

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

### Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 44/2023  
 Week Starting - Ending..... 30/10/2023 - 05/11/2023  
 No. of Practices..... 1,633  
 Population..... 16,293,645

### National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased from 11.4 in week 43 to 13.2 in week 44.
- **Asthma** : increased from 10.4 in week 43 to 11.5 in week 44.
- **Common Cold** : increased from 2.8 in week 43 to 3.2 in week 44.
- **Influenza-like illness** : increased from 3.2 in week 43 to 3.3 in week 44.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from 326.1 in week 43 to 343.6 in week 44.
- **COVID-19** : decreased from 14.7 in week 43 to 12.1 in week 44.

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

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased from 6.1 in week 43 to 6.9 in week 44 in the London region, increased from 16.6 in week 43 to 18.7 in week 44 in the North region, increased from 10.1 in week 43 to 11.9 in week 44 in the South region, and increased from 12.0 in week 43 to 14.2 in week 44 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from 8.7 in week 43 to 9.8 in week 44 in the London region, increased from 11.4 in week 43 to 11.9 in week 44 in the North region, increased from 10.4 in week 43 to 12.8 in week 44 in the South region, and increased from 10.9 in week 43 to 11.0 in week 44 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : increased from 2.7 in week 43 to 3.8 in week 44 in the London region, increased from 2.9 in week 43 to 3.2 in week 44 in the North region, increased from 2.4 in week 43 to 2.5 in week 44 in the South region, and increased from 3.2 in week 43 to 3.5 in week 44 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza-like illness** : decreased from 4.6 in week 43 to 4.4 in week 44 in the London region, was unchanged at 3.1 in week 43 and 3.1 in week 44 in the North region, increased from 2.5 in week 43 to 2.8 in week 44 in the South region, and increased from 3.0 in week 43 to 3.4 in week 44 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : increased from 243.7 in week 43 to 252.9 in week 44 in the London region, increased from 414.4 in week 43 to 430.6 in week 44 in the North region, increased from 292.0 in week 43 to 317.0 in week 44 in the South region, and increased from 345.3 in week 43 to 360.9 in week 44 in the Midlands And East region.
- **COVID-19** : increased from 8.1 in week 43 to 8.5 in week 44 in the London region, decreased from 17.3 in week 43 to 13.7 in week 44 in the North region, decreased from 16.7 in week 43 to 13.2 in week 44 in the South region, and decreased from 14.6 in week 43 to 12.0 in week 44 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.

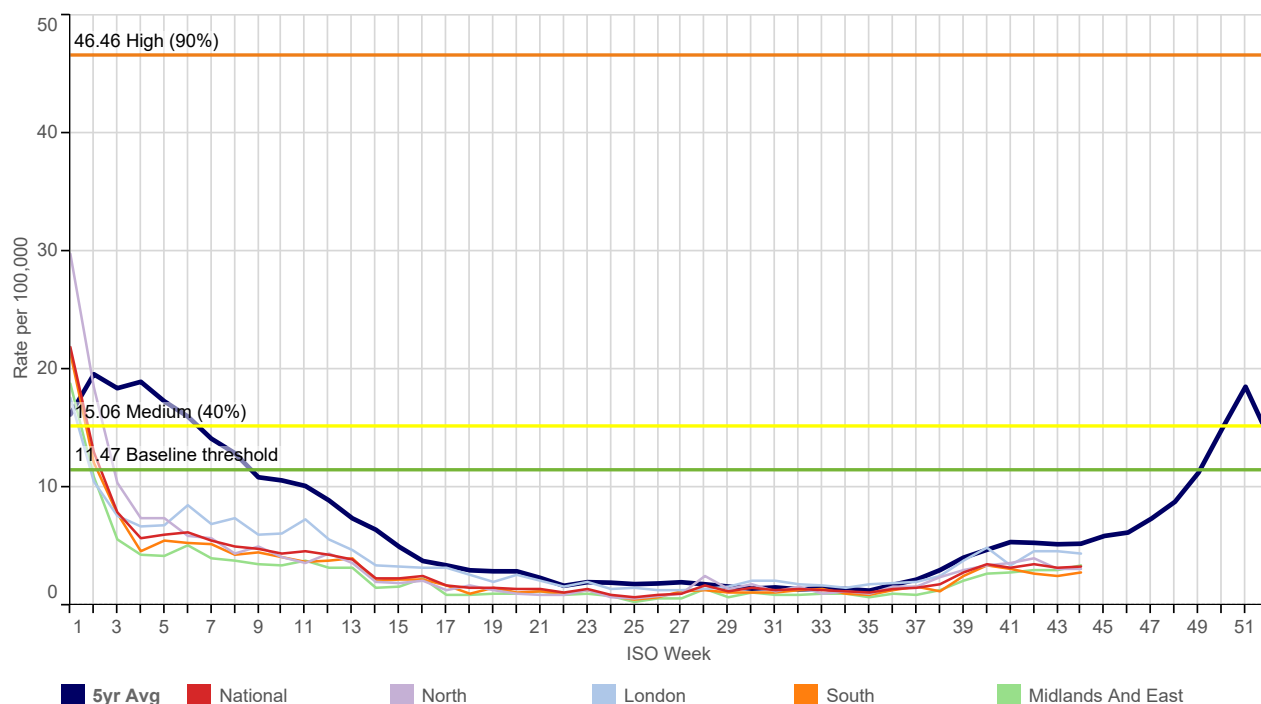
COVID-19 has continued to decrease in all regions and age bands except for London. Rates of acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis have continued to increase and are above the seasonal average particularly in children aged 1-4 years and those aged under 1 and is associated with respiratory syncytial virus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

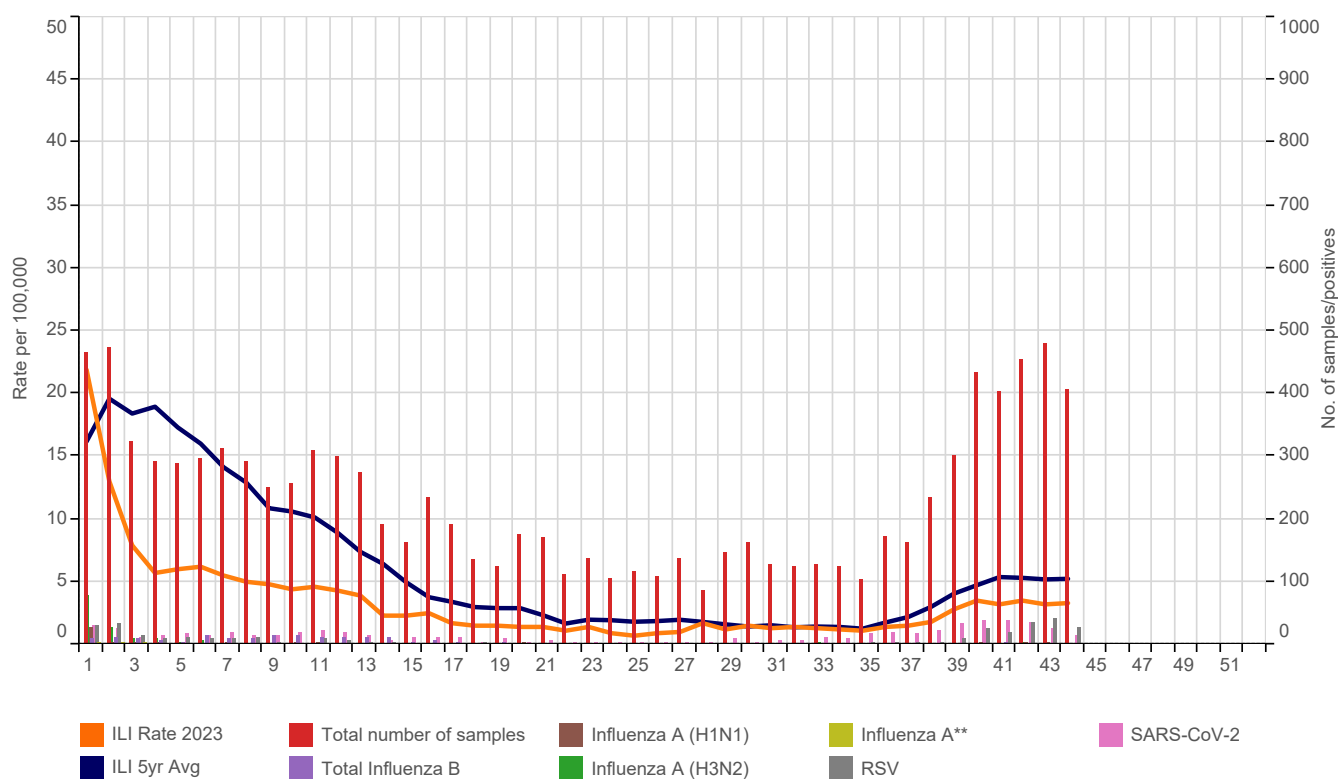
## 2023 Focus

Please see page 15 for explanatory notes on the data.

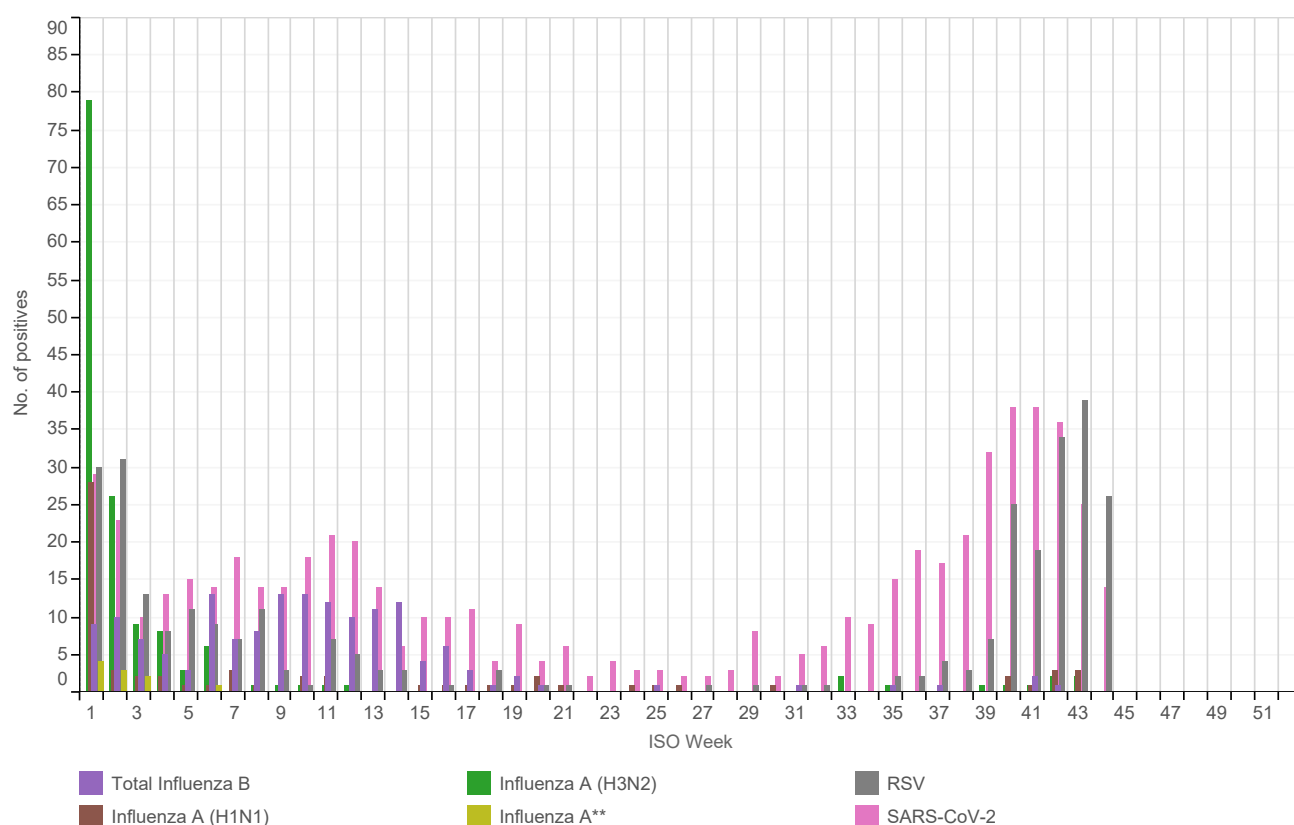
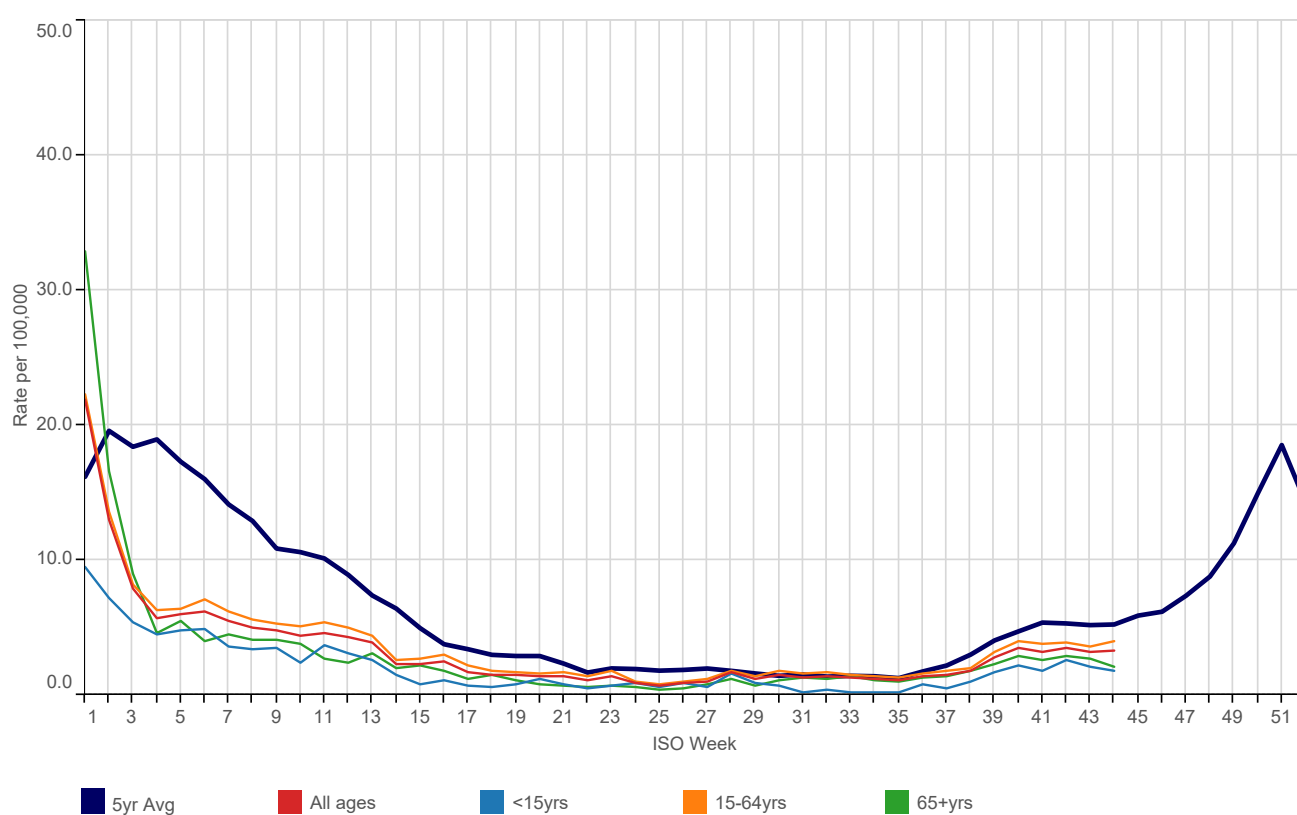
### (A) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2023 by region\*



### (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\***

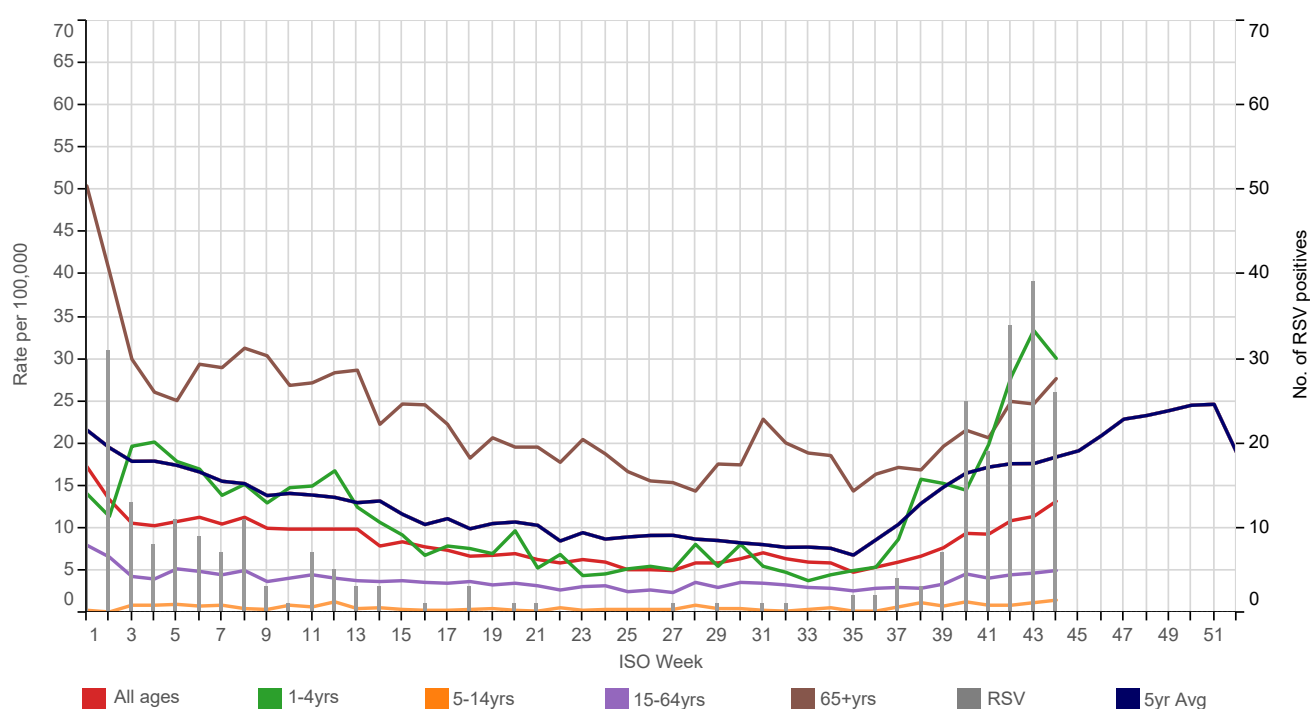
This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

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

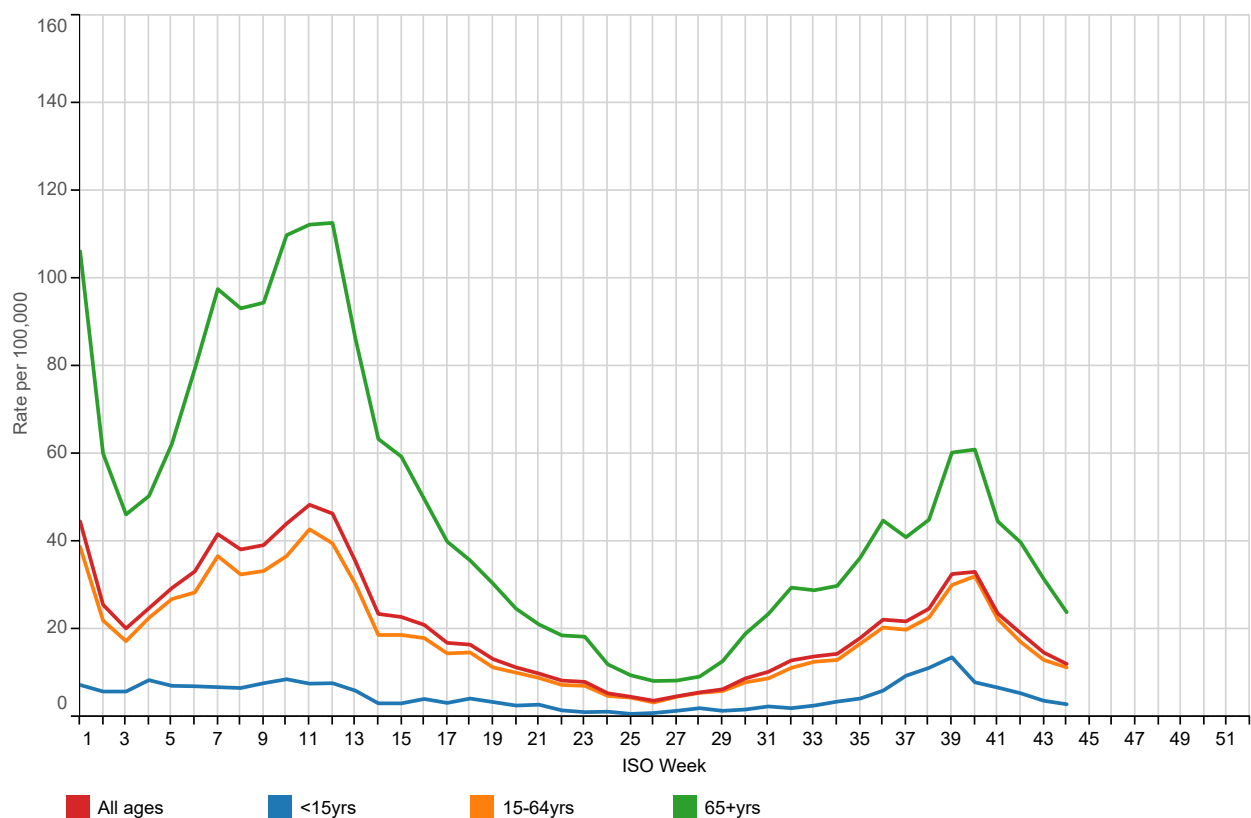
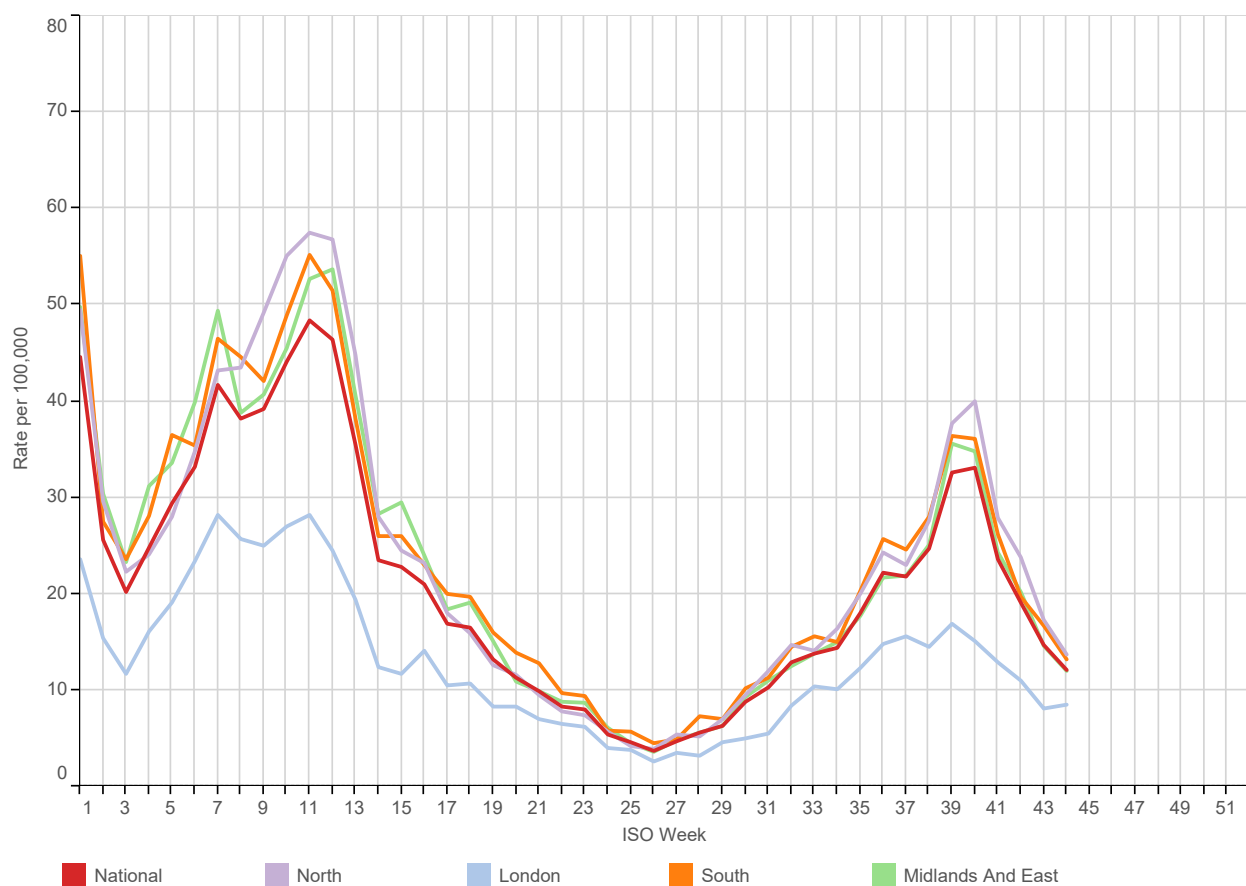
  

	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
<15yrs	0.2	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.2	1.8	2.6	2.1	1.8								
15-64yrs	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.0	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.0								
65+yrs	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.1								
All ages	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.8	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.3								

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>
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**<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**(F) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2023 by age group\*****Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

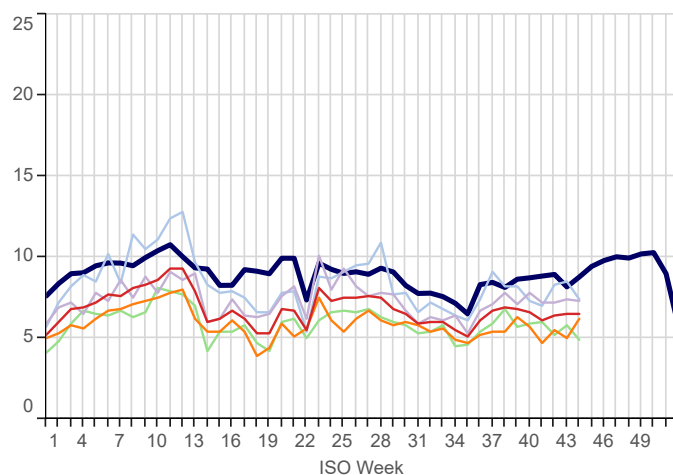
Influenza-like illness		Acute Bronchitis		Influenza-like illness		Acute Bronchitis	
<1yr	4.9	421.2	London	4.4	6.9		
1-4yrs	2.2	30.1	North	3.1	18.7		
5-14yrs	1.4	1.5	South	2.8	11.9		
15-24yrs	3.9	1.6	Midlands And East	3.4	14.2		
25-44yrs	4.2	2.2	National	3.3	13.2		
45-64yrs	4.0	10.0					
65-74yrs	2.4	24.6					
75-84yrs	2.0	32.9					
85+yrs	1.3	25.9					
All ages	3.3	13.2					

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

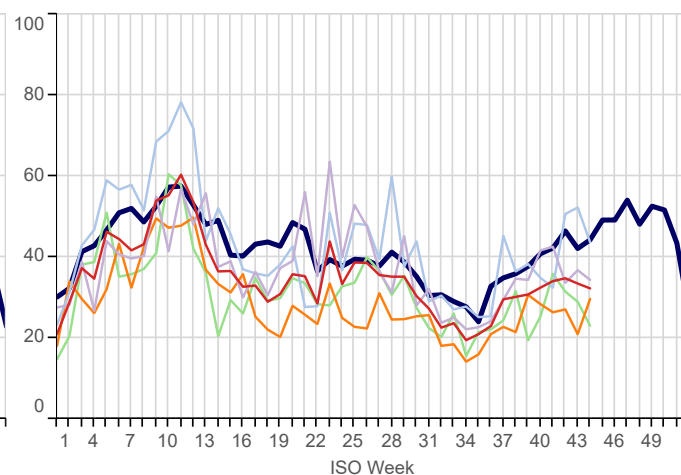
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

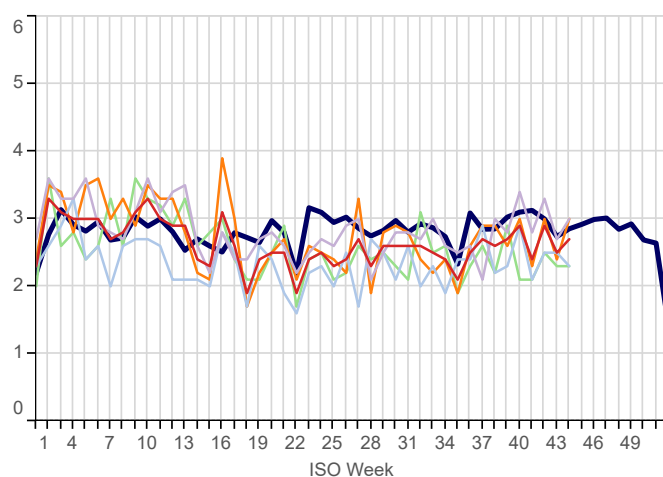
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



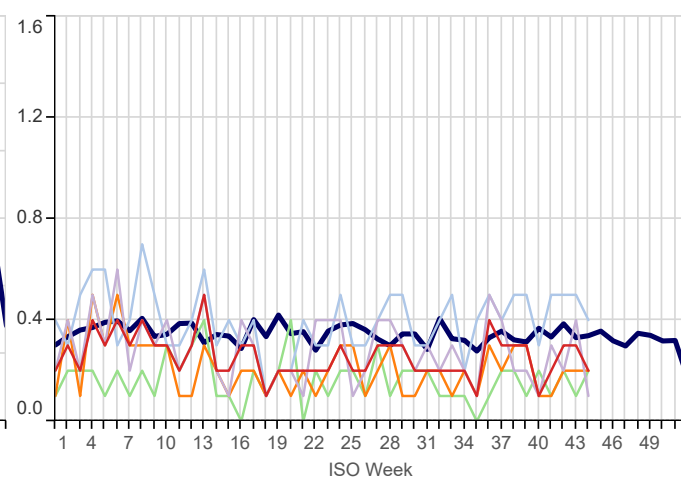
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



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



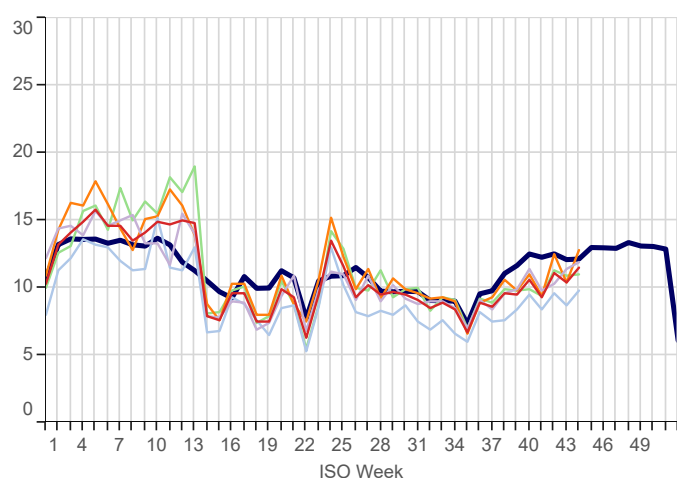
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



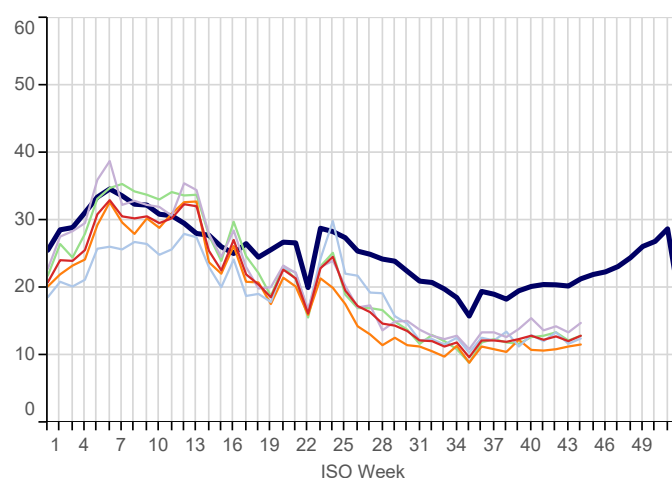
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

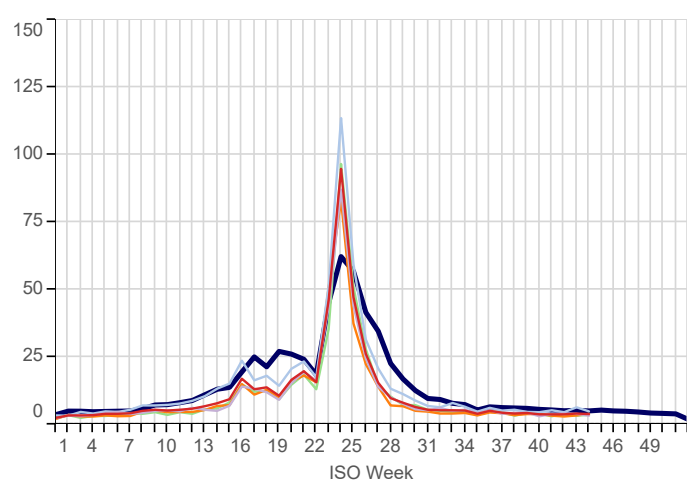
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



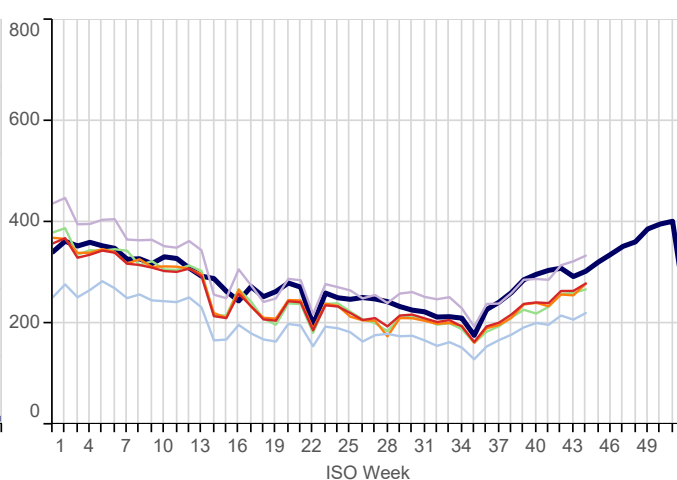
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



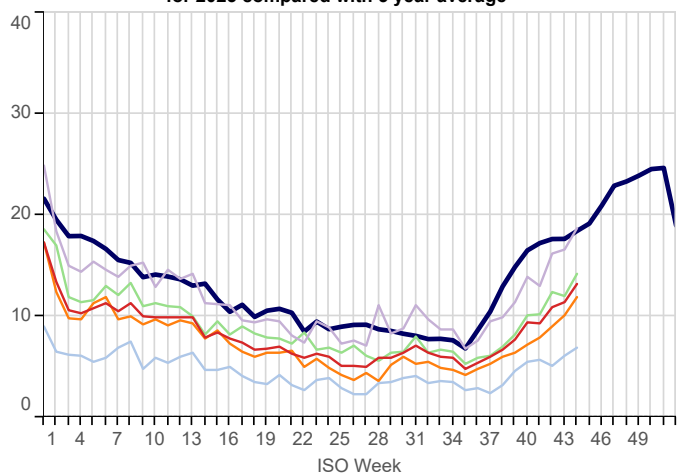
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



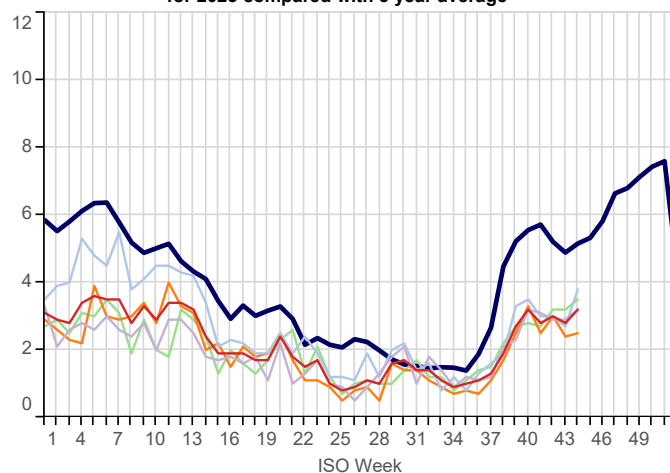
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

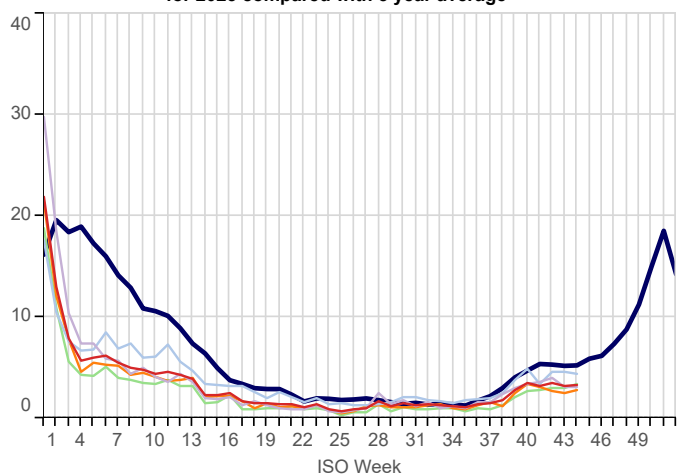
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



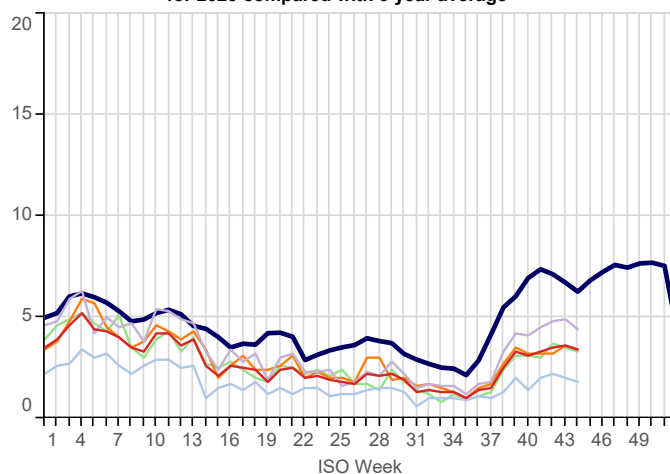
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



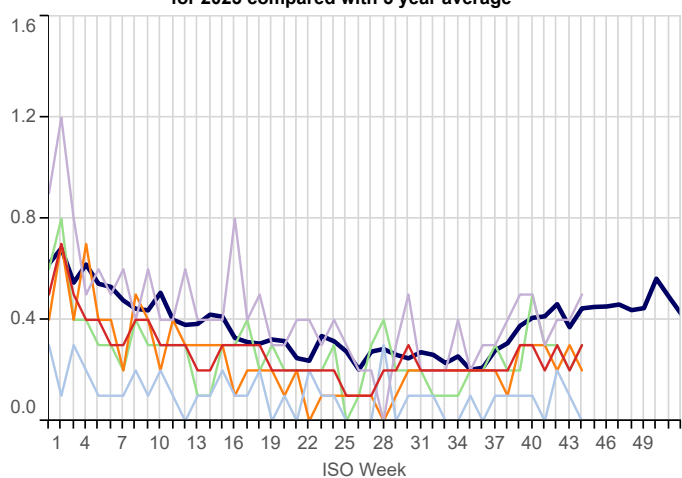
**Influenza-like illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



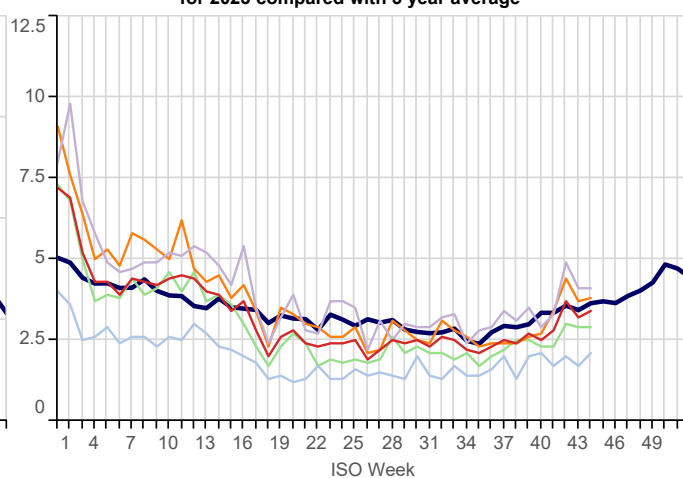
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average

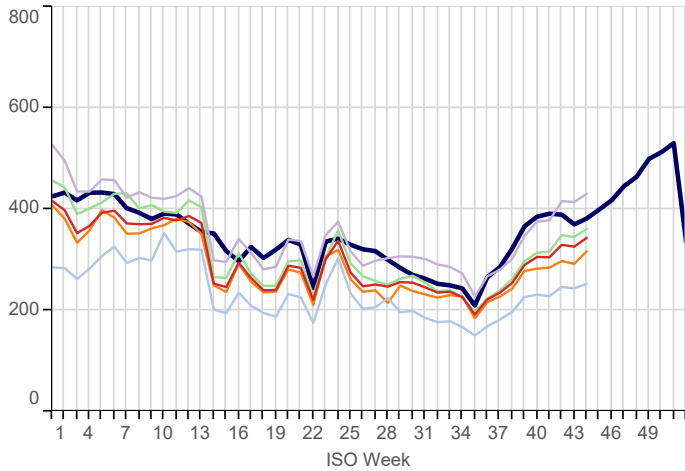




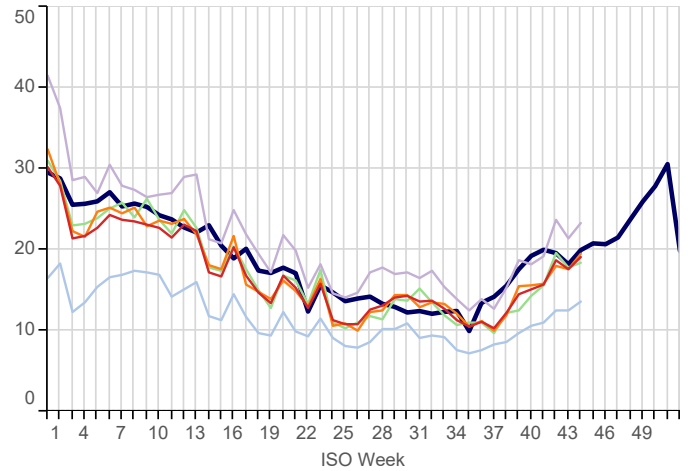
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

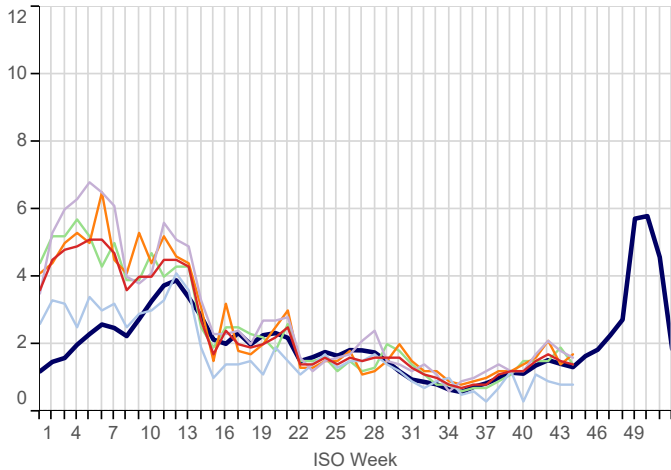
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



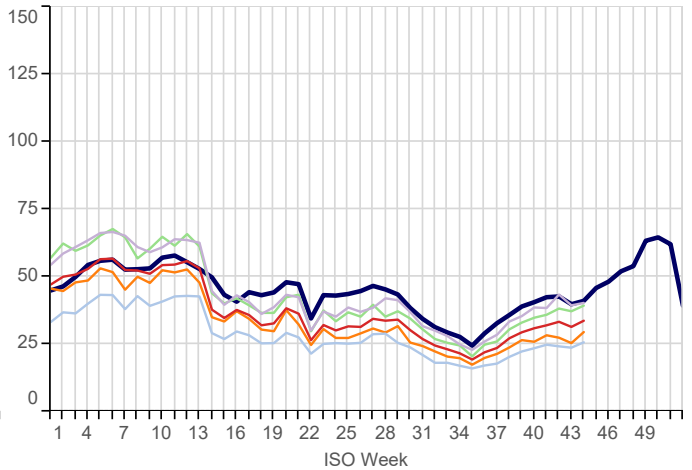
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



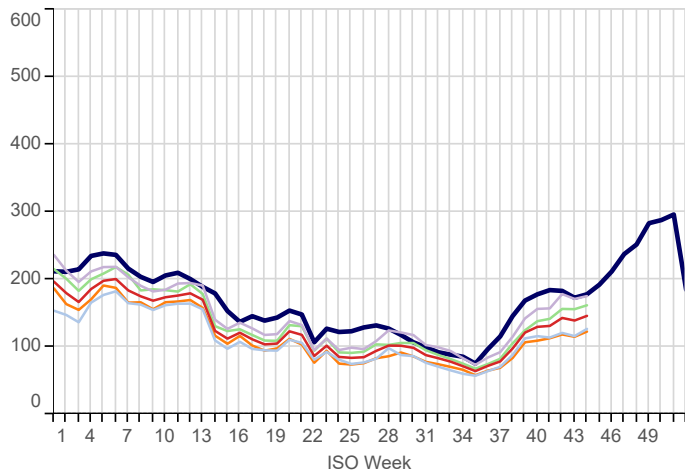
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



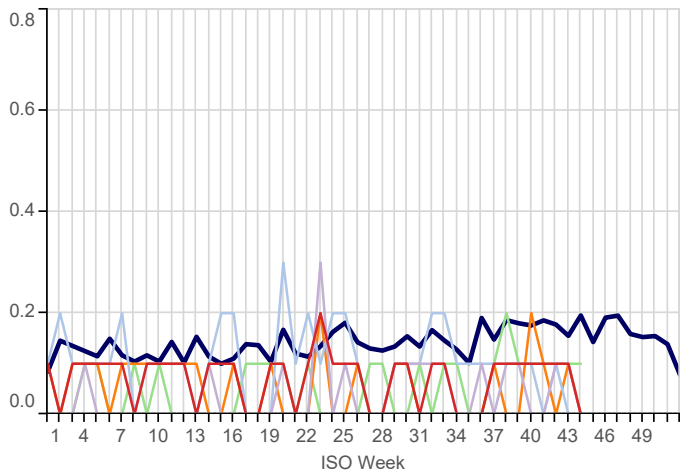
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



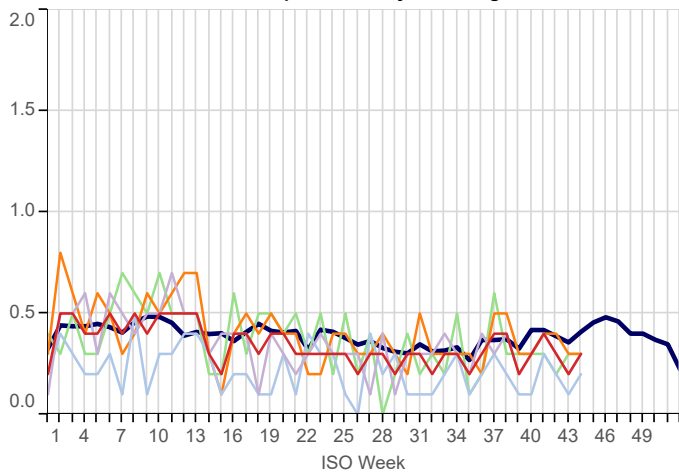
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



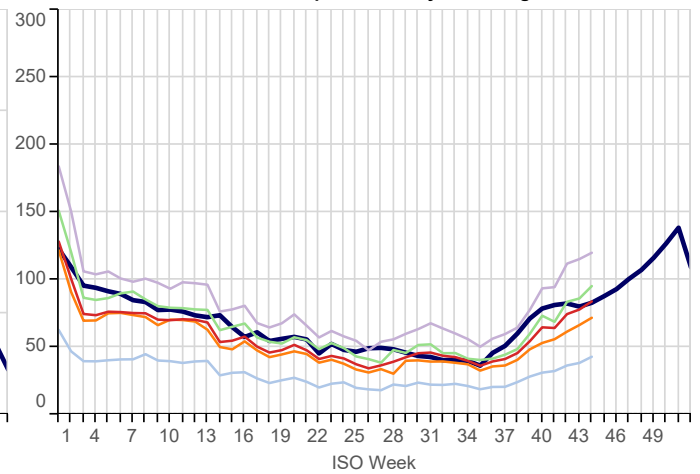
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

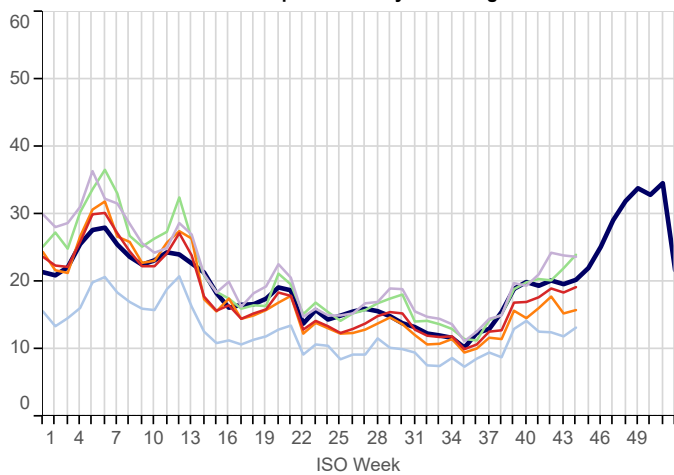
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



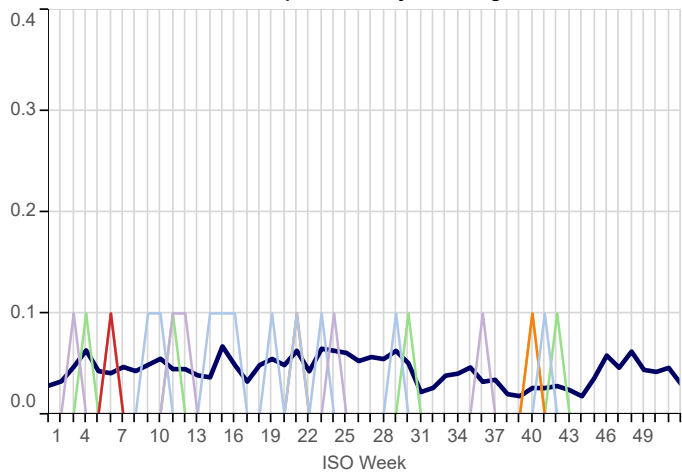
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



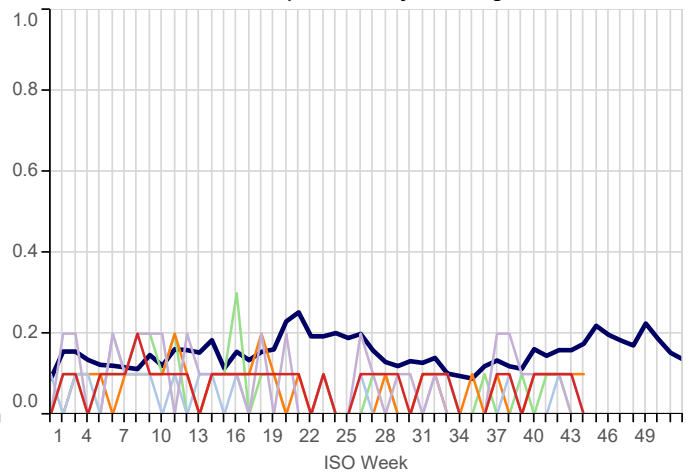
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

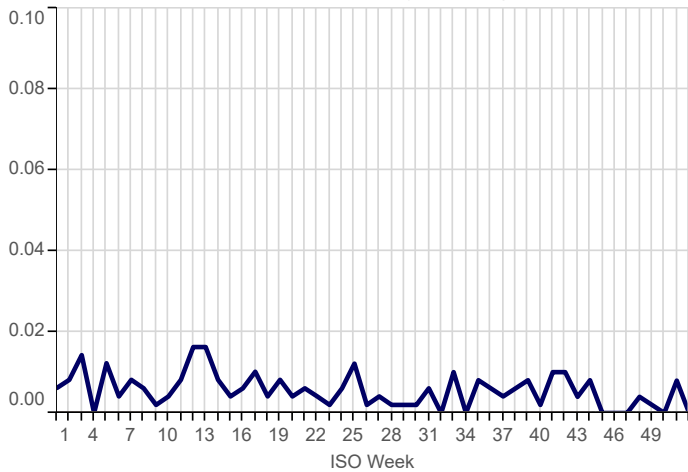
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average

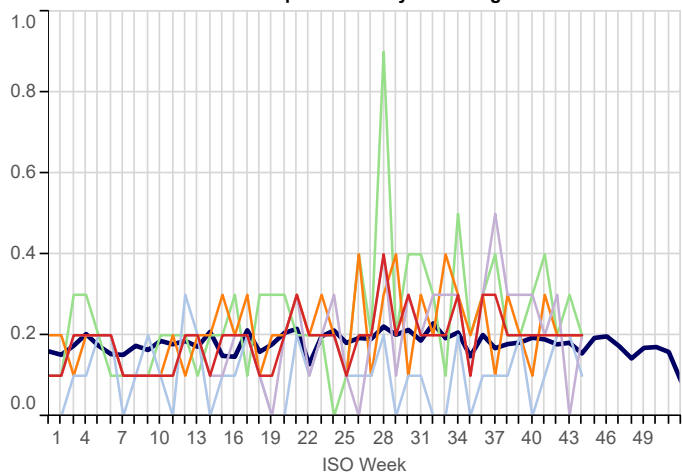


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average

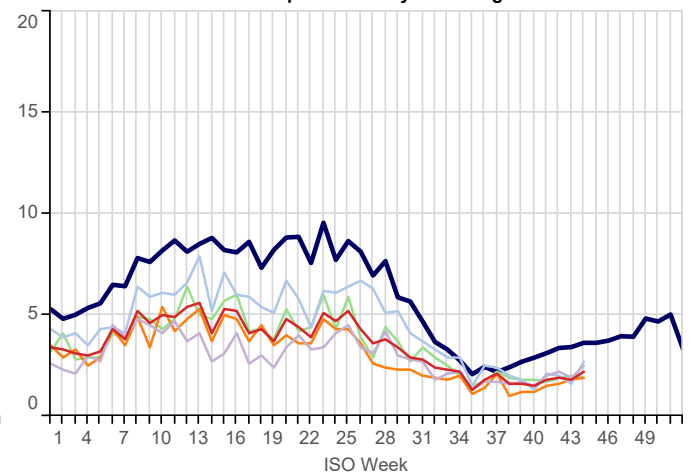


## 5. Skin Contagions

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



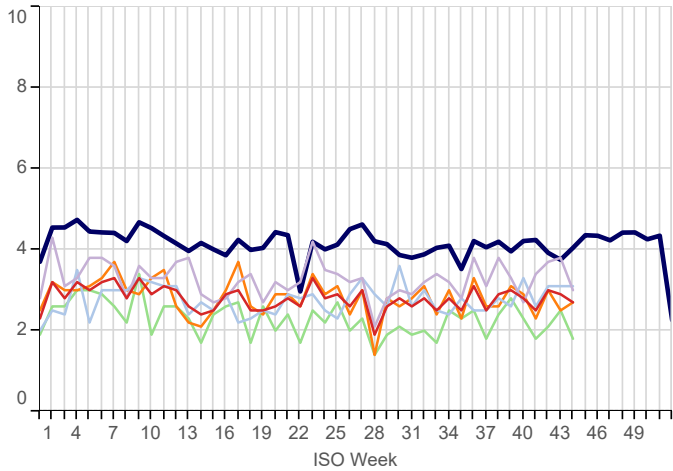
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



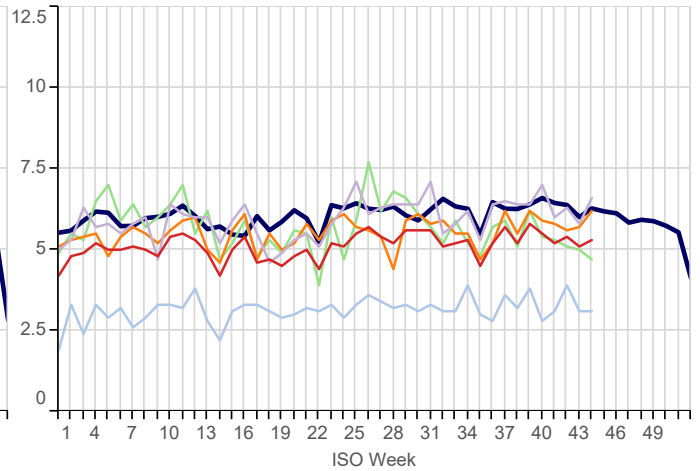
## 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

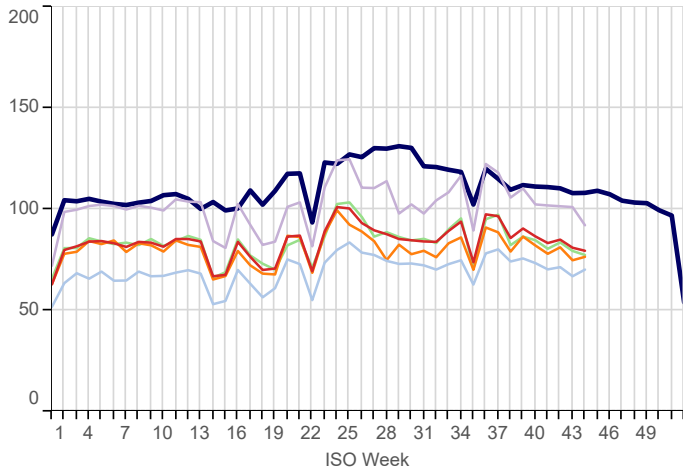
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



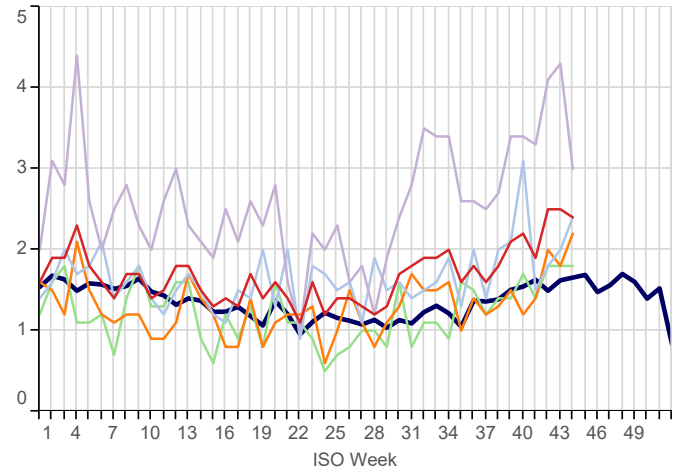
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



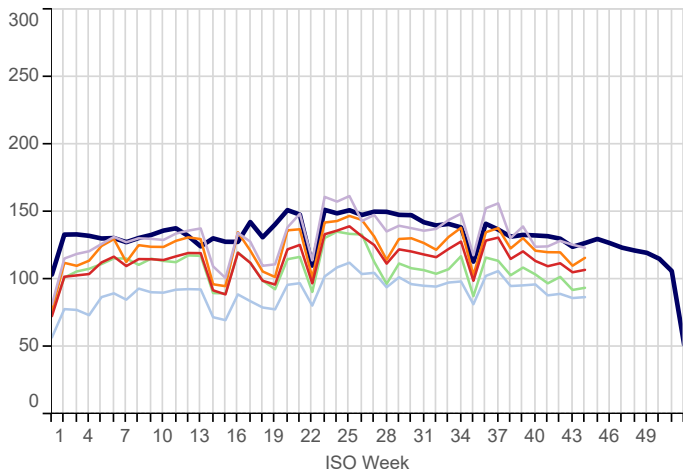
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



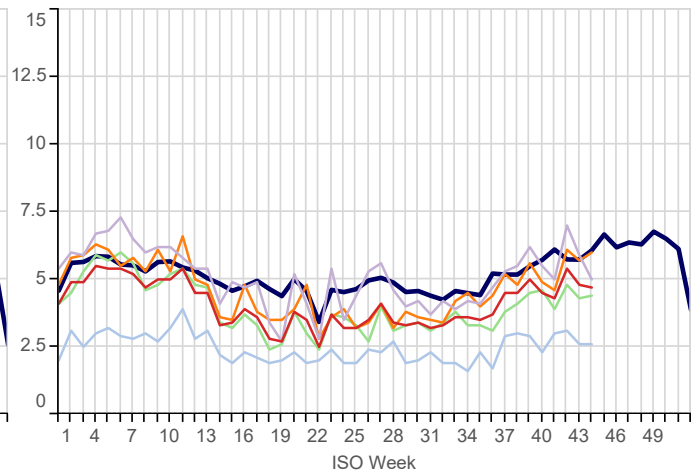
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



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



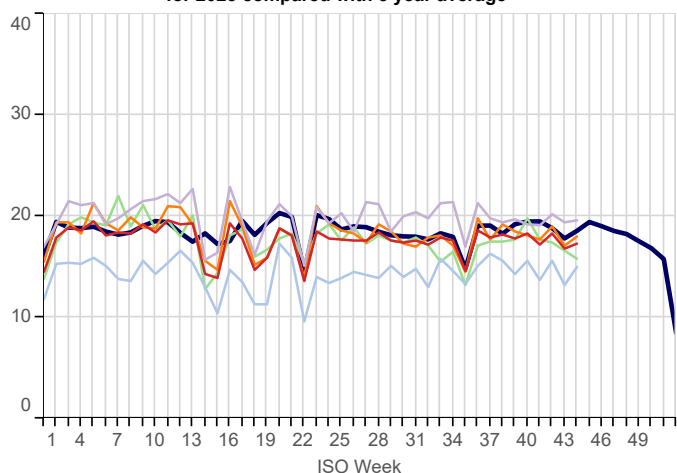
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



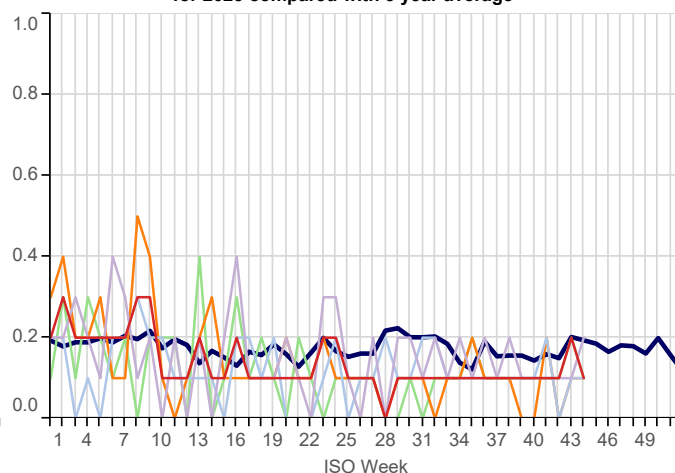
## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg   National   North   London   South   Midlands And East

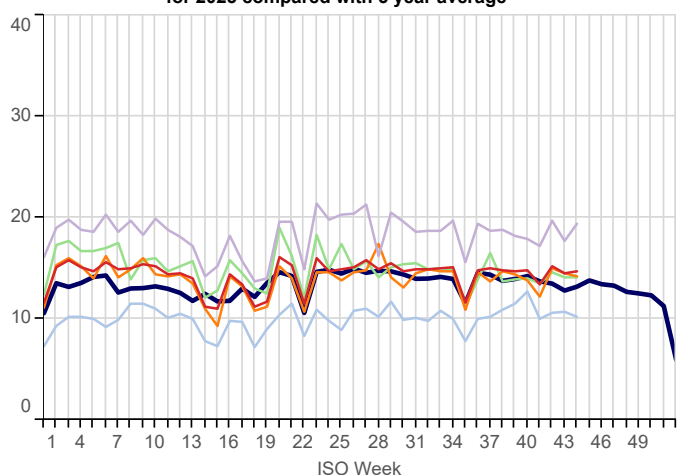
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



**Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average

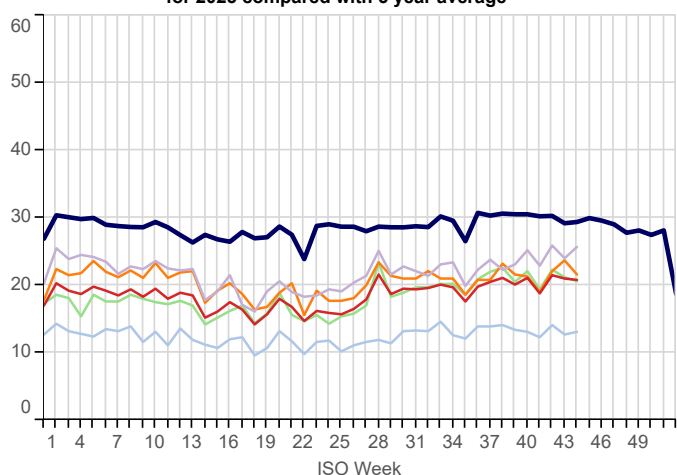


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2023 compared with 5 year average



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

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



## 8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending		30/10/2023 05/11/2023		23/10/2023 29/10/2023		16/10/2023 22/10/2023		09/10/2023 15/10/2023	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Acute Bronchitis	13.2	2,154	11.4	1,864	10.9	1,770	9.3	1,485		
Allergic Rhinitis	3.9	637	4.1	675	3.8	623	3.8	611		
Asthma	11.5	1,881	10.4	1,702	11.1	1,804	9.3	1,486		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	26	0.2	26	0.2	36	0.2	38		
Chickenpox	2.2	361	1.8	302	1.9	313	1.8	288		
Common Cold	3.2	517	2.8	450	3.0	487	2.8	449		
Conjunctival Disorders	12.9	2,105	12.1	1,983	12.8	2,093	12.3	1,960		
COVID-19	12.1	1,971	14.7	2,395	19.1	3,120	23.6	3,762		
Herpes Simplex	2.7	436	2.9	478	3.0	488	2.5	403		
Herpes Zoster	5.3	871	5.1	826	5.4	875	5.2	832		
Impetigo	4.7	764	4.8	786	5.4	887	4.3	680		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	6.5	1,051	6.5	1,060	6.4	1,048	6.1	975		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	46	0.2	37	0.3	51	0.4	60		
Influenza-like illness	3.3	539	3.2	523	3.5	571	3.2	517		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	3.4	547	3.6	584	3.5	574	3.3	521		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	83.9	13,666	77.9	12,727	74.5	12,147	64.2	10,258		
Measles	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0	4		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	22	0.2	25	0.1	13	0.1	21		
Mumps	0.0	8	0.1	9	0.1	13	0.1	12		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	2.7	441	2.5	408	2.9	466	2.4	379		
Otitis Media Acute	19.2	3,127	18.4	3,001	19.0	3,092	17.7	2,824		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	17.3	2,824	16.8	2,742	18.3	2,977	17.2	2,754		
Pleurisy	0.3	43	0.2	39	0.3	41	0.2	37		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	3.4	547	3.2	529	3.7	609	2.8	445		
Respiratory System Diseases	343.6	55,993	326.1	53,285	329.7	53,757	305.1	48,714		
Rubella	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	2.4	384	2.5	409	2.5	404	1.9	305		
Sinusitis	19.1	3,107	17.6	2,872	18.7	3,054	15.7	2,504		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	79.5	12,959	81.0	13,241	85.0	13,865	83.3	13,301		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.4	231	1.5	248	1.7	284	1.5	239		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	14.7	2,399	14.5	2,365	15.2	2,485	13.4	2,136		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	278.9	45,442	264.3	43,194	264.1	43,063	240.2	38,355		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	107.1	17,457	105.3	17,200	112.0	18,261	109.8	17,532		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	33.7	5,499	31.4	5,129	33.3	5,436	32.0	5,108		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	146.0	23,785	139.1	22,726	142.9	23,303	131.1	20,942		
Urinary Tract Infections	20.8	3,383	21.0	3,432	21.5	3,510	18.8	2,999		
Viral Hepatitis	0.2	38	0.3	45	0.3	41	0.2	36		
Whooping Cough	0.0	5	0.1	13	0.1	10	0.1	9		
<b>Practice Count</b>		<b>1,633</b>		<b>1,636</b>		<b>1,638</b>		<b>1,618</b>		
<b>Denom</b>		<b>16,293,645</b>		<b>16,341,570</b>		<b>16,305,727</b>		<b>15,968,385</b>		

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

### About the report

#### Focus

The first two pages of data within this report focus on Influenza-like illness and COVID-19, 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 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 a five-year average, 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 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 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. Ten years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2011/12- 2021/22 excluding the pandemic year 2020/21).

## 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 Practitioners 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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