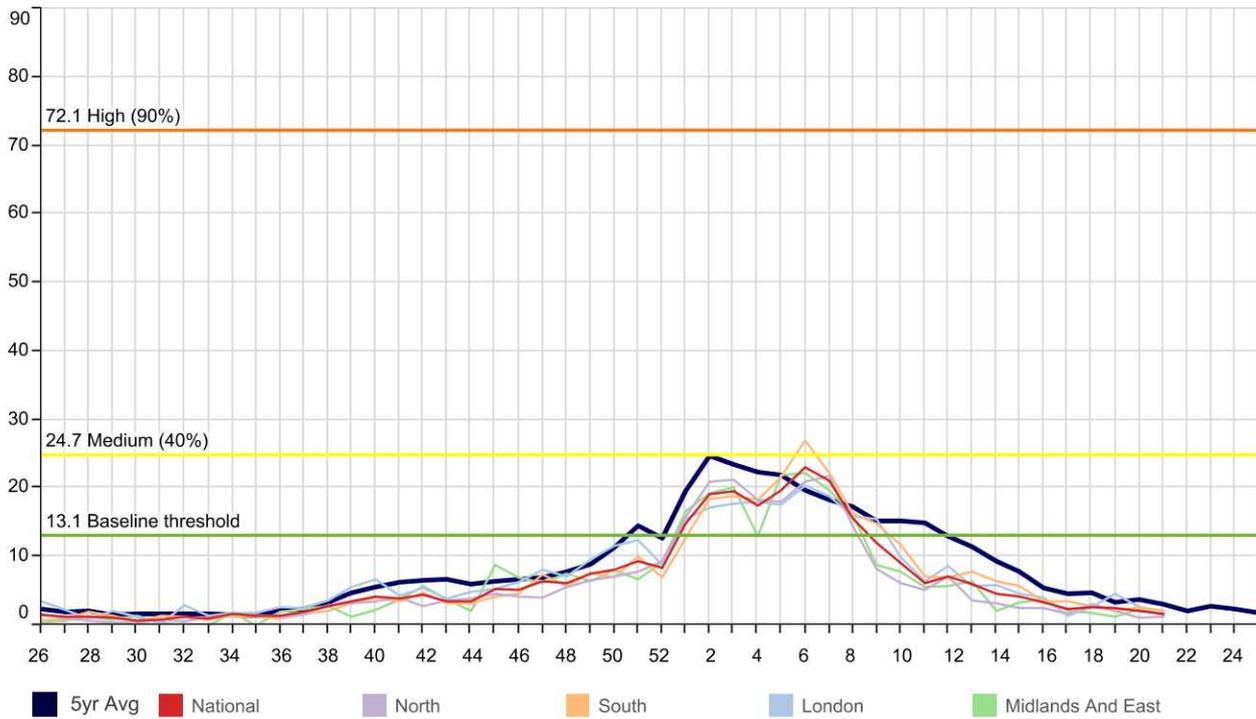
Presentations with influenza-like-illness are well below our baseline threshold. Respiratory conditions remained at a similar level to the previous week.

Mumps continues to be at a slightly higher level than the RCGP RSC five year average.

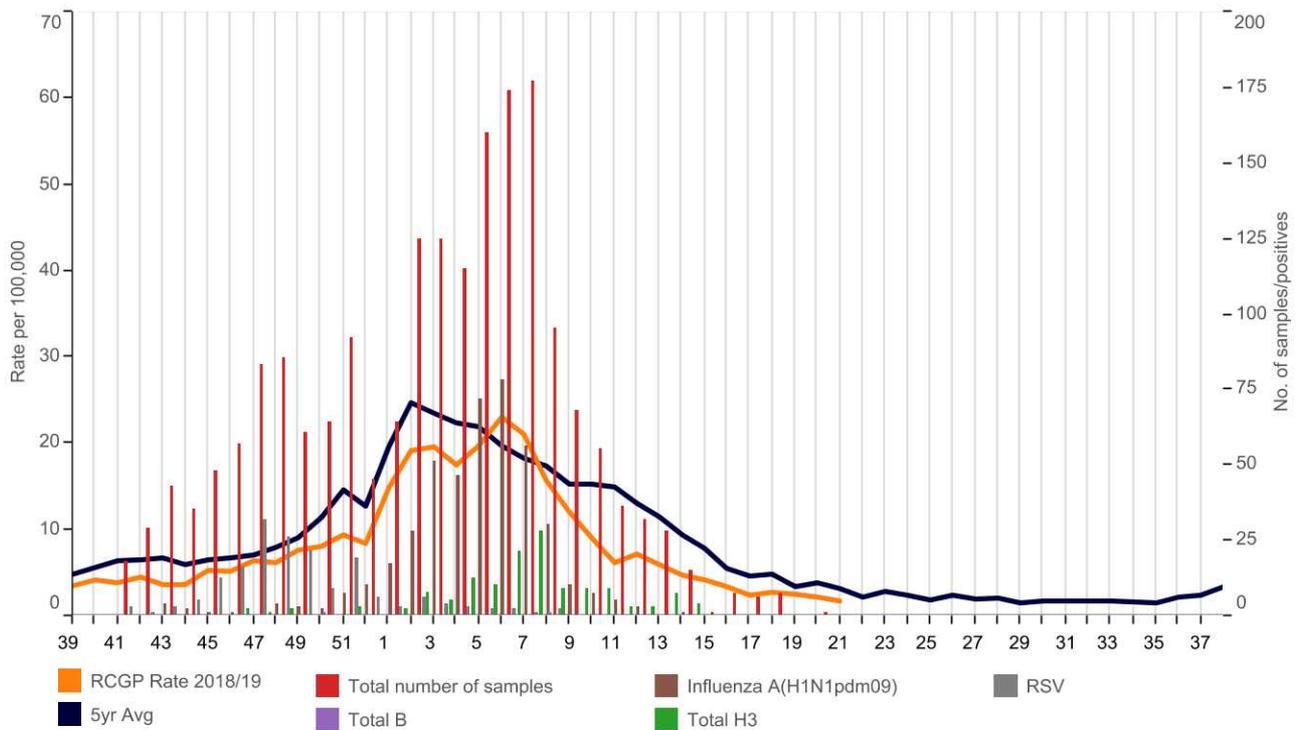
# Winter Focus 2018/19

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

## (A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2018/19\*

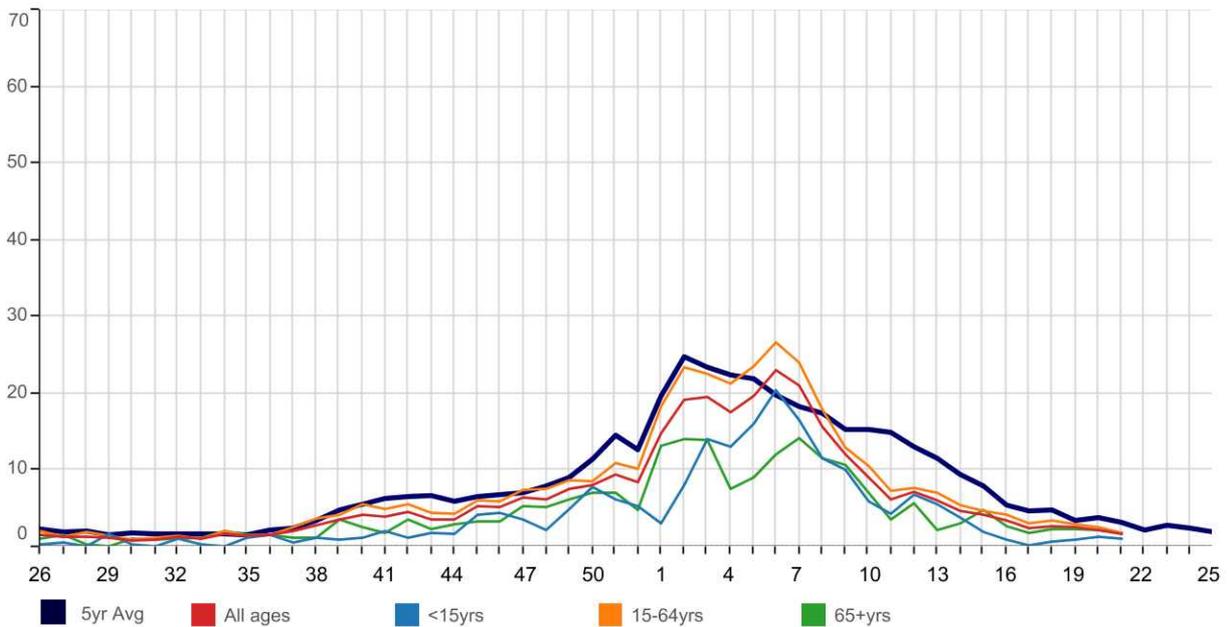


## (B) RCGP/PHE RSV and Influenza Virology Swab Surveillance 2018/19(all ages, gender & regions combined)\*



\* The thresholds used are the agreed RCGP/ Public Health England levels for 2018/19. The rolling average line(blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level.

**(C) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2018/2019 by age group\***



**(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2018/2019 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	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5
<15yrs	2.1	1.2	1.8	1.7	4.2	4.4	3.6	2.2	4.9	7.8	6.2	5.3	3.1	8.0	14.0	13.0	16.1
15-64yrs	4.9	5.6	4.4	4.3	6.0	5.9	7.4	7.5	8.7	8.5	10.9	10.2	18.3	23.4	22.6	21.3	23.5
65+yrs	1.8	3.5	2.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	5.3	5.2	6.2	7.0	7.0	4.8	13.2	14.1	13.9	7.5	9.0
All ages	3.9	4.5	3.6	3.6	5.3	5.2	6.4	6.2	7.6	8.1	9.4	8.4	14.8	19.2	19.6	17.5	19.7

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<15yrs	20.4	16.5	11.6	10.1	5.9	4.3	6.8	5.6	3.8	1.9	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.1
15-64yrs	26.7	24.1	17.9	12.9	10.5	7.3	7.7	7.1	5.4	4.7	4.2	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.5	1.8
65+yrs	12.0	14.2	11.6	10.7	7.0	3.6	5.7	2.2	3.0	4.8	2.7	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.8
All ages	23.1	21.1	15.7	12.1	9.1	6.2	7.2	6.0	4.7	4.2	3.4	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.2	1.7

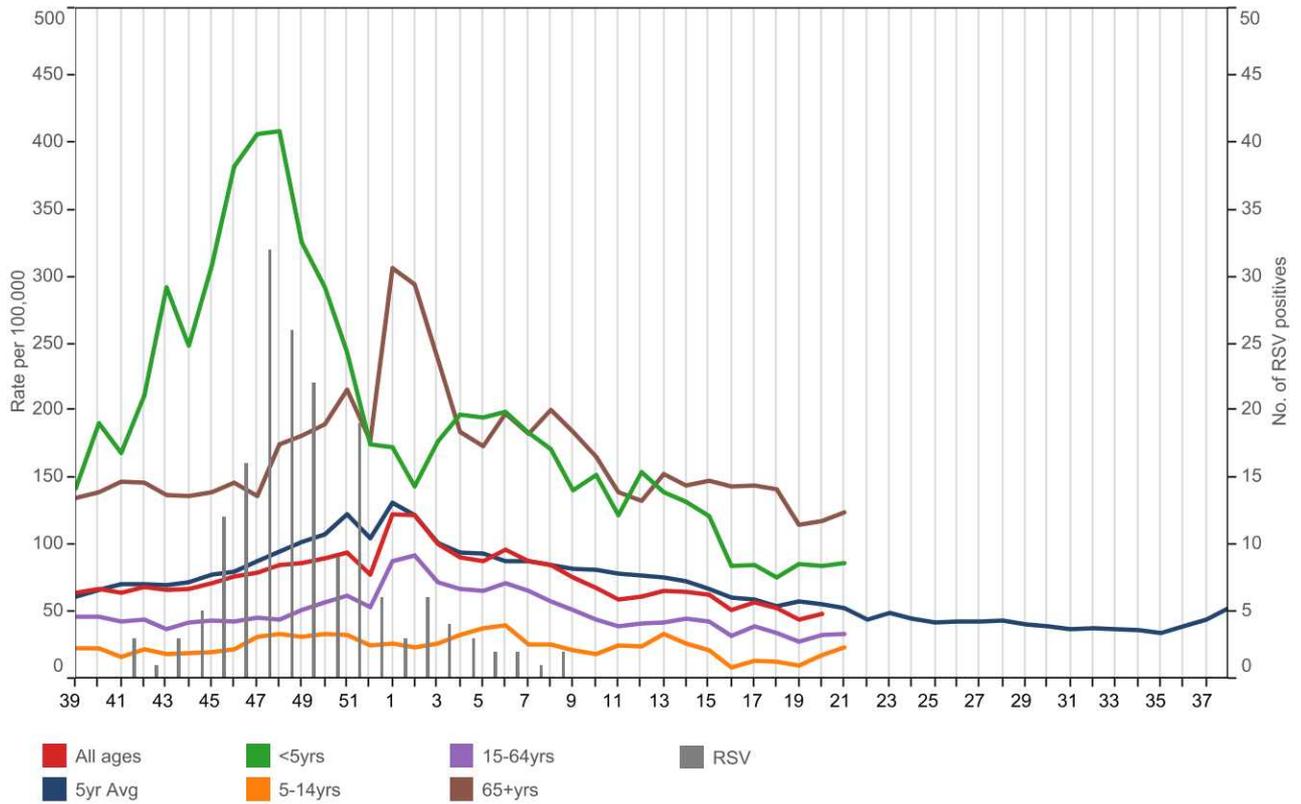
Table 2	Below Threshold <sup>1</sup>	Threshold to Medium <sup>2</sup>	Medium to High <sup>3</sup>	High to Very High <sup>4</sup>	Above Very High <sup>5</sup>
0-14	<10.8	10.8 to <16.5	16.5 to <50.4	50.4 to <82.4	82.4+
15-64	<14.6	14.6 to <28.9	28.9 to <69.6	69.6 to <102.7	102.7+
65+	<11.7	11.7 to <17.6	17.6 to <43.6	43.6 to <65.1	65.1+
All Ages	<13.1	13.1 to <24.7	24.7 to <72.1	72.1 to <115.6	115.6+

**Threshold levels**  
<sup>1</sup>Below baseline threshold  
<sup>2</sup>baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile  
<sup>3</sup>40th to <90th percentile  
<sup>4</sup>90th to <97.5th percentile  
<sup>5</sup>97.5th+ percentile

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

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis		Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<1yr	4.1	212.5	London	1.5	32.7
1-4yrs	0.9	60.0	North	1.3	70.3
5-14yrs	1.0	24.0	South	2.1	42.2
15-24yrs	2.6	13.5	Midlands And East	1.6	59.9
25-44yrs	1.9	27.2	National	1.7	51.1
45-64yrs	1.4	50.0			
65-74yrs	1.2	89.1			
75-84yrs	3.4	138.8			
85+yrs	0.0	230.9			
All ages	1.7	51.1			

**(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2018/2019 by age group\***



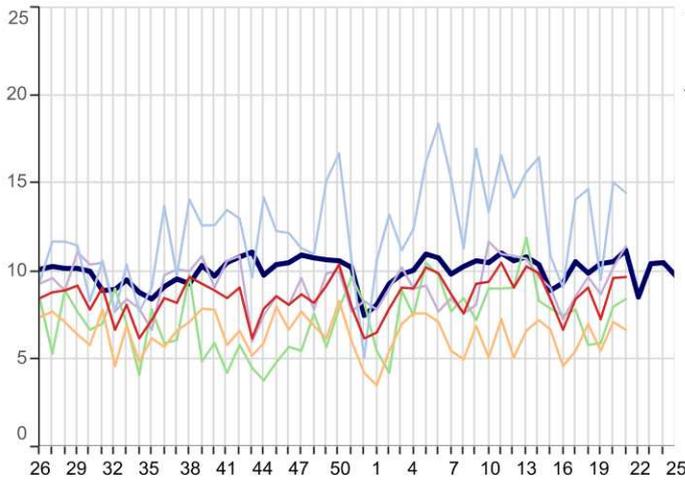
**Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Bronchitis
<5yrs	1.4	86.4
5-14yrs	1.0	24.0
15-64yrs	1.8	33.5
65+yrs	1.8	124.4
All ages	1.7	51.1

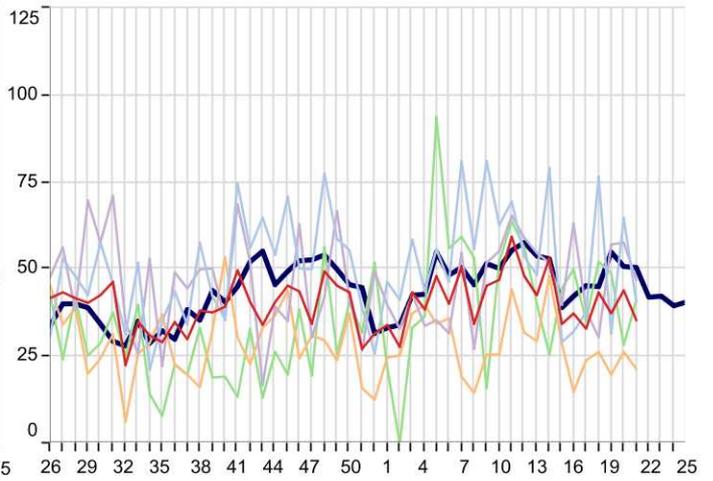
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

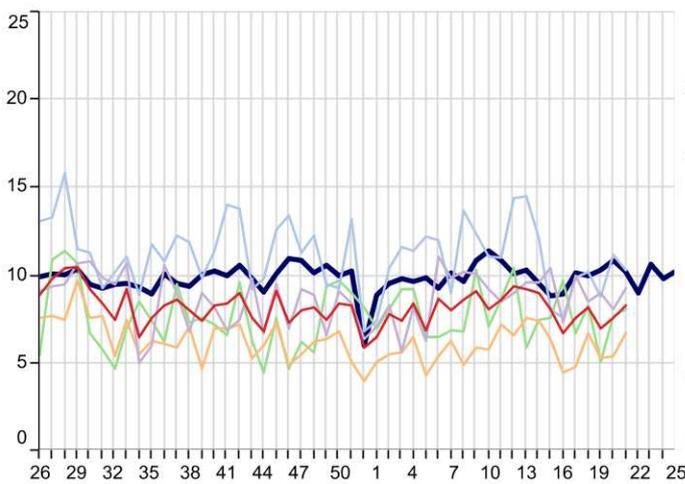
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



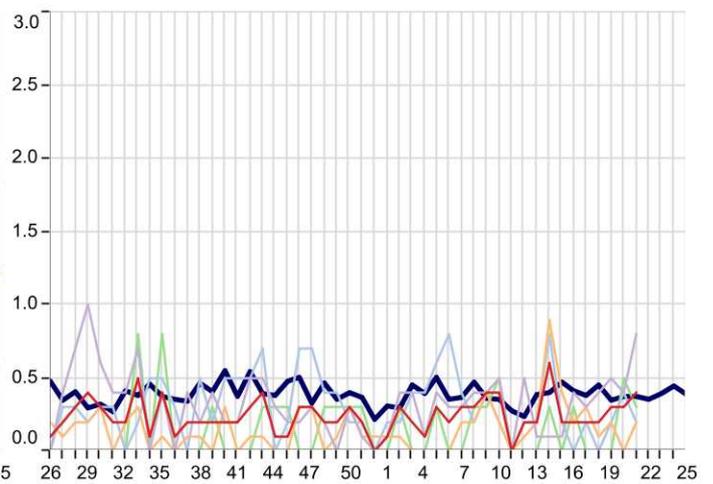
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



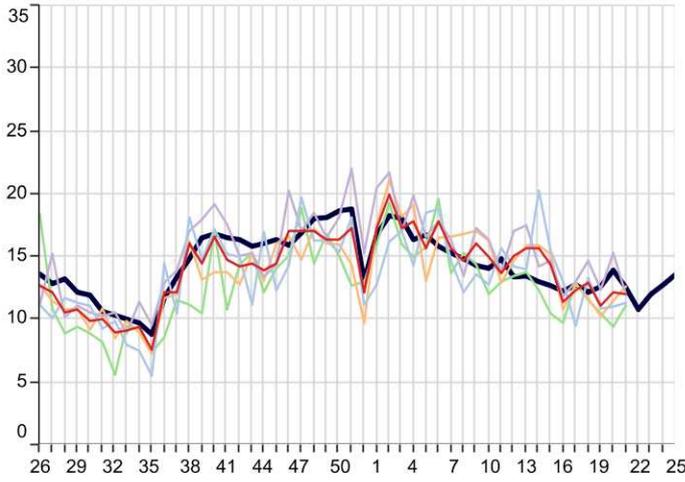
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



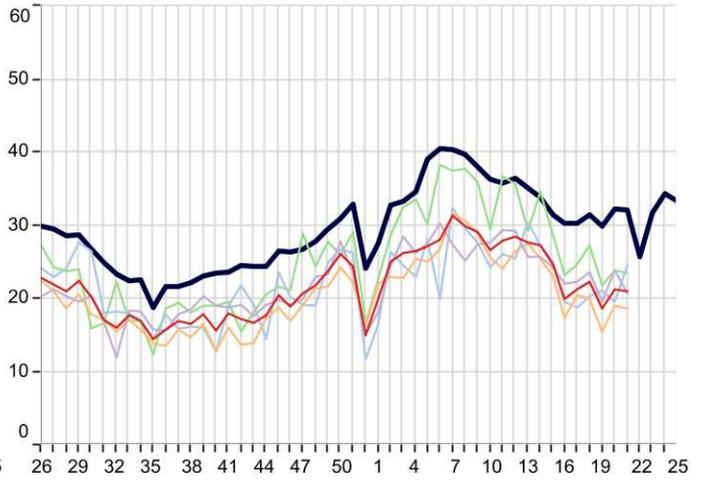
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

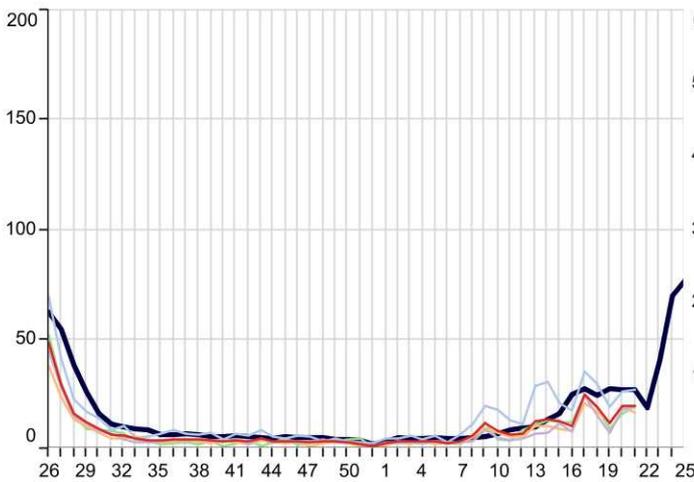
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



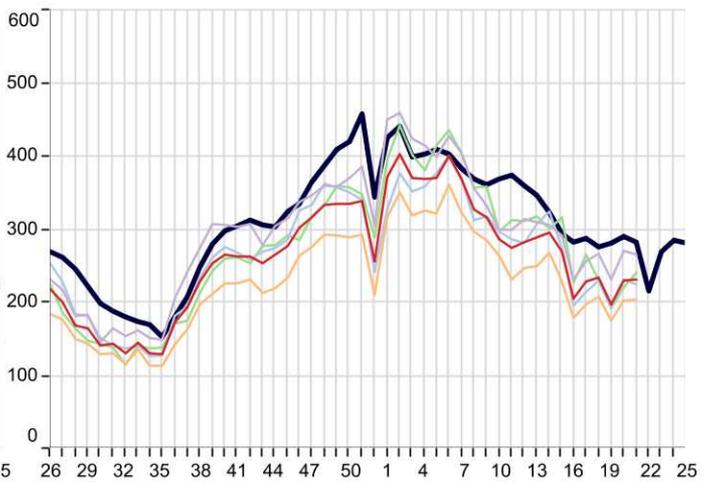
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



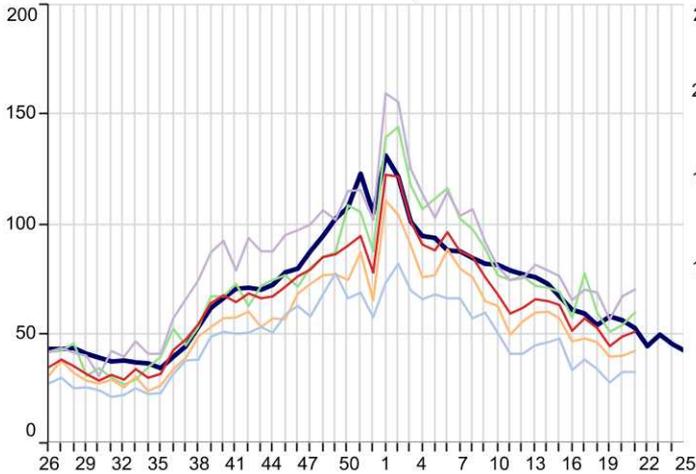
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



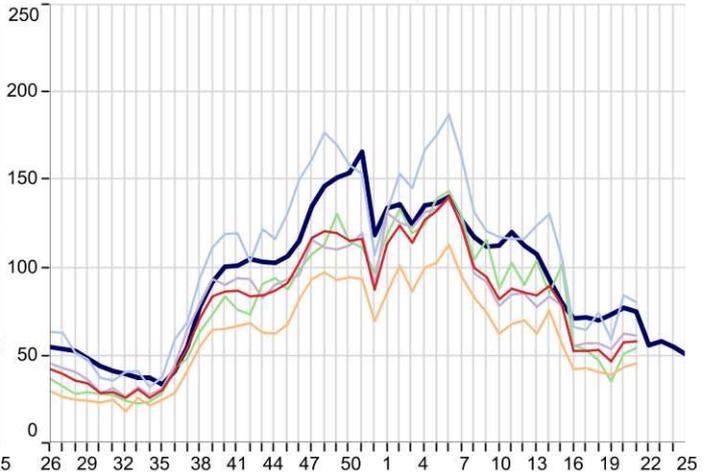
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

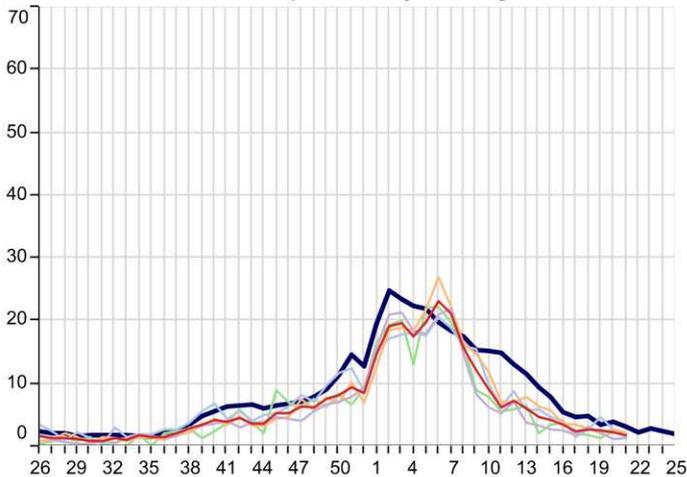
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



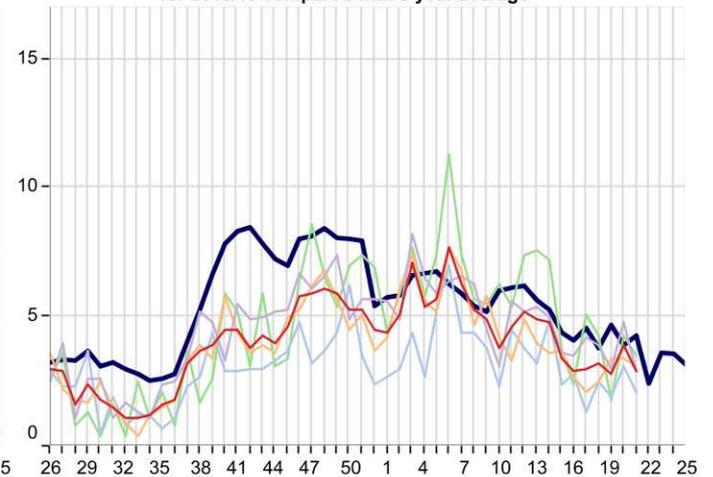
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



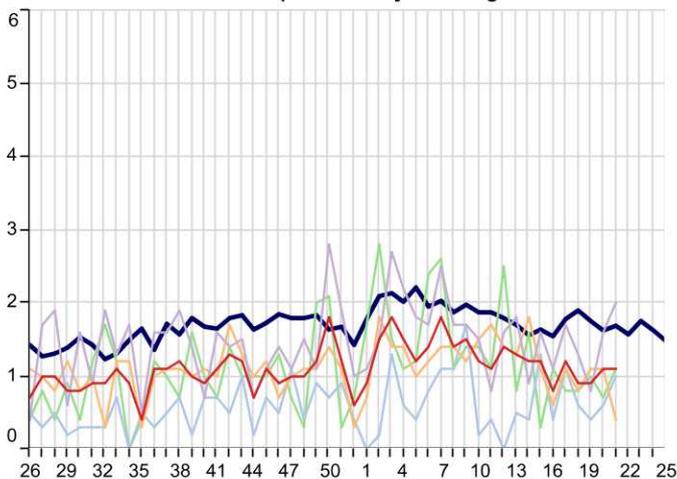
**Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



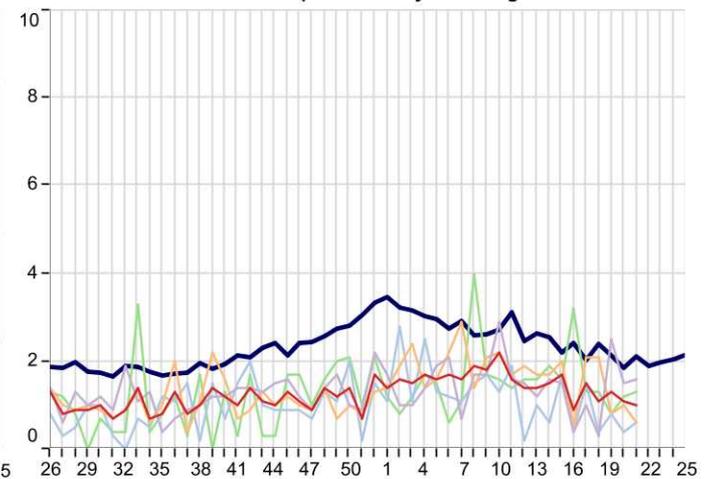
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



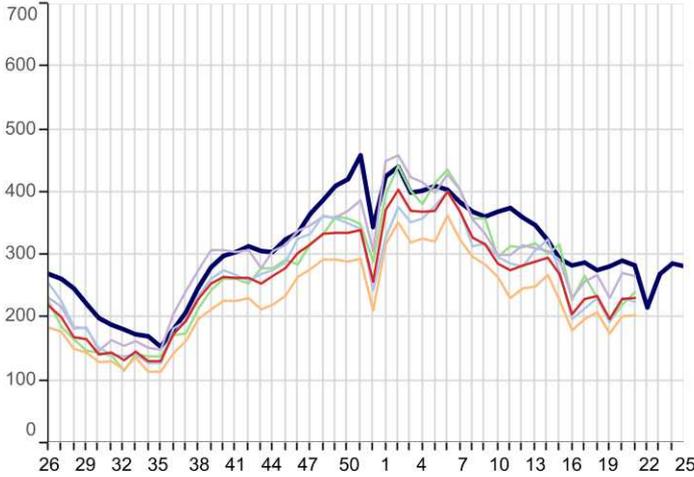
**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



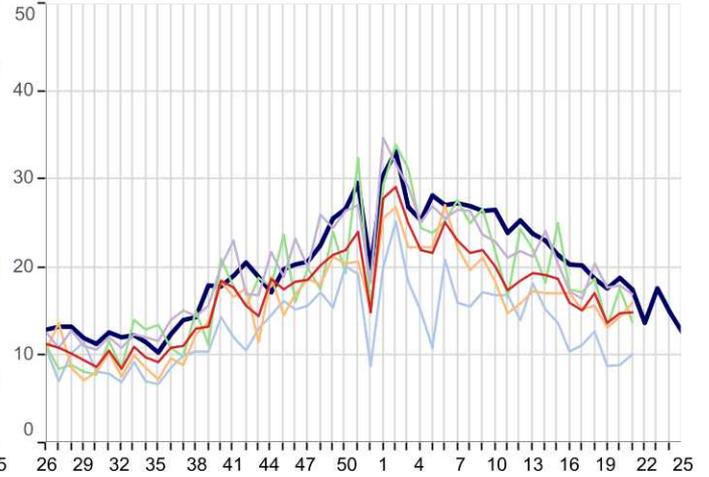
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

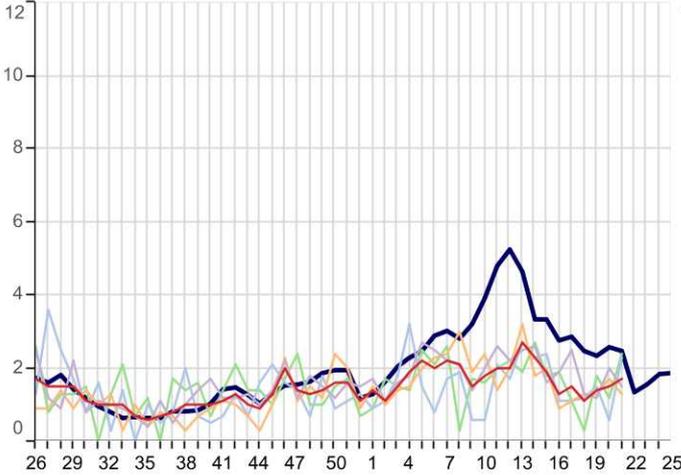
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



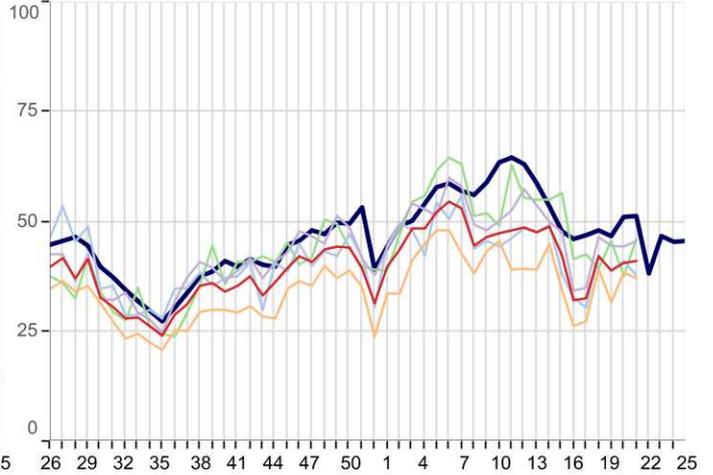
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



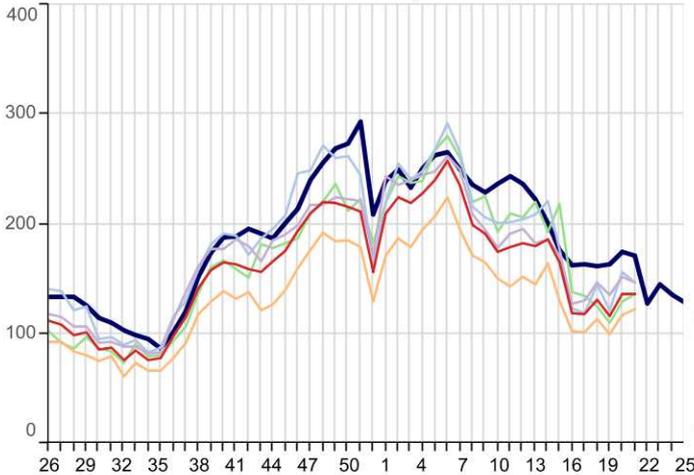
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



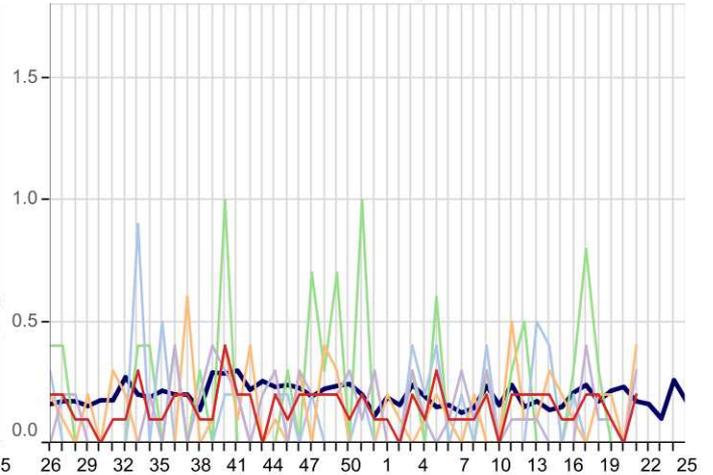
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



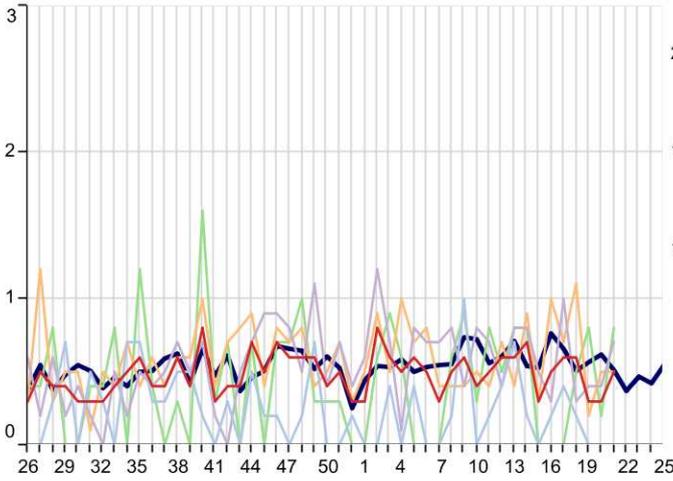
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



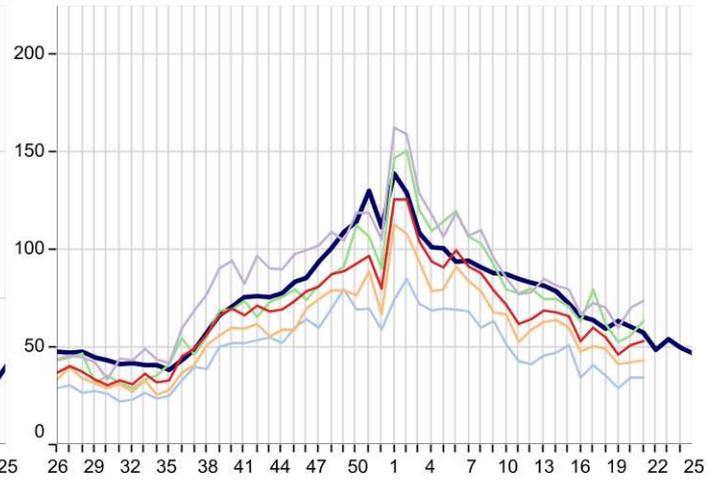
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

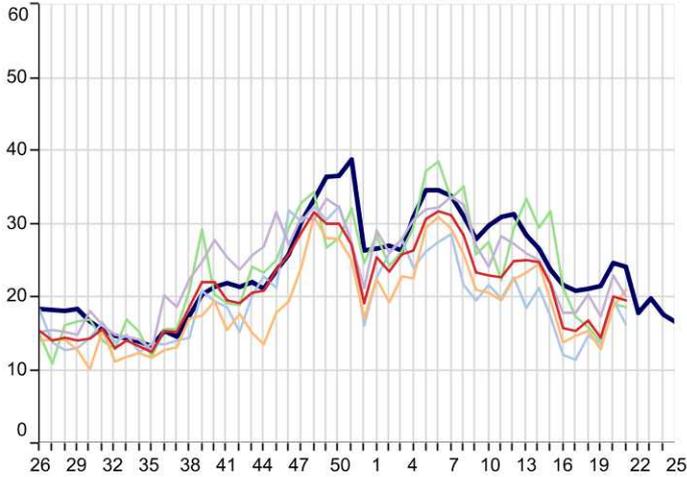
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



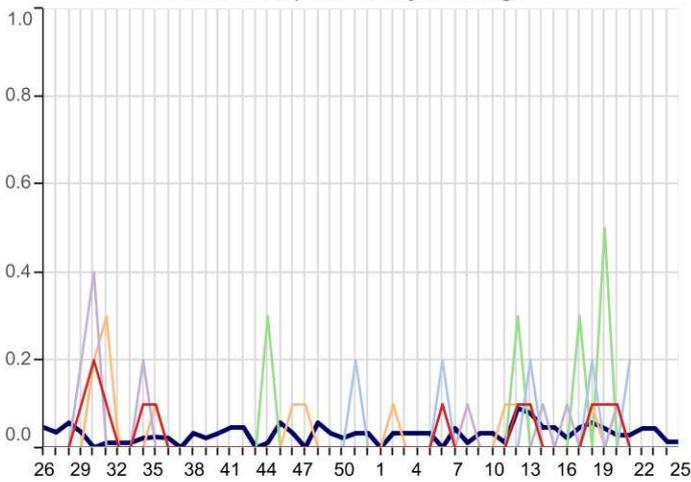
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



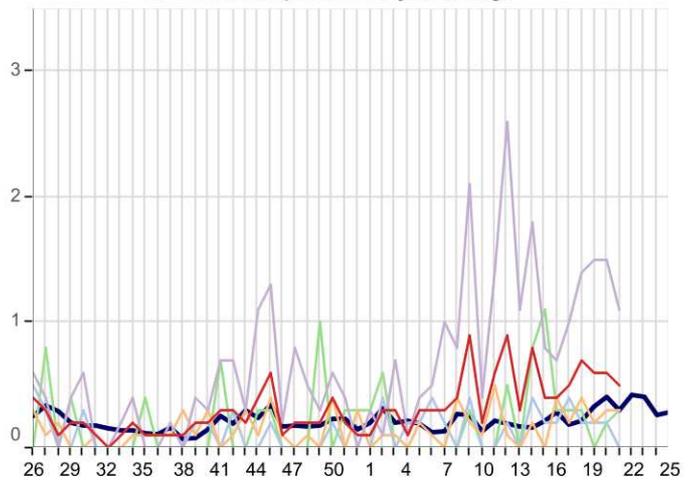
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

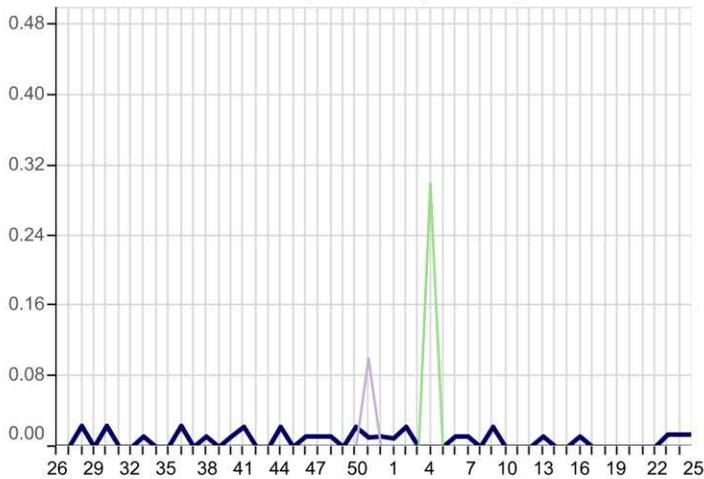
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

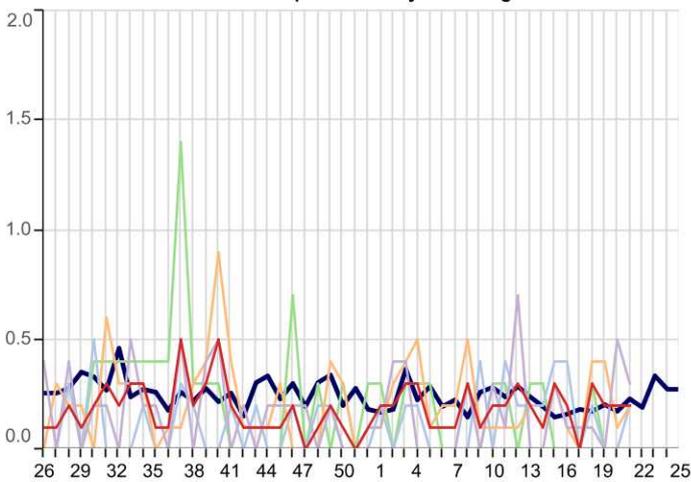


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

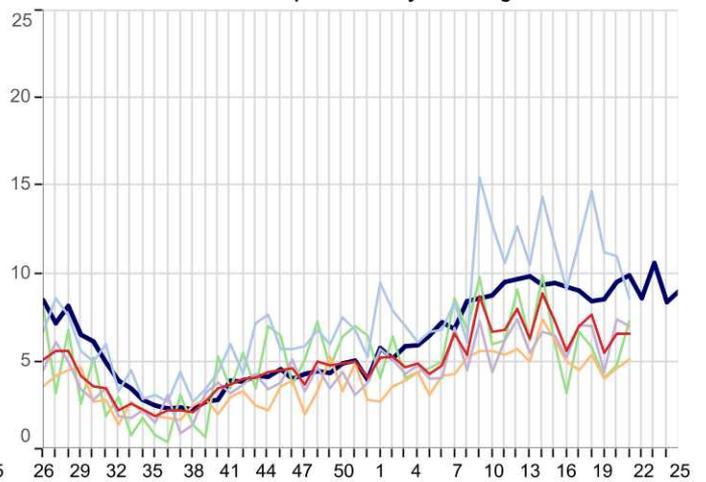


## 5. Skin Contagions

**Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



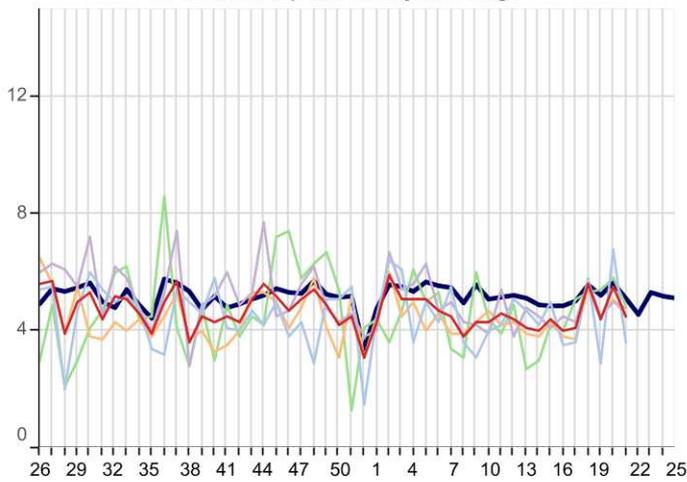
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



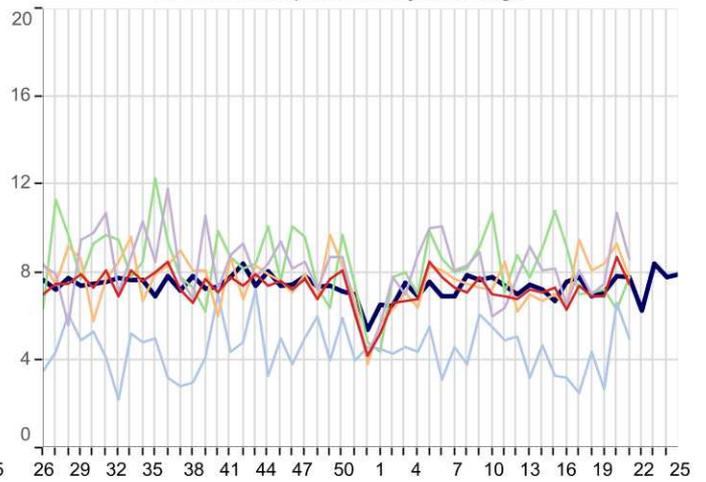
## 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

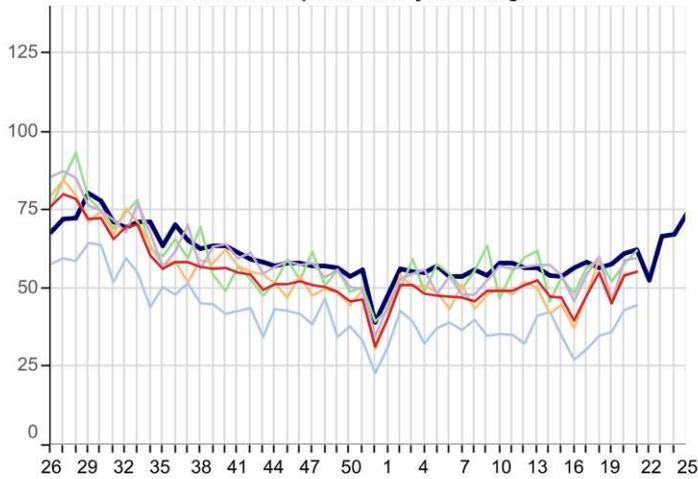
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



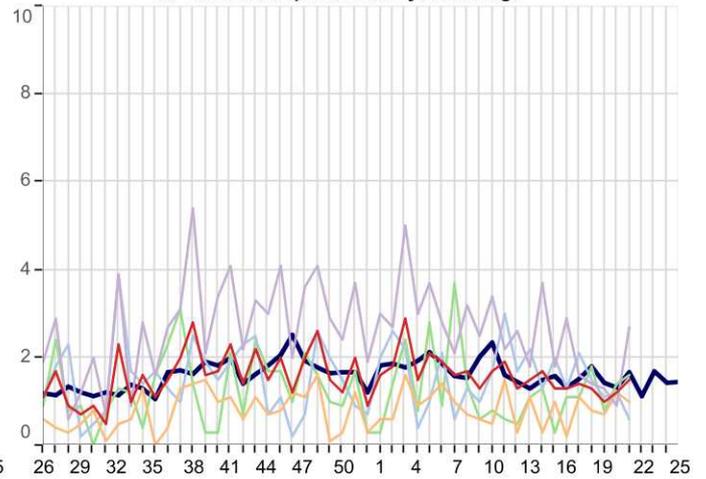
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



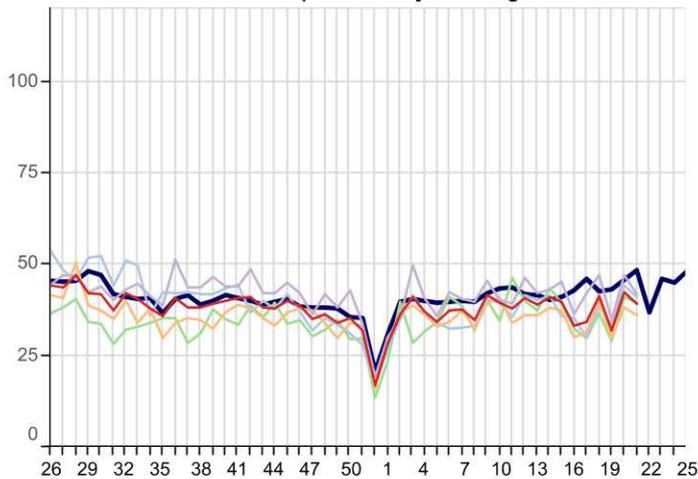
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



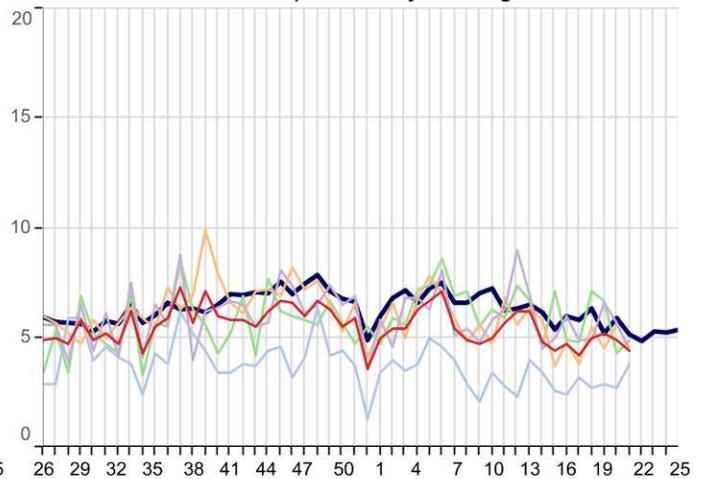
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



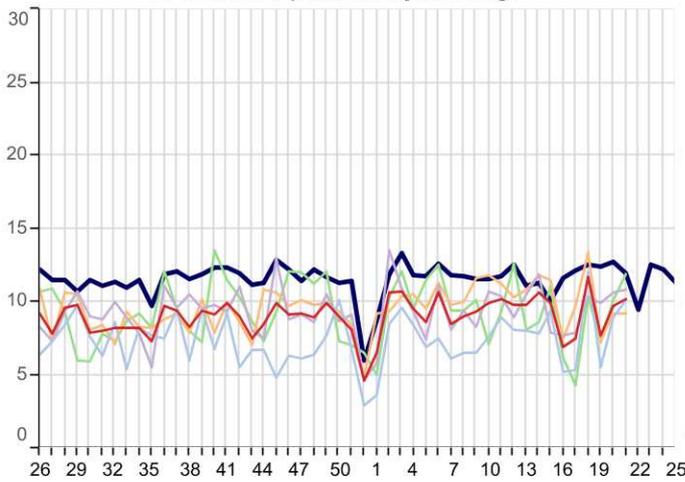
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



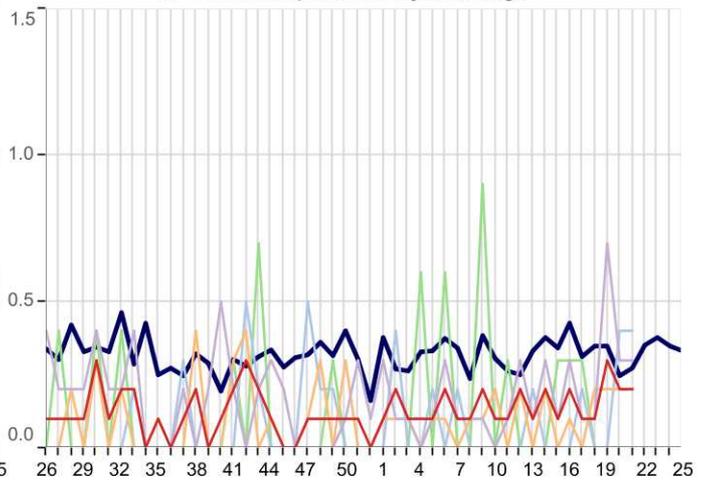
## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

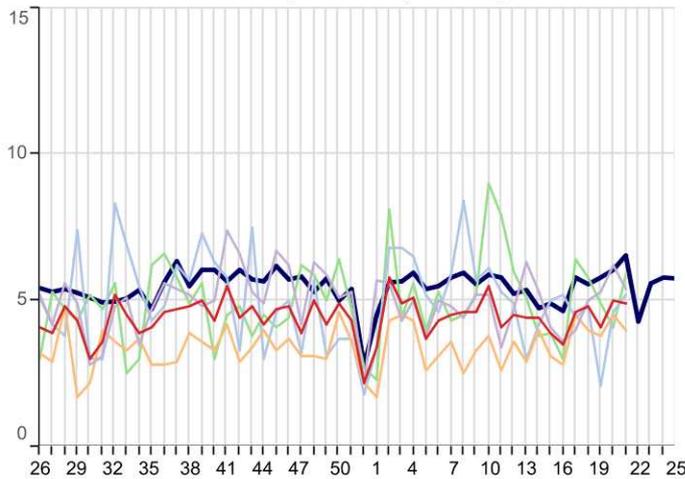
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



**Meningitis/Encephalitis(ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average

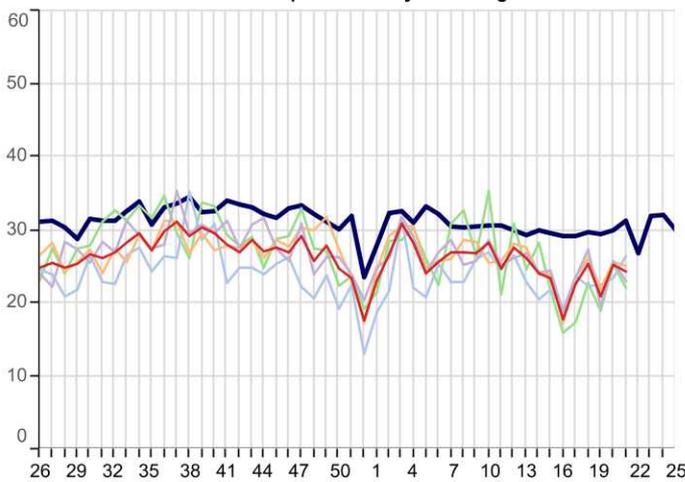


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2018/19 compared with 5 year average



## 8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending	20/05/2019 26/05/2019		13/05/2019 19/05/2019		06/05/2019 12/05/2019		29/04/2019 05/05/2019	
		Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Acute Bronchitis		51.1	1,329	49.0	1,284	44.3	1,119	53.0	1,347
Allergic Rhinitis		19.8	515	19.8	518	11.7	295	19.3	490
Asthma		12.0	311	12.2	319	11.1	280	12.9	328
Bullous Dermatoses		0.2	5	0.2	5	0.2	4	0.3	7
Chickenpox		6.6	172	6.6	174	5.5	138	7.7	196
Common Cold		58.2	1,513	57.9	1,517	46.9	1,184	53.4	1,357
Conjunctival Disorders		21.0	546	21.3	559	18.7	473	22.3	566
Herpes Simplex		4.5	116	5.5	144	4.4	110	5.6	142
Herpes Zoster		7.5	196	8.7	229	6.9	174	6.9	175
Impetigo		4.4	115	4.9	128	5.2	131	5.0	128
Infectious Mononucleosis		0.5	13	0.3	9	0.3	8	0.6	15
Influenza-like illness		1.7	44	2.2	58	2.5	62	2.7	69
Infectious Intestinal Diseases		9.7	253	9.6	252	7.3	184	9.1	231
Laryngitis and Tracheitis		2.9	76	3.9	102	2.8	70	3.2	81
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections		53.4	1,390	51.3	1,345	46.5	1,174	55.1	1,400
Measles		0.0	1	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	2
Meningitis and Encephalitis		0.2	6	0.2	6	0.3	7	0.1	3
Mumps		0.5	12	0.6	16	0.6	14	0.7	17
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis		8.3	216	7.6	199	7.0	178	8.2	208
Otitis Media Acute		19.5	508	20.1	527	14.5	366	16.8	428
Peripheral Nervous Disease		10.2	265	9.7	254	7.7	195	11.7	298
Pleurisy		1.1	28	1.1	29	0.9	22	0.9	23
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis		1.0	26	1.1	28	1.3	33	1.1	28
Respiratory System Diseases		231.4	6,018	230.5	6,042	198.2	5,006	234.3	5,958
Rubella		0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies		1.5	39	1.2	31	1.0	24	1.3	32
Sinusitis		14.9	387	14.8	389	13.7	346	17.1	434
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections		55.5	1,443	54.3	1,423	45.4	1,147	55.1	1,402
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess		1.7	44	1.5	39	1.4	35	1.1	29
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal		4.9	128	5.0	130	4.1	103	4.8	121
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest		15.3	397	16.7	437	14.0	353	19.8	503
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues		39.3	1,021	42.4	1,112	31.9	806	41.5	1,055
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis		41.1	1,068	40.6	1,065	39.0	986	42.1	1,070
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections		136.0	3,537	136.4	3,576	116.0	2,928	131.4	3,341
Urinary Tract Infections		24.3	632	25.2	661	20.9	527	25.3	642
Viral Hepatitis		0.4	10	0.3	7	0.3	7	0.2	4
Whooping Cough		0.2	6	0.0	0	0.1	3	0.2	4
<b>Practice Count</b>			<b>249</b>		<b>253</b>		<b>245</b>		<b>250</b>
<b>Denom</b>			<b>2,600,862</b>		<b>2,621,350</b>		<b>2,525,130</b>		<b>2,542,437</b>

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

### **About the report**

#### **Winter focus**

The first two pages of data within this report focus on Influenza-Like Illness, in order to provide information about the on set of seasonal influenza and early warning 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 groups, 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 the five-year average, calculated from data for the calendar years 2013-2017. 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. 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 three age bands: those aged under 15, 15-64 year olds and those aged 65 and over. ILI incidence rates vary among different age groups, and the age-specific thresholds allow us to highlight epidemics where ILI disproportionately affects a particular age group.

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 Public Health England. 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. For ease of graphical representation, the final threshold (Very High) is not included in Graph A, page 2, but it is part of Table 3, page 3.

Both the *all-ages* thresholds and the *age-specific* thresholds are shown in Table 2, page 3. Ten years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2005/06- 2015/16 excluding 2009/10).

## 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 in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey.

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 Wellbeing data management 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 in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey. Both Wellbeing data management and the University of Surrey 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 Public Health England. The bulletin can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/syndromic-surveillance-summary>

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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