



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Weekly national Influenza and COVID-19 surveillance report

**Week 39 report (up to week 38 data)
30 September 2021**

Executive summary

This report summarises the information from the surveillance systems which are used to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19), influenza, and other seasonal respiratory viruses in England. References to COVID-19 represent the disease name and SARS-CoV-2 represent the virus name. The report is based on data from week 38 (between 20 September and 26 September 2021) and for some indicators daily data up to 28 September 2021.

Surveillance indicators suggest that at a national level COVID-19 activity increased in some indicators, while remaining stable in others in week 38 of 2021. Laboratory indicators suggest that influenza activity is very low.

Overall COVID-19 case rates increased in week 38. Case rates increased in all regions, in most ethnic groups and some age groups, particularly those aged 10 to 19. Overall Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 positivity remained stable compared to the previous week.

The overall number of reported acute respiratory incidents in the past week increased compared to the previous week. SARS-CoV-2 was identified in the majority of these.

COVID-19 hospitalisations decreased in week 38. Deaths with COVID-19 remained stable in the most recent week.

COVID-19 vaccine coverage was 65.1% for dose 1 at the end of week 38. COVID-19 vaccine coverage was 59.9% for dose 2 at the end of week 38, reaching over 90% in all cohorts over the age of 65 years and over 80% in all cohorts over 50 years.

Seroprevalence data indicates that approximately 97.9% of blood donors aged 17 and over have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 from either infection or vaccination.

Through Respiratory Datamart, there were 5 influenza positive samples detected in week 38. Other indicators for influenza such as hospital admissions and GP influenza-like illness consultation rates remain very low. Respiratory syncytial virus positivity decreased to 8.4% in week 38, while rhinovirus positivity increased to 18.6% in week 38. Parainfluenza, adenovirus and human metapneumovirus (hMPV) positivity remained low at 1.0%, 0.9% and 2.2% respectively in week 38.

Please note that this will be the final report produced by Public Health England. From next week this report will be produced by the UK Health Security Agency but will remain otherwise unchanged. The report will be available from the [same page on GOV.UK](#).

Contents

Executive summary	2
Contents.....	3
Laboratory surveillance	5
Confirmed COVID-19 cases (England).....	5
Possible SARS-CoV-2 reinfection in England	17
Respiratory DataMart system (England).....	20
Community surveillance	23
Acute respiratory infection incidents	23
COVID-19 cases by type of residence.....	31
FluSurvey	32
Google search queries	34
NHS 111	36
Primary care surveillance	39
RCGP (England).....	39
UK	41
GP In Hours, Syndromic Surveillance	42
GP Out of Hours, Syndromic Surveillance.....	44
Sentinel swabbing scheme in the UK	46
Secondary care surveillance	48
SARI Watch.....	48
Hospitalisations, SARI Watch	49
ICU or HDU admissions, SARI Watch	53
ECMO, SARI Watch	57
RSV admissions, SARI Watch.....	58
Emergency Department attendances, Syndromic surveillance	60
Mortality surveillance	64
Cumulative COVID-19 deaths	64
Daily excess all-cause mortality (England)	69
Microbiological surveillance	73

SARS-CoV-2 variants.....	73
Antimicrobial susceptibility.....	73
COVID-19 sero-prevalence surveillance.....	75
Seroprevalence in Adults aged 17 years and older (Blood Donors).....	75
National prevalence.....	75
Regional prevalence of infection over time.....	76
Prevalence by age group.....	76
COVID-19 vaccination.....	81
International update.....	85
Global COVID-19 update.....	85
Global influenza update.....	87
Other respiratory viruses.....	89
Related links.....	90

Laboratory surveillance

Confirmed COVID-19 cases (England)

As of 9am on 28 September 2021, a total of 6,590,514 first positive cases have been confirmed for COVID-19 in England under Pillars 1 and 2, since the beginning of the pandemic.

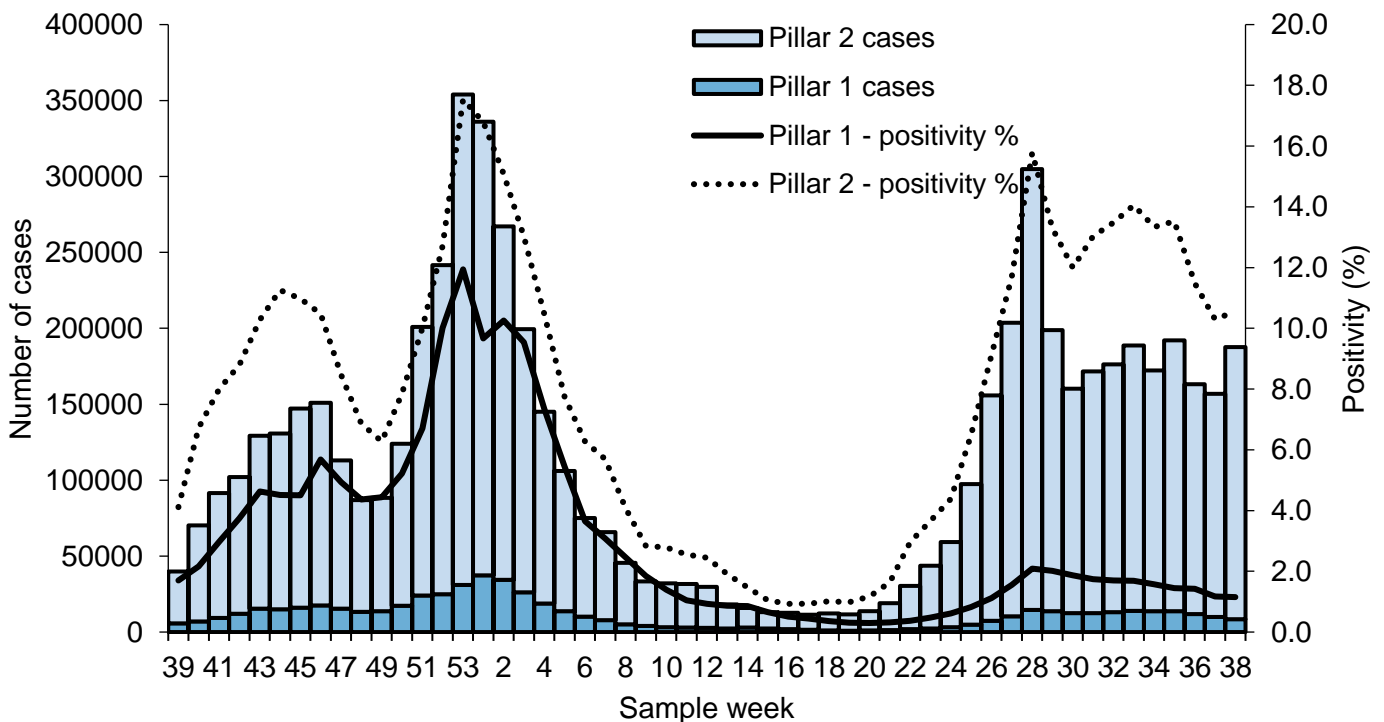
Overall COVID-19 case rates increased in week 38. Case rates increased in all regions, in most ethnic groups and some age groups, particularly those aged 10 to 19. Overall Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 positivity remained stable compared to the previous week.

From the week 32 report onwards, case rates have been updated to use the latest ONS population estimates for mid-2020. Previously case rates were calculated using the mid-2019 population estimates. Rates by ethnicity and IMD quantile will continue to be presented using the mid-2019 estimates, until the mid-2020 estimates become available.

Please note that positivity is presented as positivity by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing only, unless otherwise stated (for example figure 2).

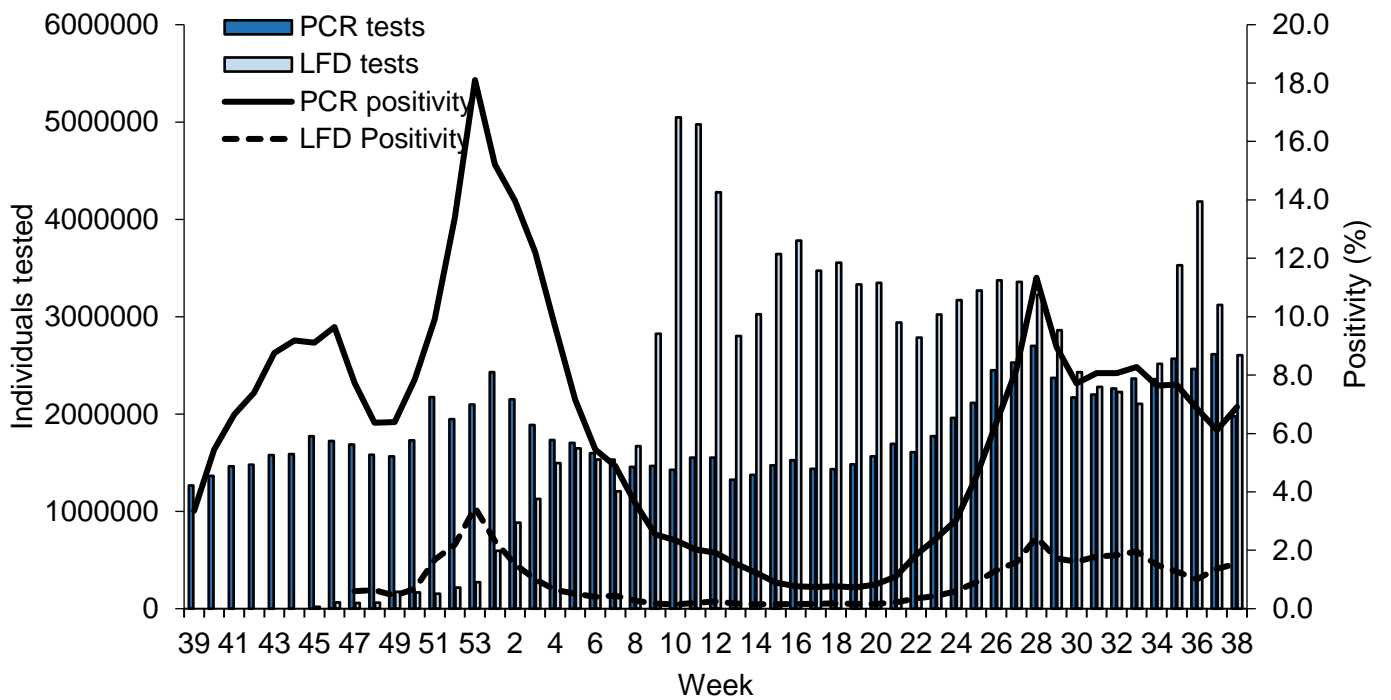
Changes to testing policies over time may impact on positivity rates.

Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, based on sample week with overall weekly PCR positivity for Pillars 1 and 2 (%)



- * The data are shown by the week the specimen was taken from the person being tested. This gives the most accurate analysis of this time progression, however, for the most recent week results for more samples are expected therefore this should be interpreted with caution
- * Positivity (excluding Figure 2) is calculated as the number of individuals testing positive during the week divided by the number of individuals tested during the week through Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing
- * Data source: Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS)

Figure 2: Weekly positivity (%) of confirmed COVID-19 and number of individuals tested by type of test, under Pillar 1 and 2



- * For Figure 2 positivity is calculated as the number of individuals testing positive using a specific test type during the week, divided by the number of individuals tested using that specific test type during the week
- * Please note that an individual may appear under both PCR and LFD tests if they have been tested using both test types in a given week

Age and sex

Figure 3: Age-sex pyramids for confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under Pillars 1 and 2 in weeks 37 and 38 (n=343,153)

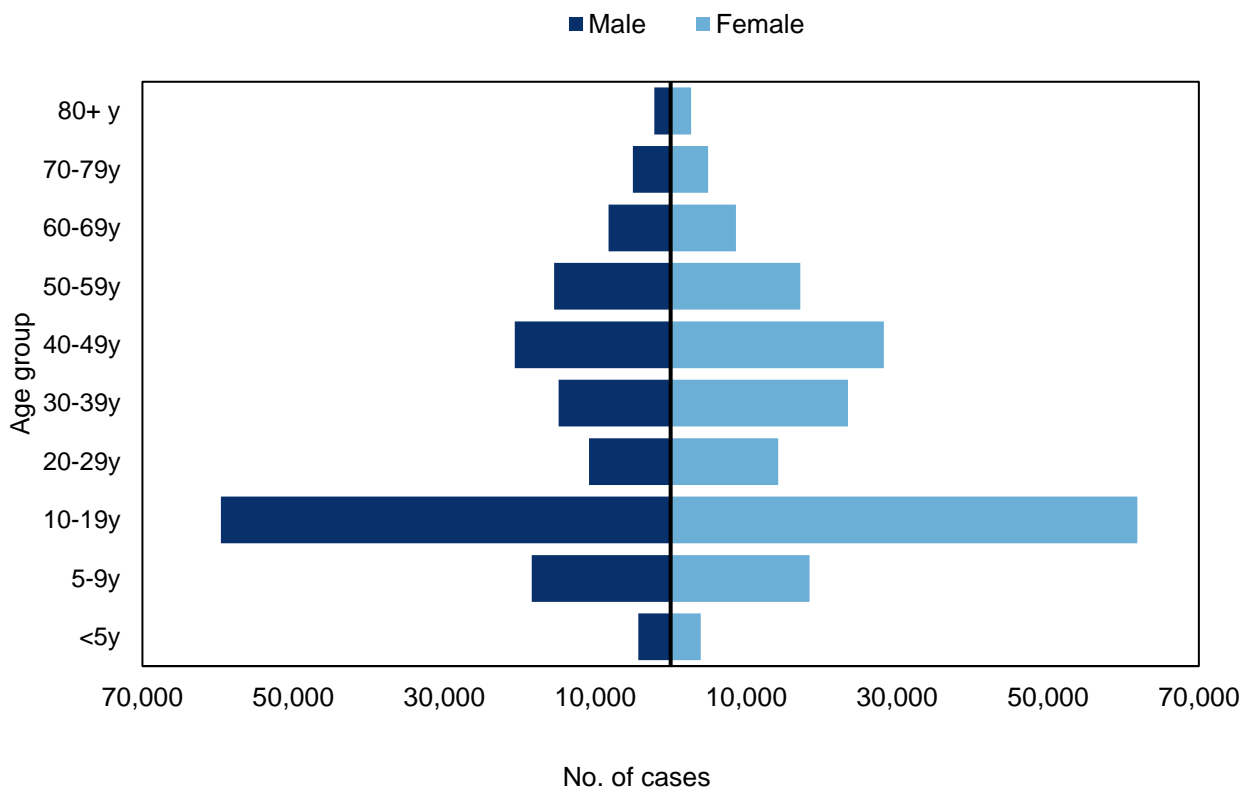


Figure 4: Weekly confirmed COVID-19 case rates per 100,000, tested under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, by sex

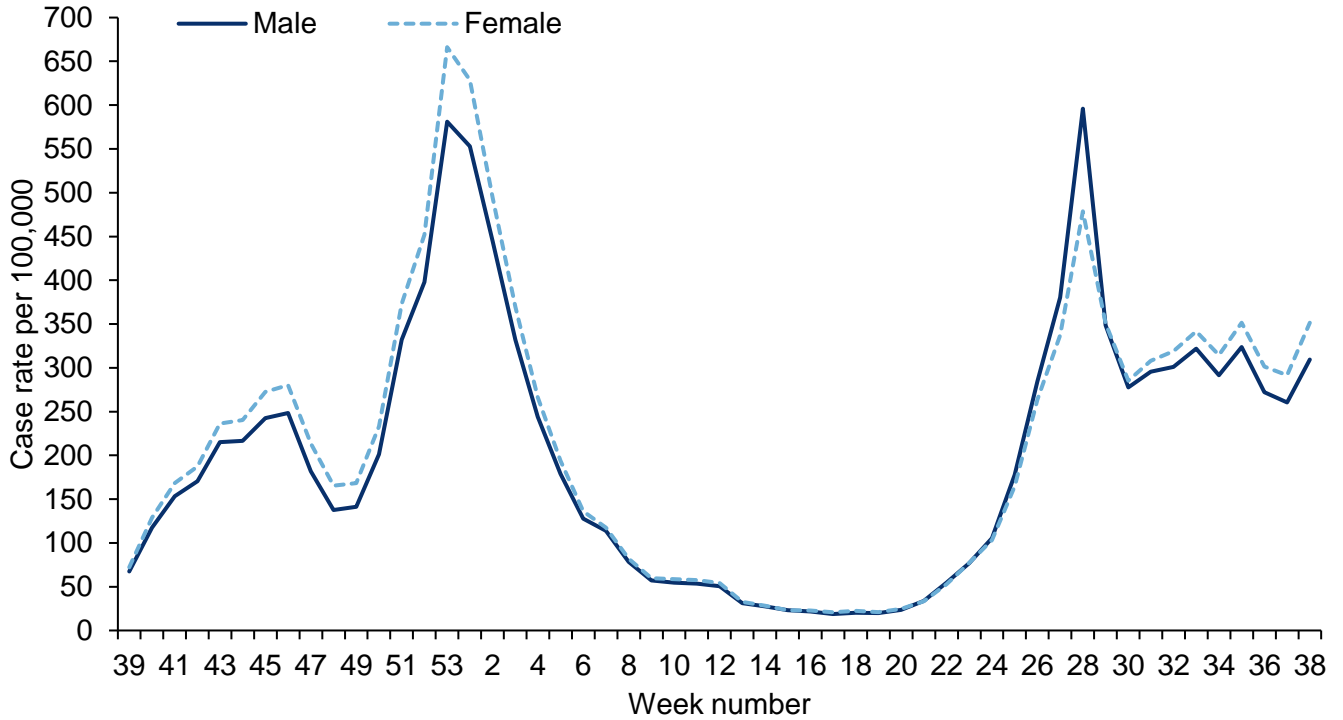


Figure 5: Weekly confirmed COVID-19 case rates per 100,000, tested under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, by age group

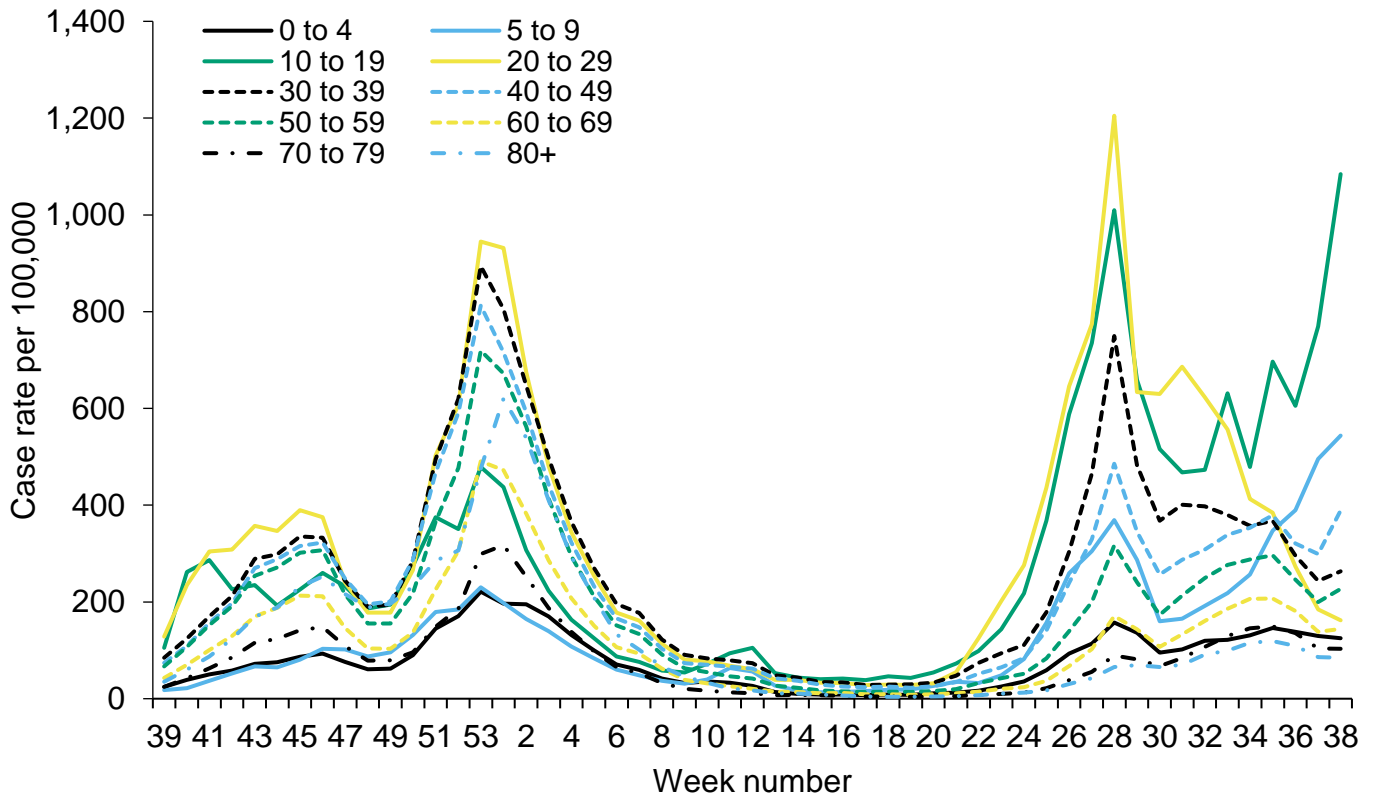


Figure 6: Weekly PCR positivity (%) of confirmed COVID-19 cases tested overall and by sex under (a) Pillar 1 and (b) Pillar 2

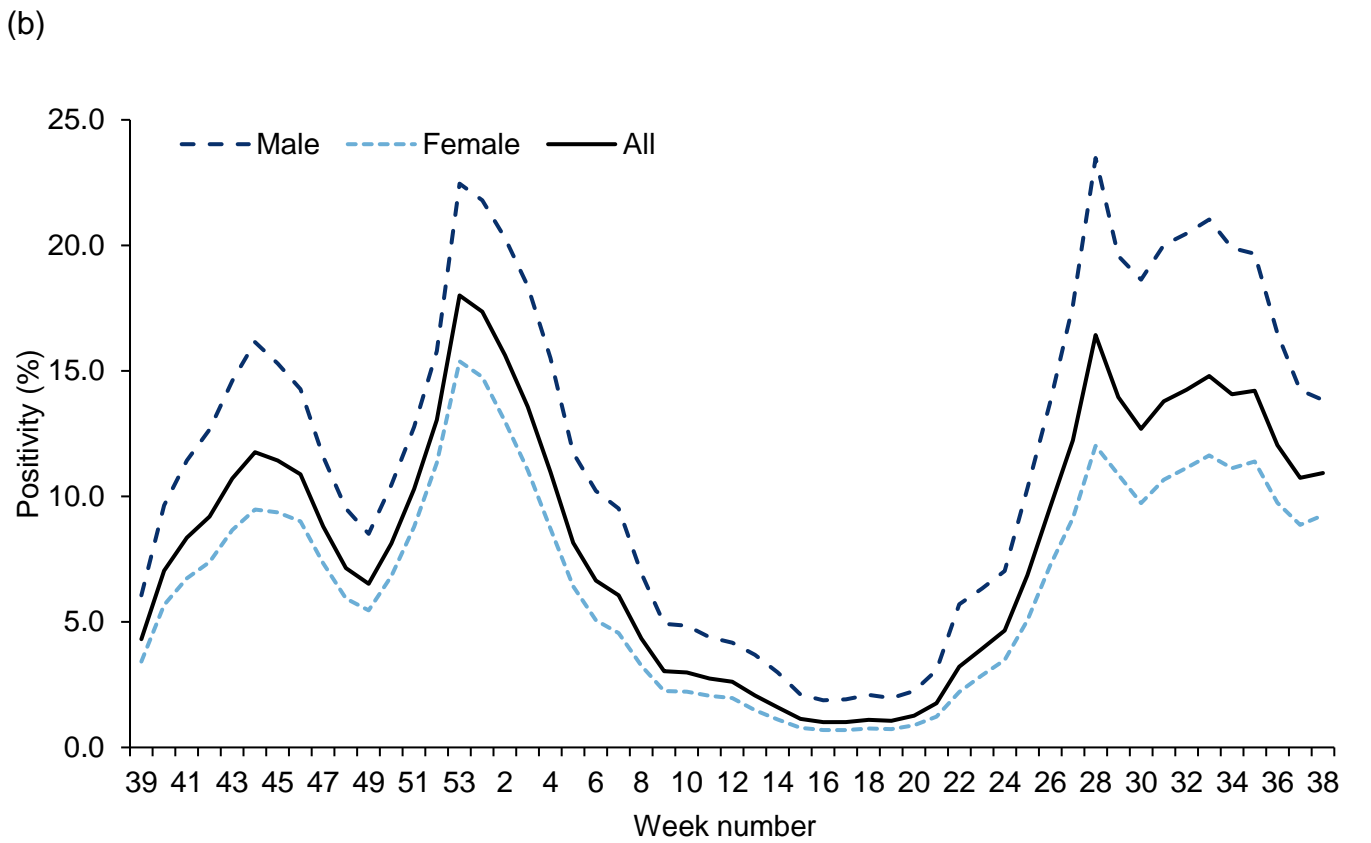
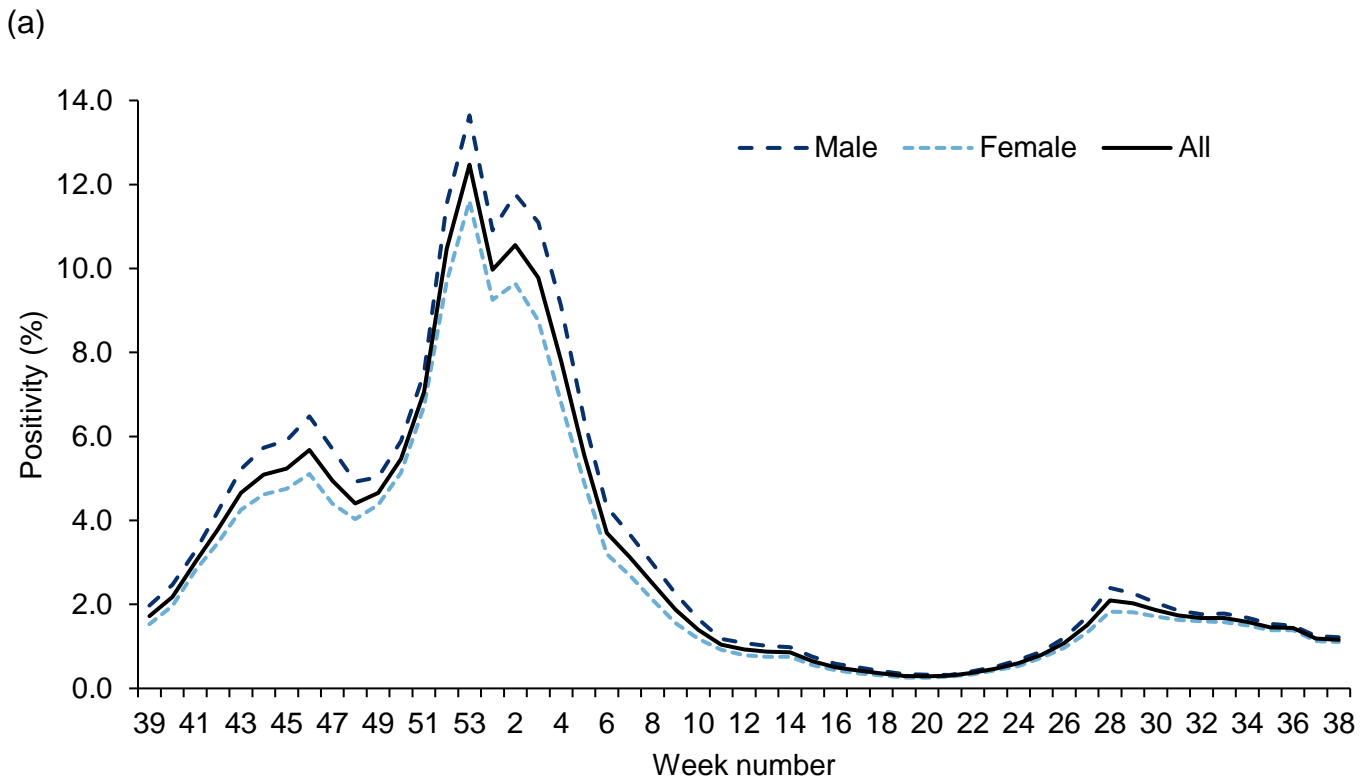
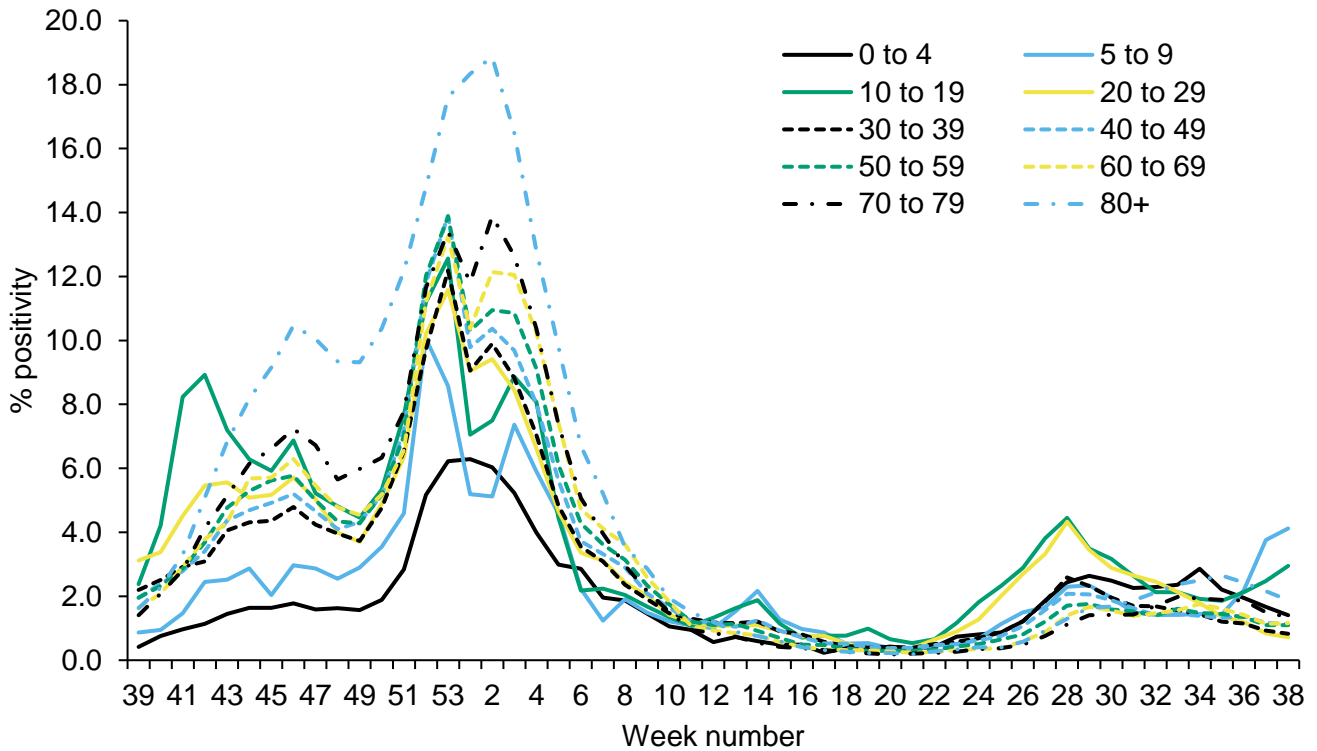
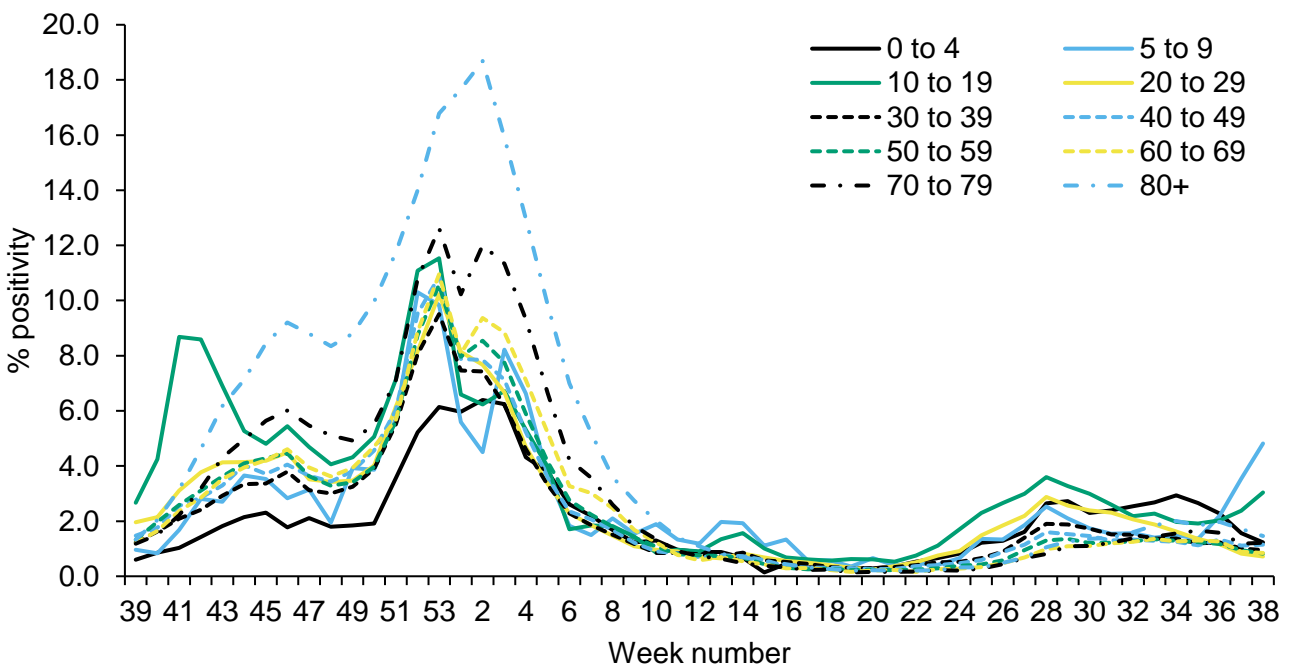


Figure 7: Weekly PCR positivity (%) of confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under Pillar 1, (a) by male and age group and (b) by female and age group and; under Pillar 2, (c) by male and age group and (d) by female and age group

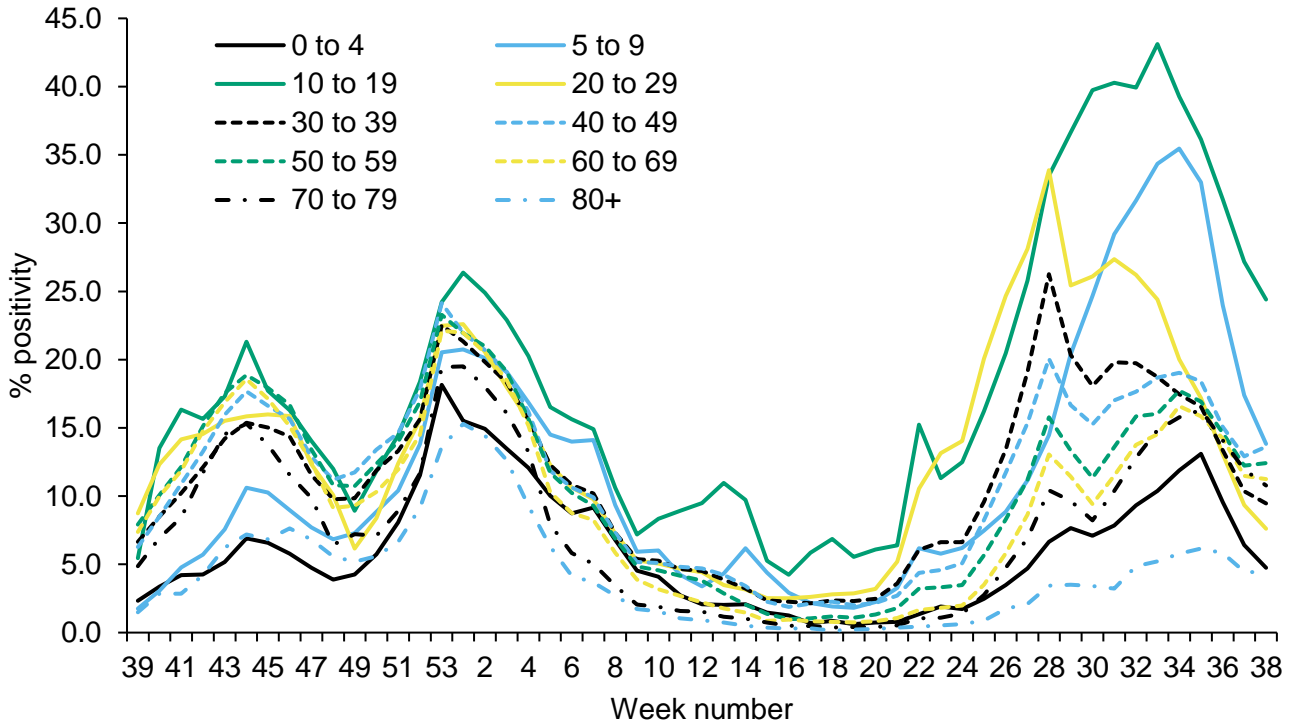
(a) Pillar 1 - Male



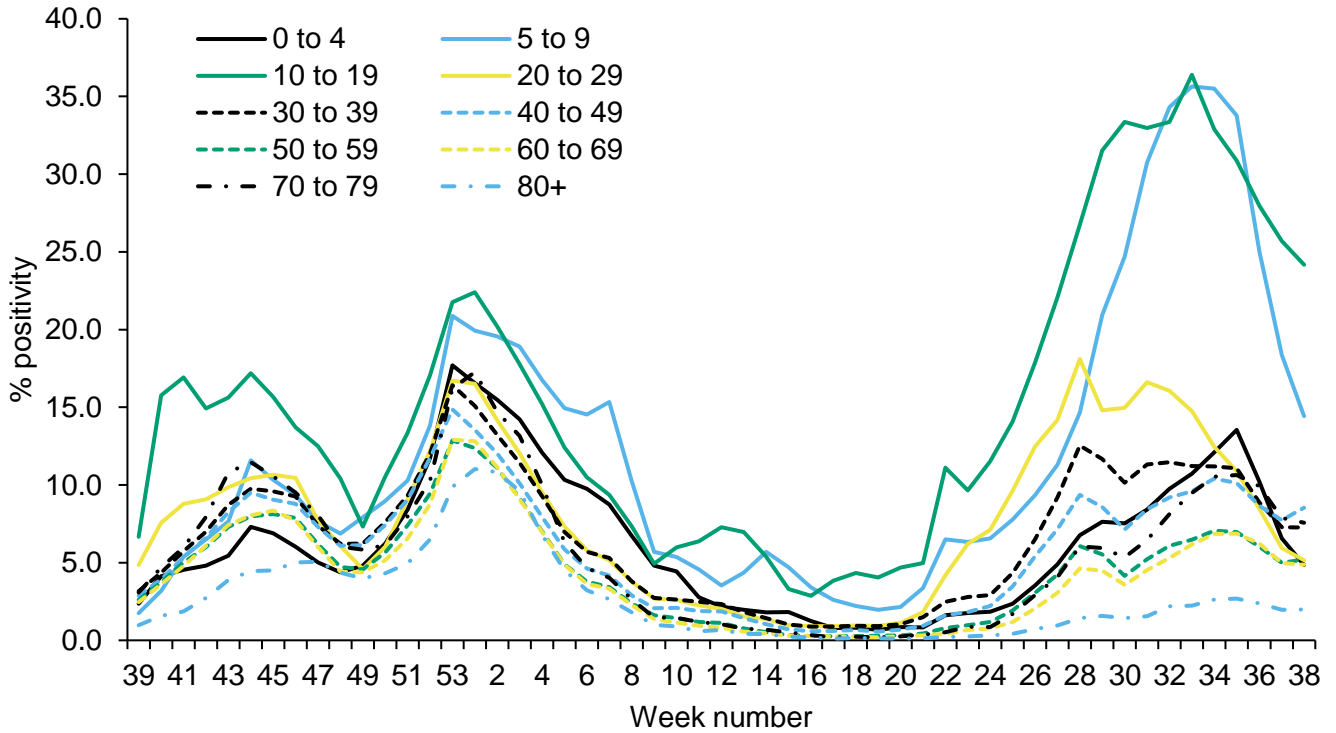
(b) Pillar 1 - Female



(c) Pillar 2 – Male



(d) Pillar 2 – Female



Geography

Figure 8: Weekly confirmed COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population (Pillar 1 and Pillar 2), by PHE Centres and sample week

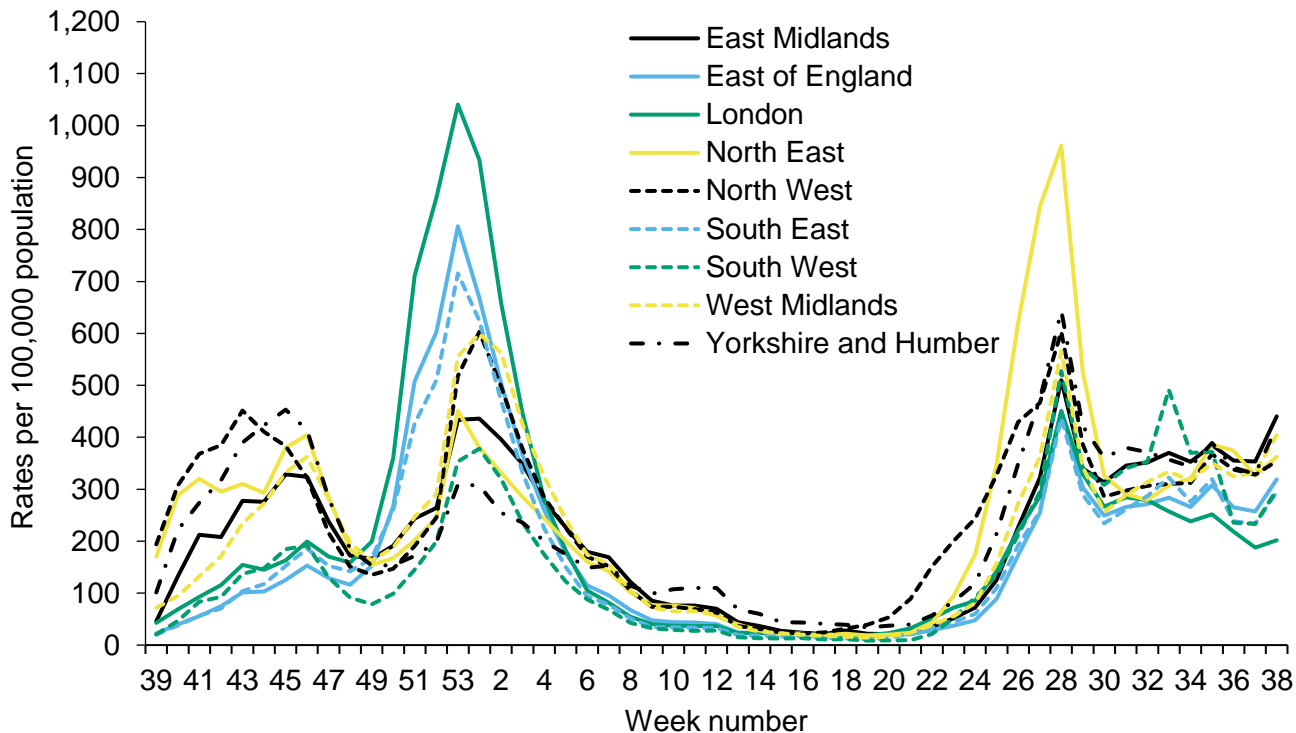


Figure 9: Weekly PCR positivity of confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under (a) Pillar 1 (%) and (b) Pillar 2 (%), by PHE Centres and sample week

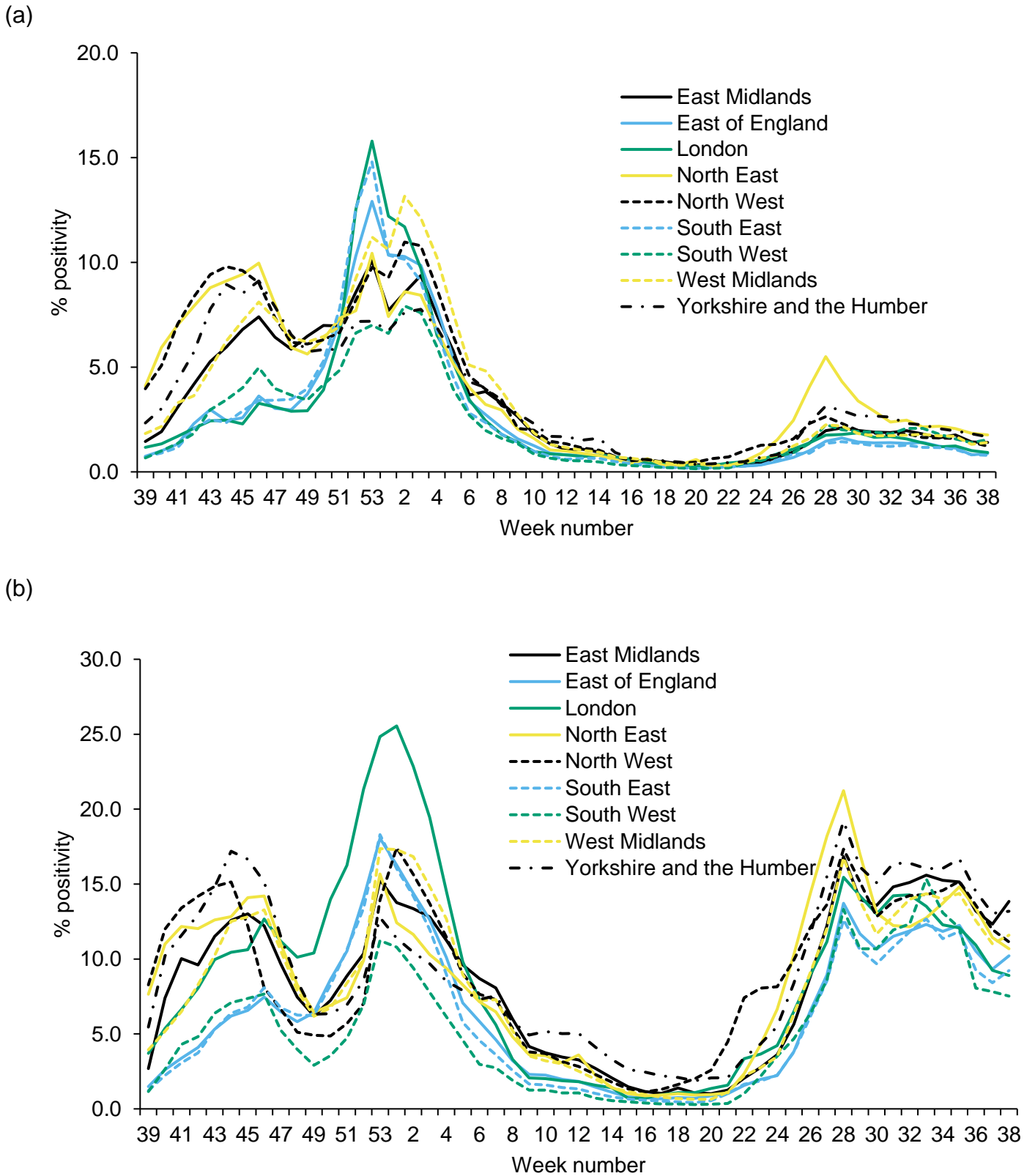
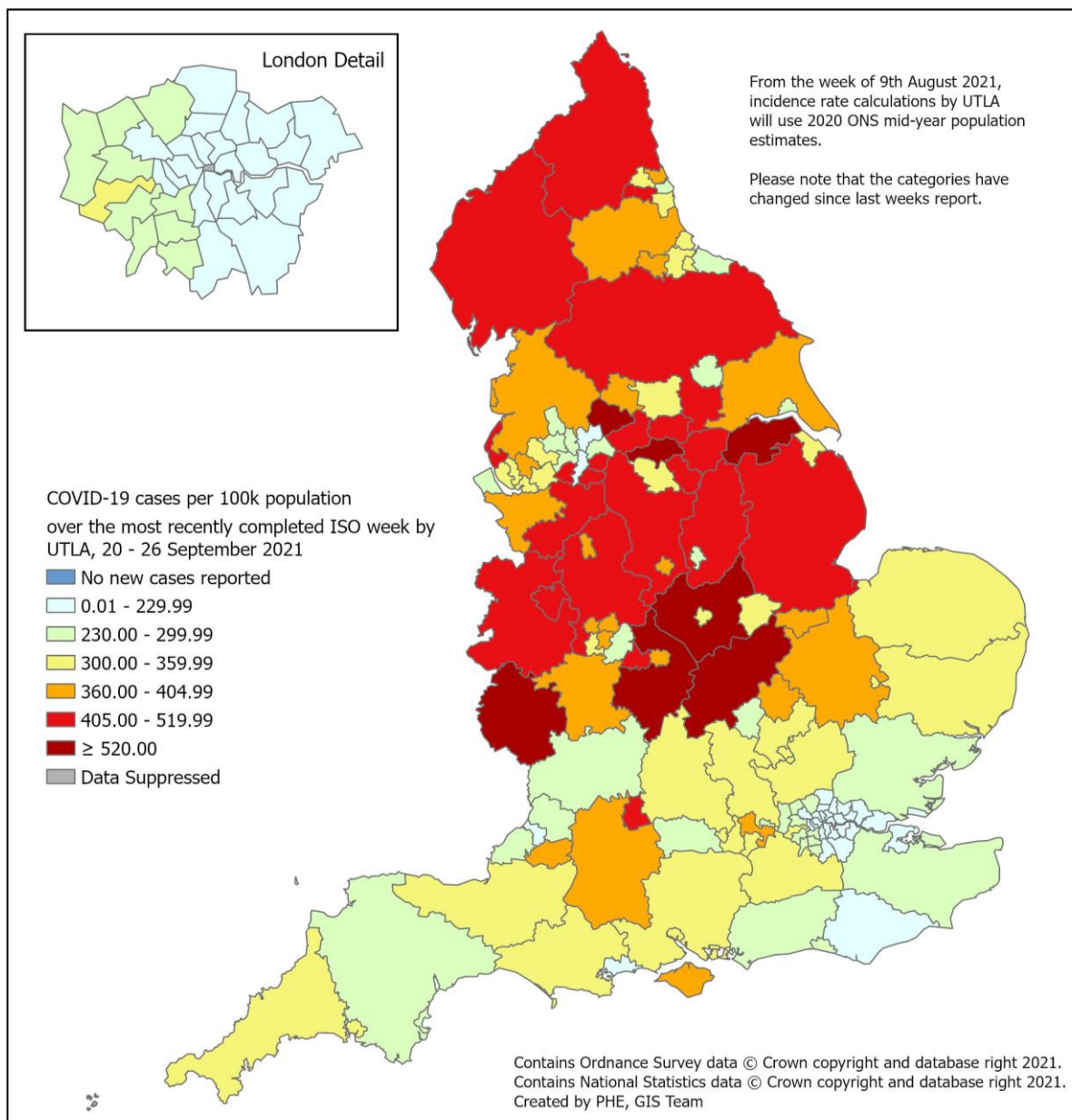
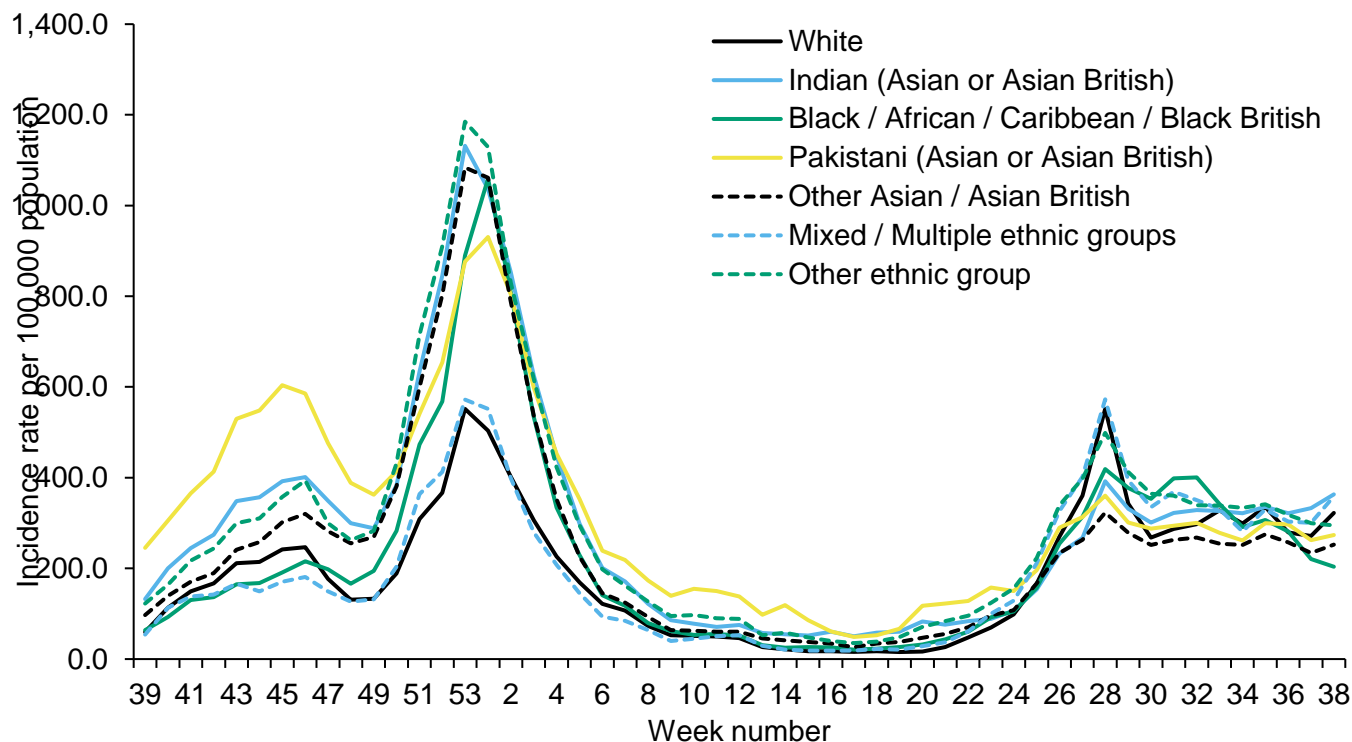


Figure 10: Weekly rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population (Pillar 1 and 2), by upper-tier local authority, England (box shows enlarged map of London area)



Ethnicity

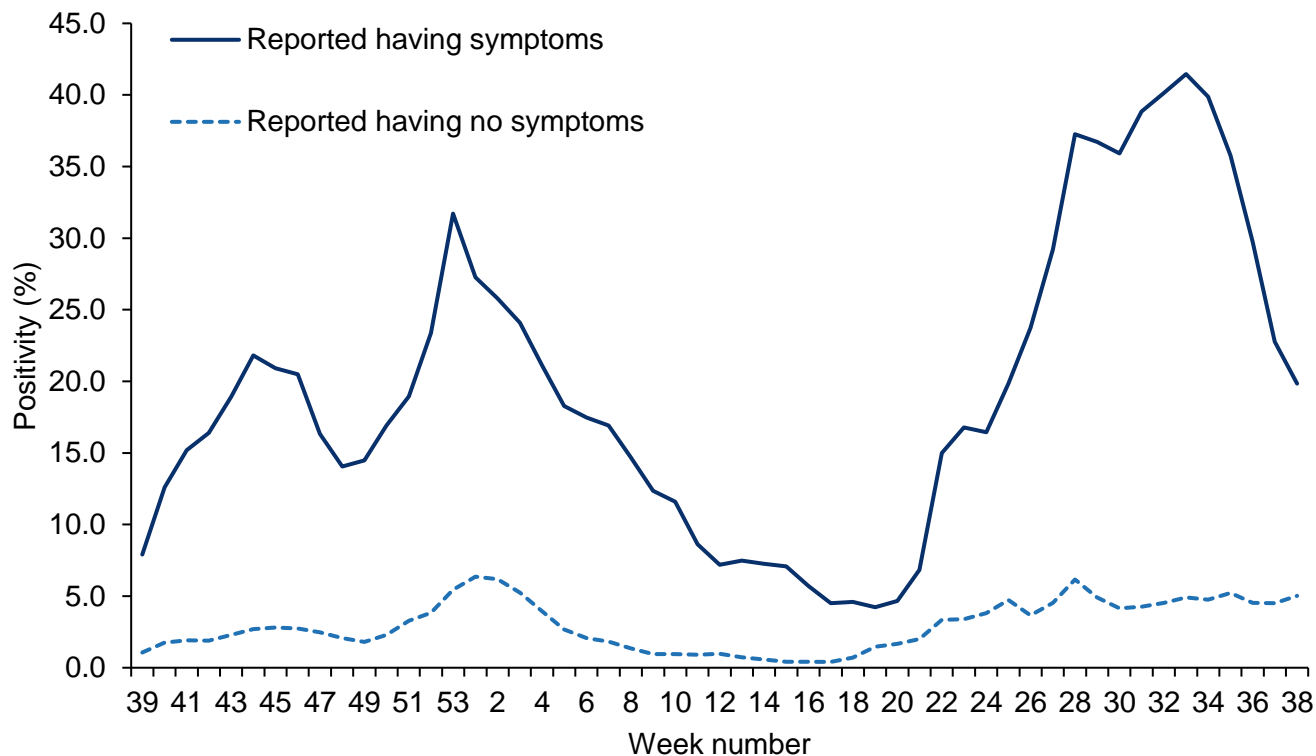
Figure 11: Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by ethnicity, England



*the incidence rates on Figure 11 have been calculated using the mid-2019 ONS population estimates

Positivity by symptoms

Figure 12: Weekly PCR positivity (%) of confirmed COVID-19 cases by symptoms reported on Pillar 2 test request



Possible SARS-CoV-2 reinfection in England

Please note that this section will be updated monthly. Last update was published 16 September 2021.

The following figures present population data based on the first time that individuals tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 through PCR and/or lateral flow device testing in England together with those who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 through PCR and/or lateral flow testing with an interval of at least 90 days between two consecutive positive tests. To the end of week 34 in 2021 (to 29 August 2021) 45,119 possible reinfections have been identified, of which 259 have been confirmed by identification of genetically distinct specimens from each illness episode to end August 2021 (see Table 1).

For a possible reinfection to be categorised as confirmed it requires sequencing of a specimen at each episode and for the later specimen to be genetically distinct from that sequenced from the earlier episode. Availability of such dual sequencing is currently very low for several reasons; sequencing was not widely undertaken early in the pandemic; LFD test results do not allow sequencing and some PCR samples have a low viral load where sequencing cannot be undertaken. To meet the definition of a probable reinfection requires sequencing at the later episode that identifies a variant that was not circulating at the time of the earlier episode. Further details on the methodology, as well as additional data on reinfections are available in the graph set published alongside this report.

It is important to consider reinfections in the context of first infections and there is a 90-day delay before people with a first infection can become eligible for reinfection.

Table 1 summarises the definitions of different categories of COVID-19 infection accompanied by totals generated to 29 August 2021 (end week 34 2021) and review of 5,014 possible reinfections with sequencing data available to end August 2021. These data are skewed by the limited availability of sequencing data, particularly in the early months of the pandemic. More recently, widespread routine testing of asymptomatic individuals has taken place and this, together with surge testing, will lead to an increased number of asymptomatic reinfections being identified.

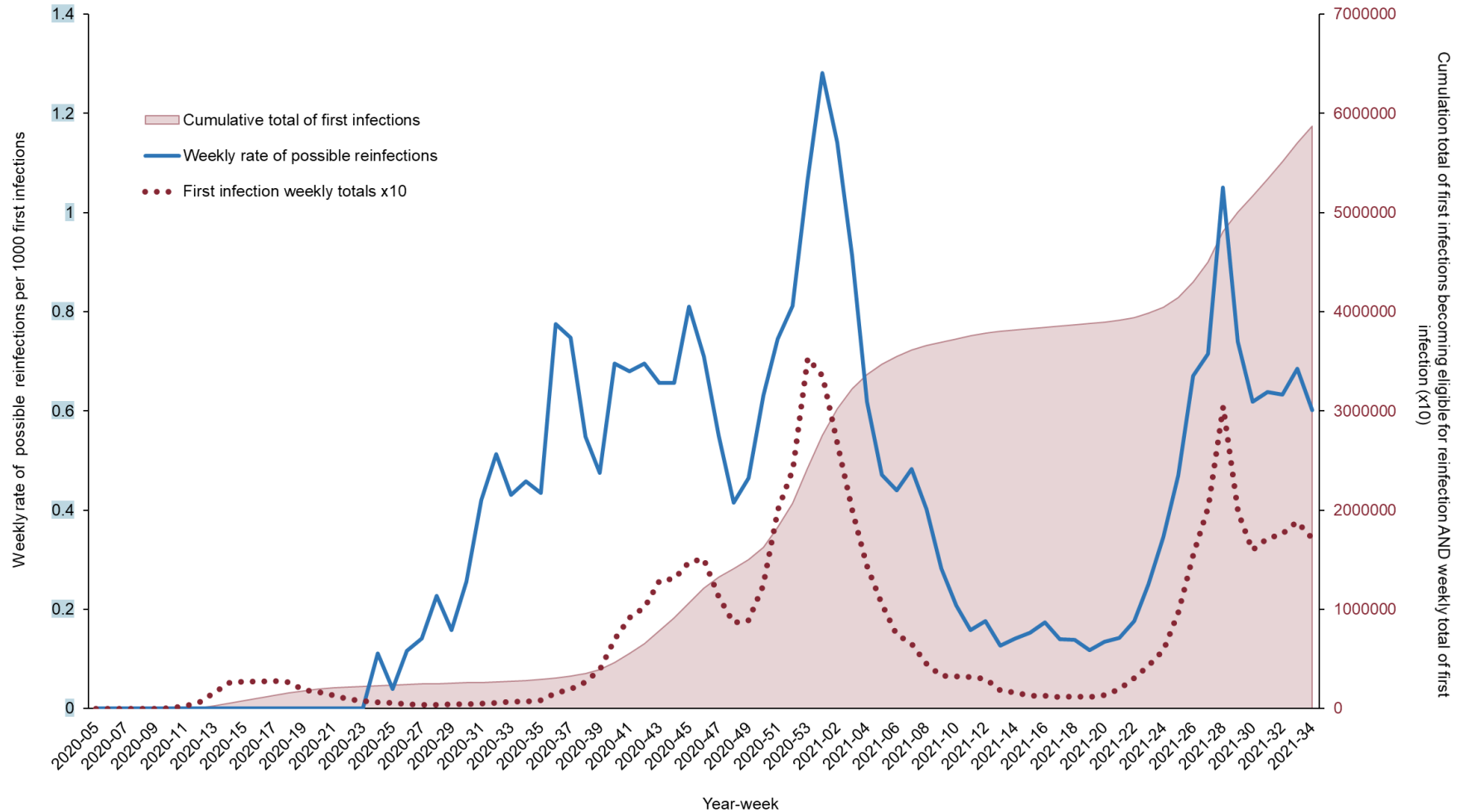
Figure 13 shows the weekly rates of possible reinfections per 1000 first infections based on a cumulative denominator derived from total individuals with a first SARS-CoV-2 positive test result at a point 13 weeks (91 days) before the second positive test result together with the cumulative total of first infections (secondary Y-axis) and total first infections (secondary Y-axis) by week of onset.

Table 1: Different categories of COVID-19 infection with current totals generated by ongoing analysis in England to 29 August 2021 (end week 34 2021)

Infection type	Definition	Current totals
Primary infection/ first positive	the first positive PCR/ LFD test result for an individual	5.9 million first positives
Possible reinfection	identified based on two sequential positive test results (PCR or LFD) at least 90 days apart	45,119 possible reinfections
Probable reinfection	where only reinfection sample is available, and this is congruent with contemporaneous phylogeny OR the second event identifies a variant which was not in circulation at the time of first infection	2,981 classified as probable*
Confirmed reinfection	sequencing of a specimen at each episode of a possible reinfection with the later specimen genetically distinct from that sequenced at first episode	259 confirmed reinfections*
Persistent infection	Nominally repeat test positives at between 14 and <90-day intervals (likely associated with immunosuppression)	Unquantified

*This is out of 5,014 samples with sequencing data available to end August 2021

Figure 13: The weekly rate of possible COVID-19 reinfections with cumulation of first infections becoming eligible for reinfection and weekly total of first infection* (England only to week 34 2021)



*These data have been derived independently based on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 datasets and may therefore differ to previously published data

Respiratory DataMart system (England)

The Respiratory Datamart system was initiated during the 2009 influenza pandemic to collate all laboratory testing information in England. It is now used as a sentinel laboratory surveillance tool, monitoring all major respiratory viruses in England. Sixteen laboratories in England will be reporting data for this season. As this is based on a sample of labs - SARS-CoV-2 positivity figures quoted here will differ from those quoted in the Confirmed COVID-19 cases section, however, they are included to facilitate comparison with data on other respiratory viruses.

In week 38 2021, out of the 113,901 respiratory specimens reported through the Respiratory DataMart System (based on data received from 14 out of 16 laboratories), 1,893 samples were positive for SARS-CoV-2 with an overall positivity of 1.7%. The highest positivity was noted in the 5 to 14-year olds at 7.8% in week 38. The overall influenza positivity remained very low at 0.2% in week 38, with 5 of the 2,624 samples testing positive for influenza (including 1 influenza A(H3), 2 influenza A(not subtyped) and 1 influenza B).

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positivity decreased to 8.4% in week 38, with the highest positivity in the under 5-year olds at 16.3%. Rhinovirus positivity increased from 13.9% in week 37 to 18.6% in week 38. Parainfluenza, adenovirus and human metapneumovirus (hMPV) positivity remained low at 1.0%, 0.9% and 2.2% respectively in week 38 (Figure 16).

Figure 14: DataMart samples positive for influenza and weekly positivity (%) for influenza, England

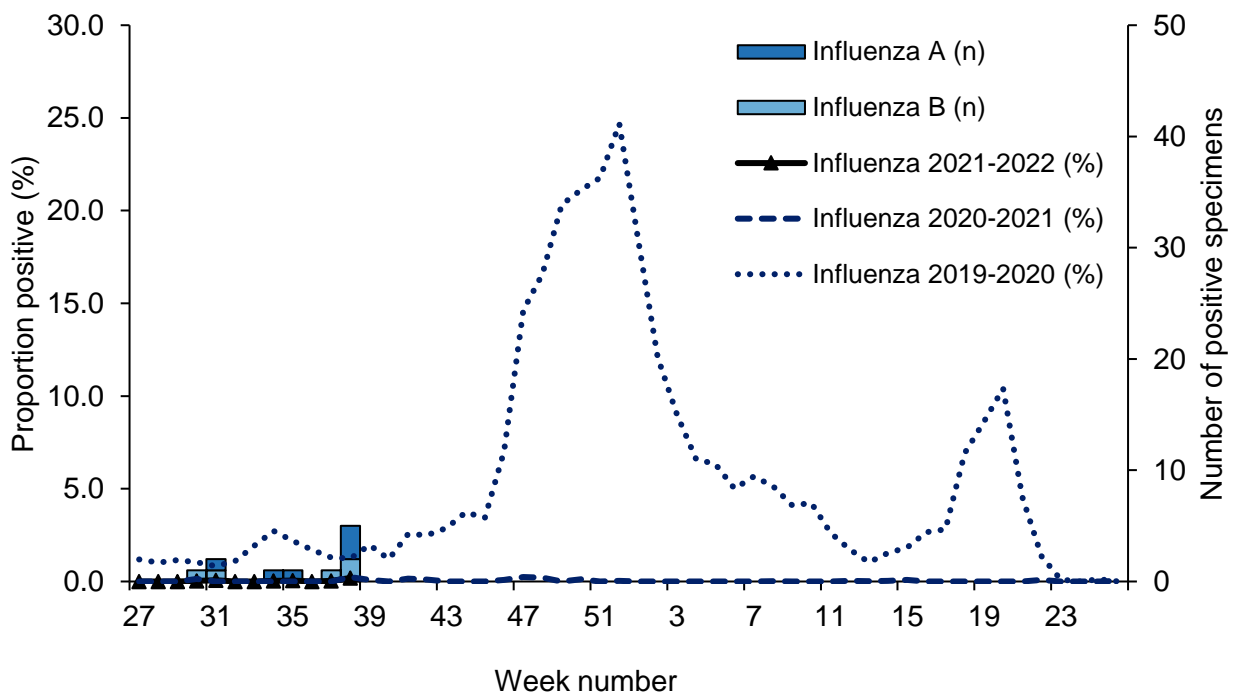


Figure 15: DataMart weekly positivity (%) for SARS-CoV-2, England

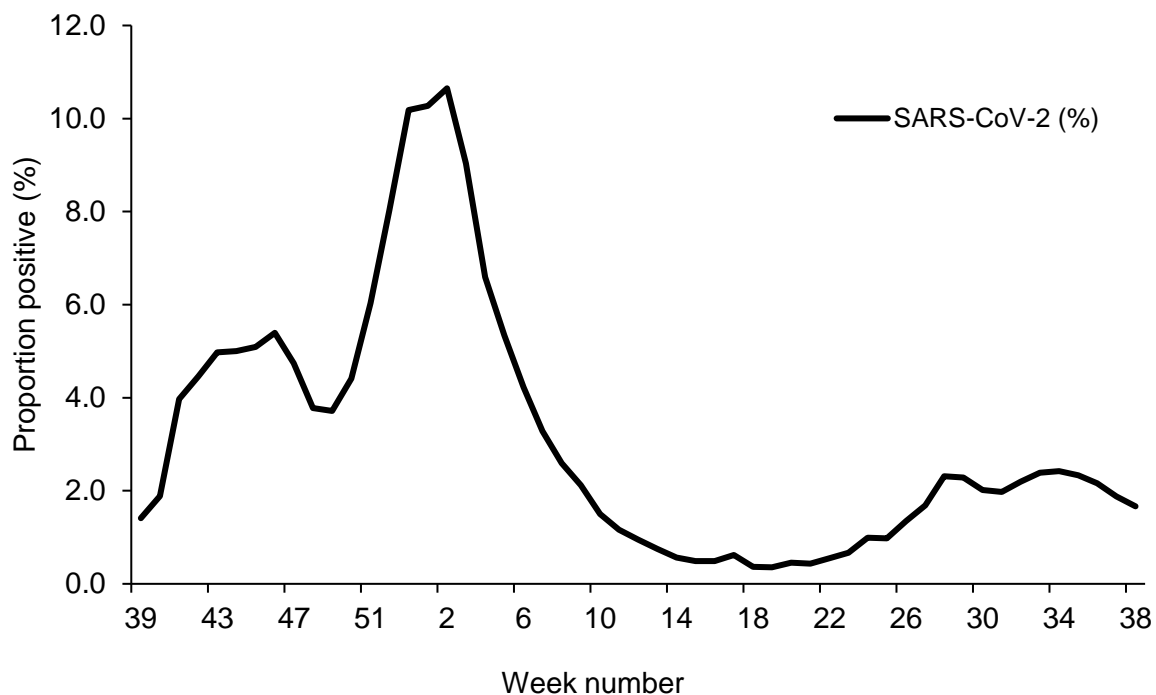


Figure 16: DataMart weekly positivity (%) for other respiratory viruses, England

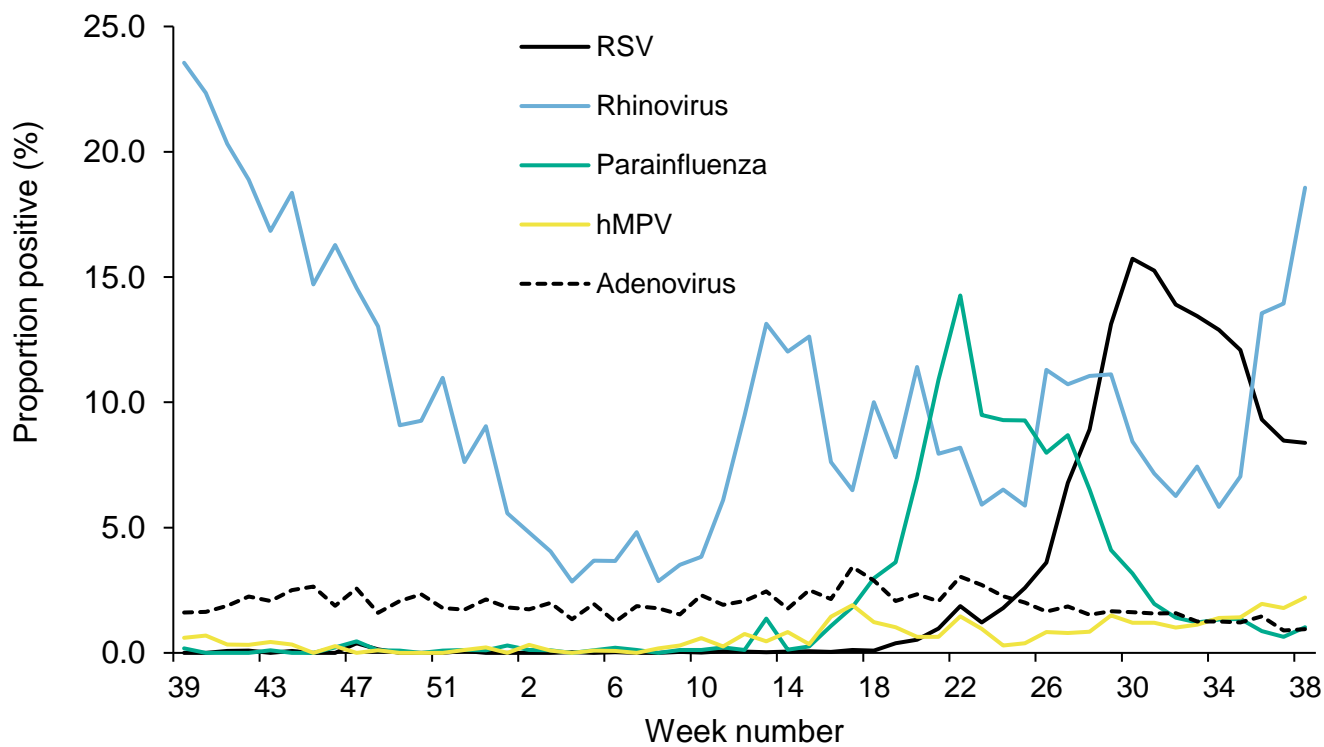


Figure 17: DataMart weekly positivity (%) for rhinovirus by age, England

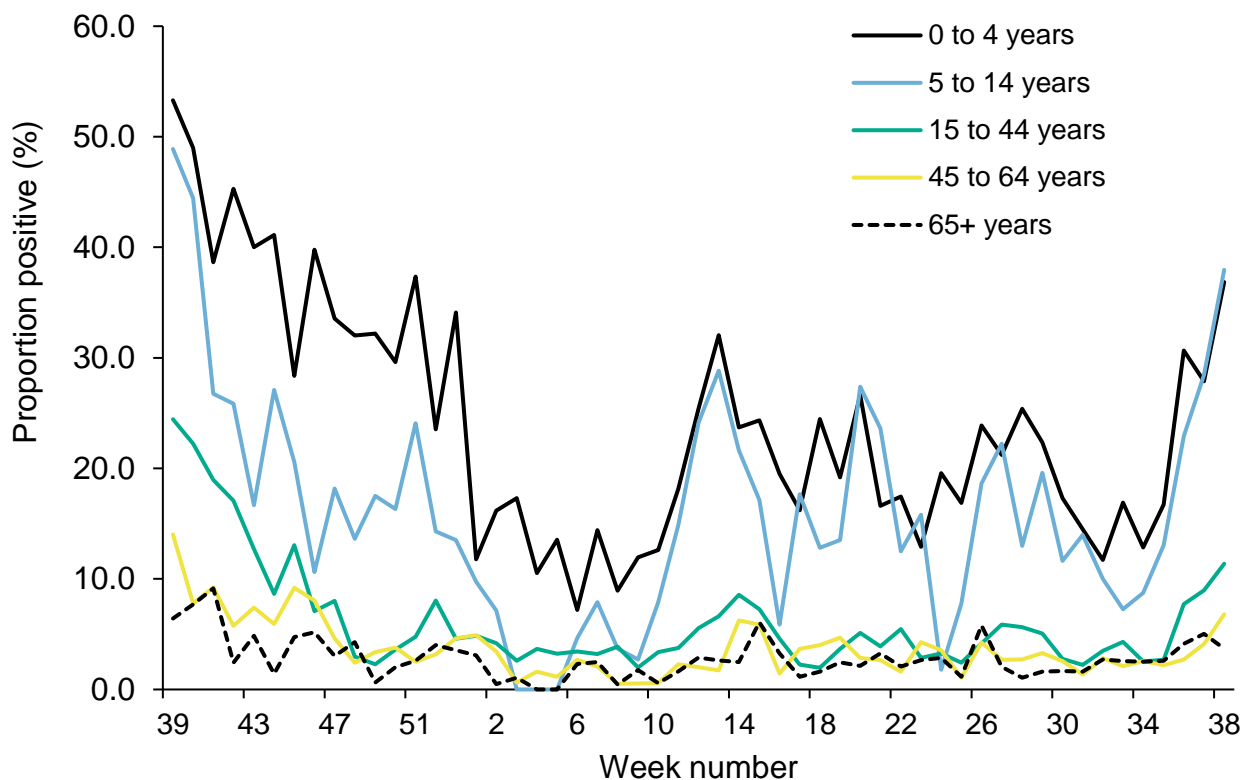
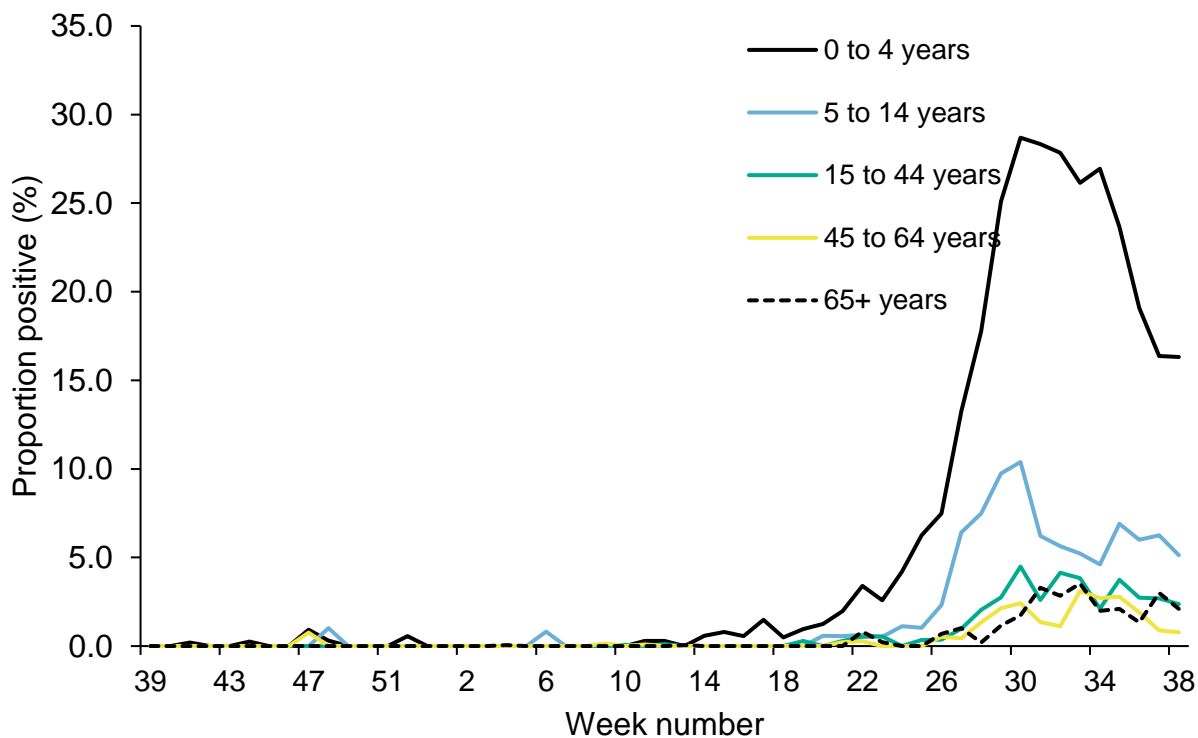


Figure 18: DataMart weekly positivity (%) for RSV by age, England



Community surveillance

Acute respiratory infection incidents

Here we present data on acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in different settings that are reported to PHE Health Protection Teams (HPTs) and entered onto an online web-based platform called HPZone. Incidents are suspected outbreaks of acute respiratory infections linked to a particular setting. All suspected outbreaks are further investigated by the HPT in liaison with local partners. A subset of these will meet the criteria of a confirmed outbreak, that is, where 2 or more laboratory confirmed cases (SARS-CoV-2, influenza or other respiratory pathogens) are linked to a particular setting. Incidents where suspected cases test negative for COVID-19 or other respiratory pathogens, or cases are subsequently found not to have direct links to the setting are discarded.

The number of ARI incidents in each setting with at least one laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 (or other respiratory pathogen) are reported below. As outlined above, only a subset of these will go on to be confirmed as outbreaks.

Data for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are included in the UK figures.

Data caveats:

1. The incidents captured on HPZone represent a subset of all ongoing ARI clusters and outbreaks in England rather than an exhaustive listing. A variety of arrangements are in place across PHE Centres, with local authorities and other stakeholders supporting HPTs in outbreak investigation in some areas without HPZone reporting. As a result, the number of outbreaks reported for some of the regions are underestimates.
2. For this academic year (2021 to 2022) the thresholds for reporting an outbreak in an educational setting have been revised. Clusters and outbreaks are now reported to the Health protection Team if either of the two following criteria are met:
 - 5 cases or 10% test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 10 days (whichever is reached first), among students or staff
 - Evidence of severe illness e.g. students or staff members admitted to hospital or a death as a result of a COVID-19 infection

For special education needs schools, residential schools and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time, clusters and outbreaks are reported if the following criteria is met:

- 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

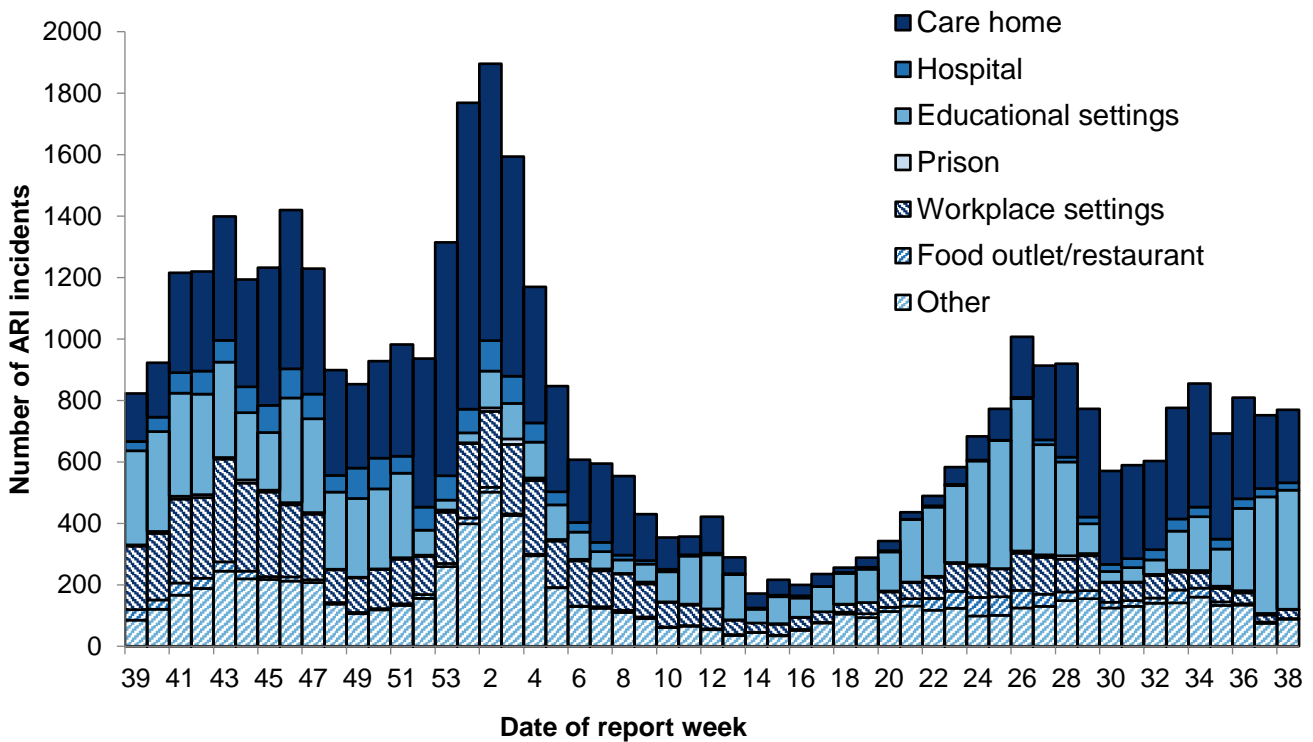
For more information on managing COVID-19 in educational settings please refer to the framework found [here](#). This should be taken into consideration when comparing 2021-2022 season data against 2020-2021 season data.

3. It should be noted that the denominator for the different settings will vary significantly. For example, there are fewer hospitals than workplaces. In addition, the propensity to report incidents to PHE also varies significantly by setting. This needs to be taken into account when interpreting the weekly number of reported incidents by setting and caution should be used when making comparisons between settings.
4. In light of the above, comparisons between Regions and settings are not advised as they may be misleading.

769 new ARI incidents have been reported in week 38 in the UK (Figure 19):

- 237 incidents were from care homes where 182 had at least one linked case that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and 1 each tested positive for RSV and hMPV
- 387 incidents were from educational settings where 283 had at least one linked case that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and 1 tested positive for RSV
- 24 incidents were from hospitals, where 20 had at least one linked case that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- 29 incidents were from workplace settings where 26 had at least one linked case that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- 2 incidents were from food outlets or restaurants where both had at least one linked case testing positive for SARS-CoV-2
- 2 incidents were from prisons where both had at least one linked case testing positive for SARS-CoV-2
- 88 incidents were from other settings where 68 had at least one linked case that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2

Figure 19: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents by setting, UK



*Excludes data from Wales

Figure 20: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents by setting, England

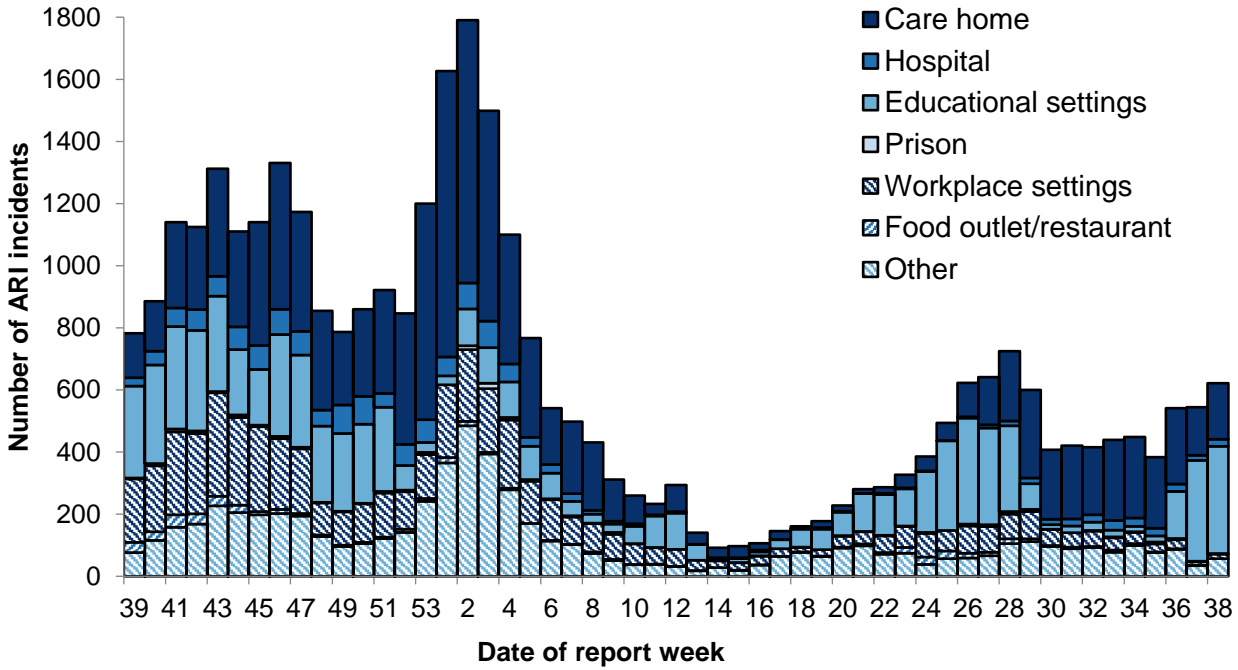


Figure 21: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in care homes by virus type, England

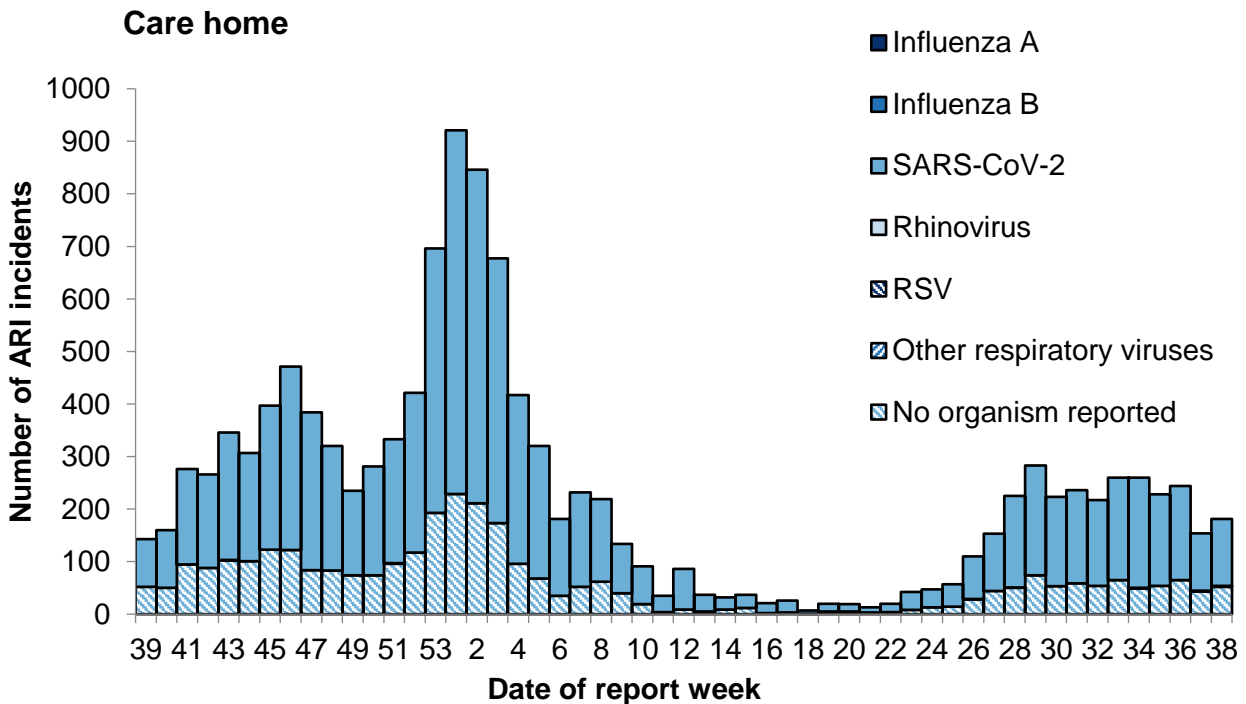


Figure 22: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in hospitals by virus type, England

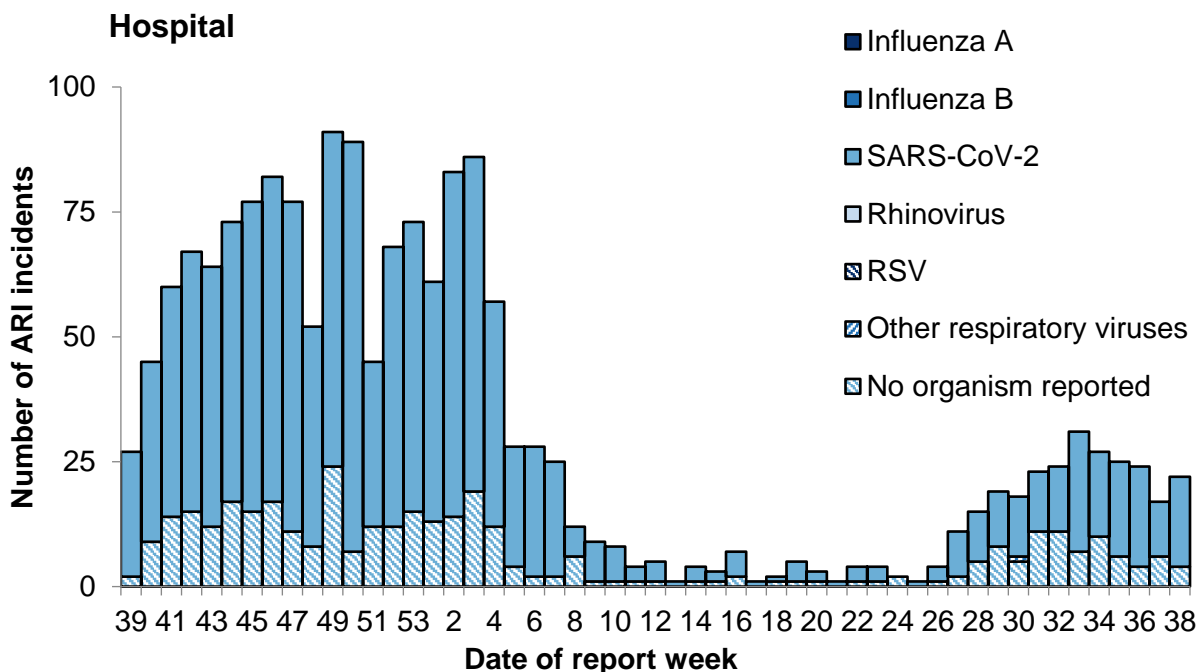


Figure 23: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in educational settings by virus type, England

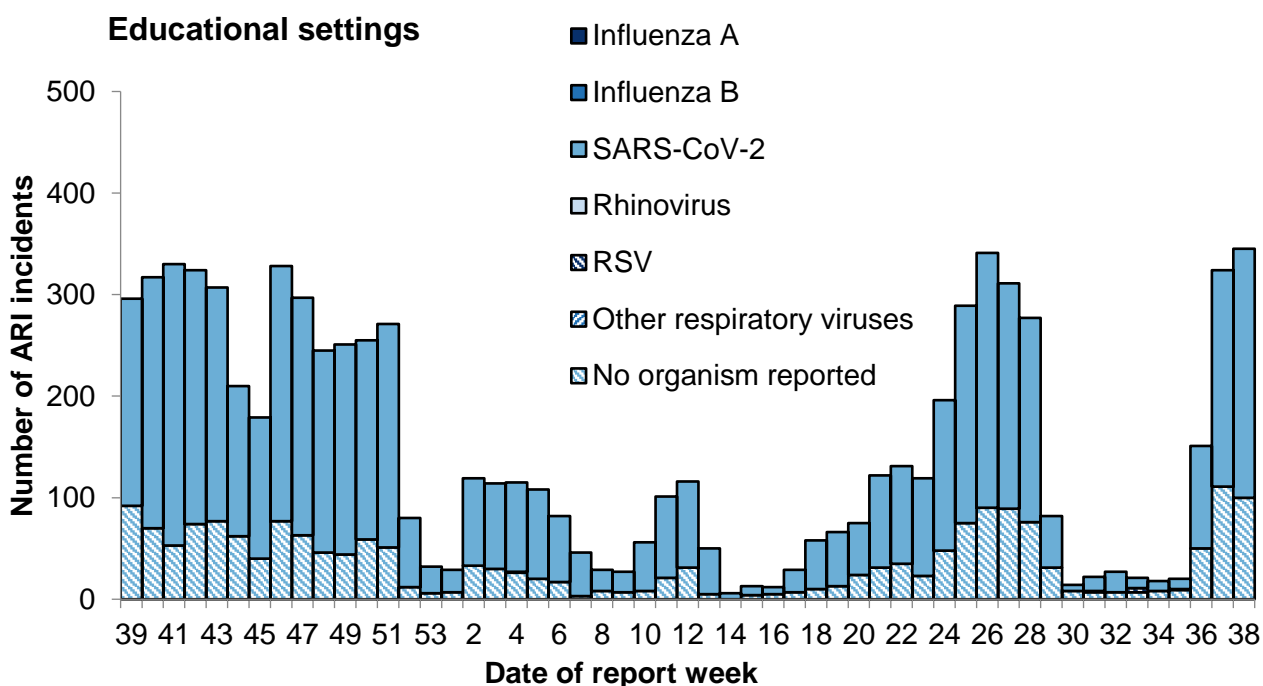


Figure 24: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in prisons by virus type, England

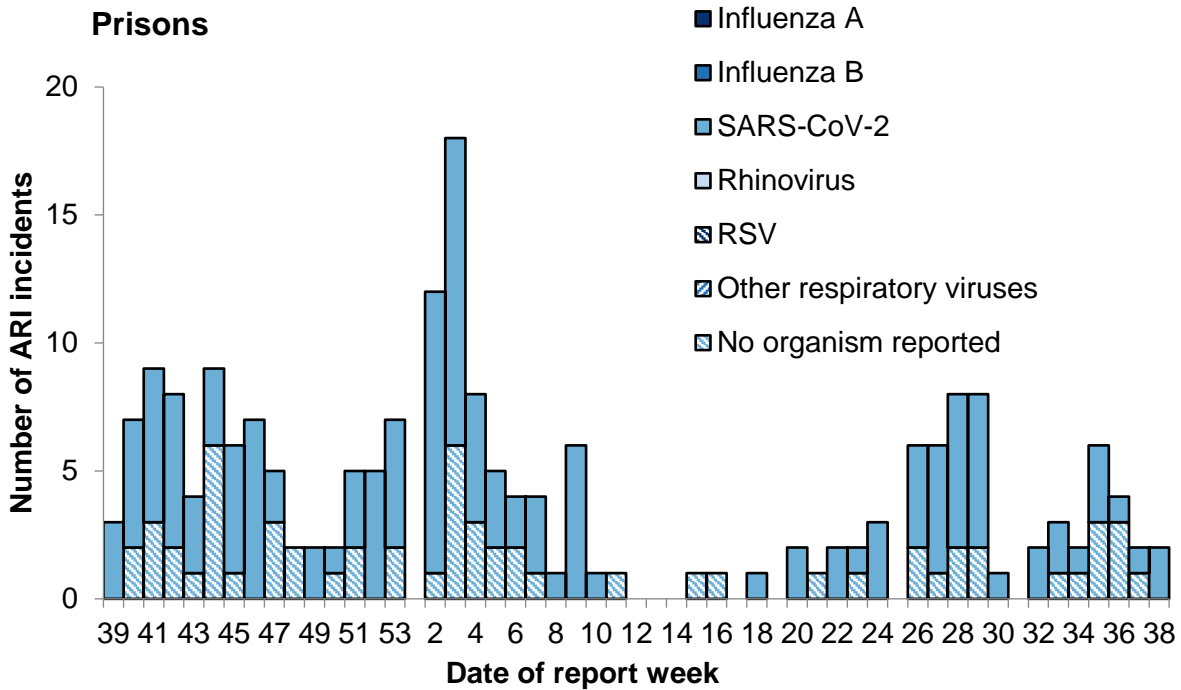


Figure 25: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in workplace settings by virus type, England

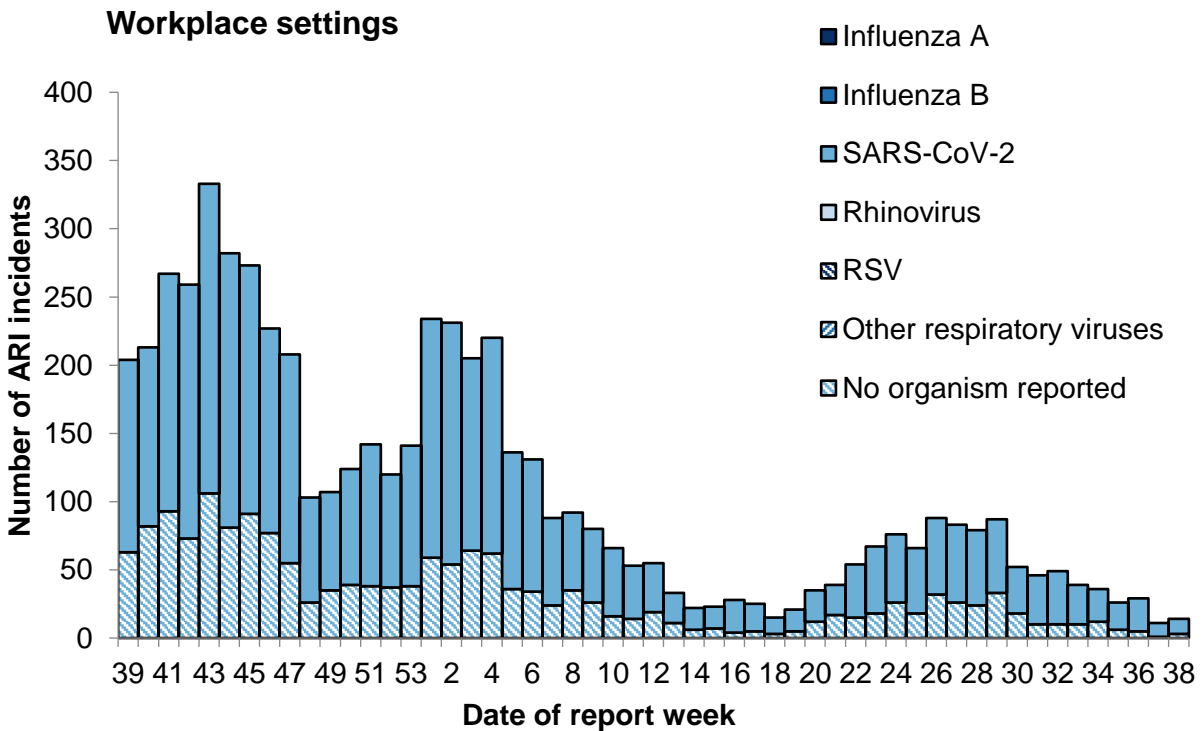


Figure 26: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in food outlet or restaurant settings by virus type, England

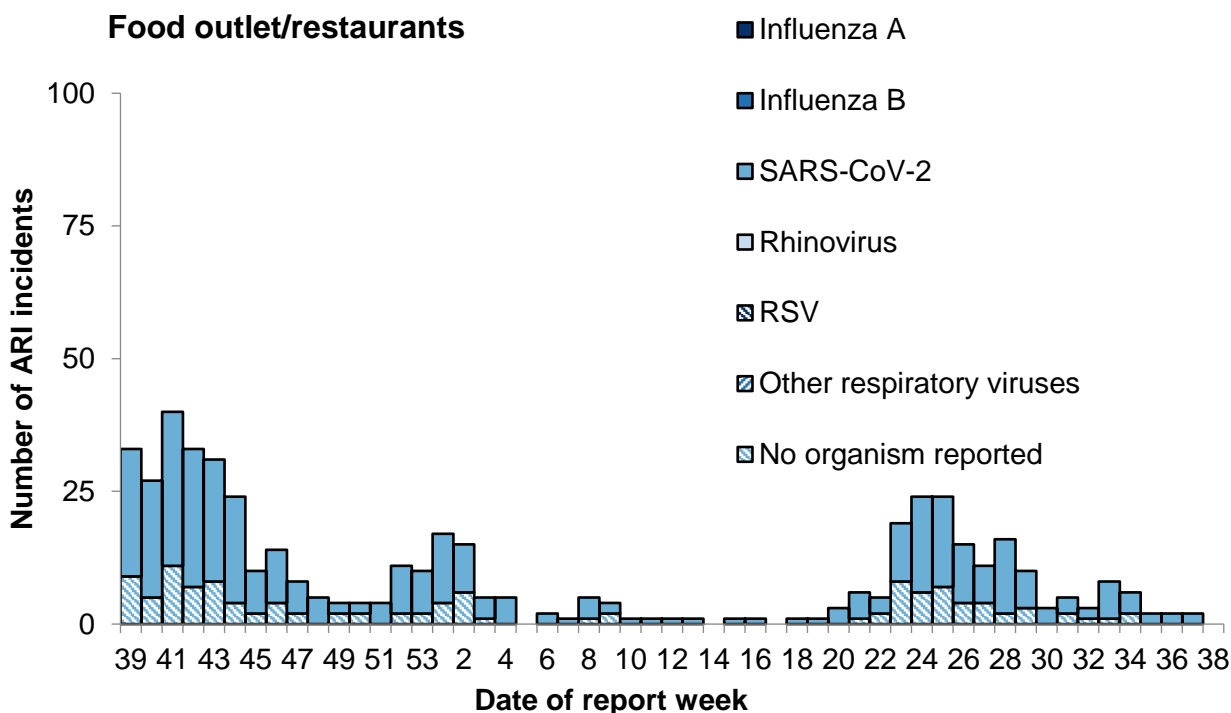


Figure 27: Number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) incidents in other settings by virus type from, England

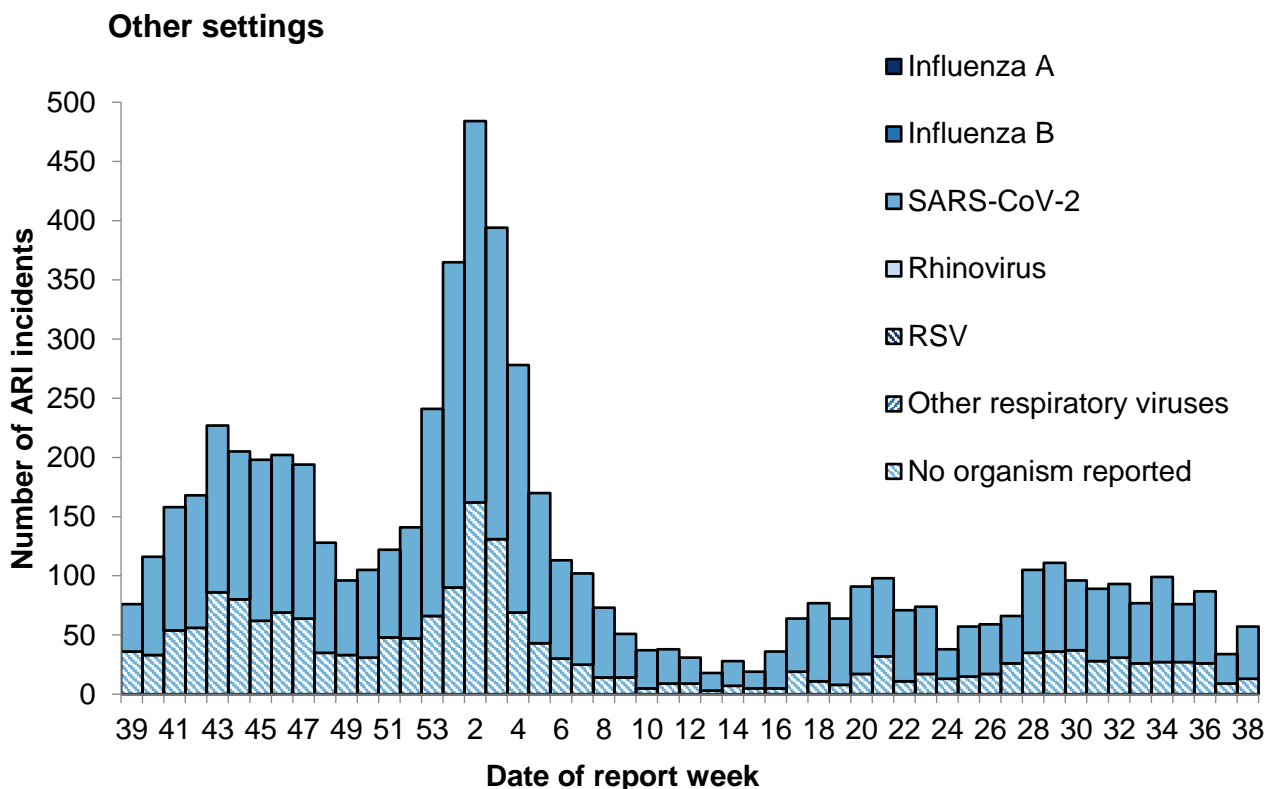


Table 2: Total number of situations and incidents by institution and PHE Centres over the past 4 weeks with the total number in the last week in brackets

PHE Centres	Care home	Hospital	Educational settings	Prisons	Workplace settings	Food outlet/ restaurant settings	Other settings	Total
East of England	82(22)	8(1)	9(5)	2(0)	0(0)	0(0)	21(8)	122(36)
East Midlands	83(14)	10(2)	84(33)	2(1)	11(3)	1(0)	31(6)	222(59)
London	49(14)	29(8)	234(102)	1(0)	1(1)	0(0)	18(6)	332(131)
North East	70(15)	1(1)	3(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	14(3)	88(21)
North West	75(19)	3(1)	51(14)	0(0)	47(7)	2(0)	45(8)	223(49)
South East	117(37)	12(3)	247(68)	7(1)	7(1)	0(0)	30(7)	420(117)
South West	179(27)	1(1)	76(53)	0(0)	1(0)	1(0)	34(8)	292(89)
West Midlands	48(11)	21(4)	86(46)	0(0)	10(1)	2(0)	31(5)	198(67)
Yorkshire and Humber	104(12)	3(1)	51(23)	2(0)	3(1)	0(0)	30(6)	193(53)
Total	807(181)	88(22)	841(346)	14(2)	80(14)	6(0)	254(57)	2090(622)

COVID-19 cases by type of residence

Table 3 shows the proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases according to their type of residence. Property classifications are derived from Ordnance Survey AddressBase and are matched to address details within the laboratory data. Properties are identified by unique property reference number (UPRN) and basic land property unit (BLPU). Cases with poor or no address data which failed the address matching and are classed as 'undetermined'. No fixed abode and overseas addresses identified by recording in the laboratory data.

In week 38, the highest percentage of confirmed COVID-19 cases by type of residence was seen in residential dwellings (Table 3).

Table 3: Type of residence of confirmed COVID-19 cases by percentage of total weekly cases

Type of residence	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38
Residential dwelling (including houses, flats, sheltered accommodation)	90.6	94.0	95.4	95.3	95.7	96.2
Undetermined	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.3	1.9
Care/Nursing home	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
Residential institution (including residential education)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other property classifications	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
House in multiple occupancy (HMO)	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Medical facilities (including hospitals and hospices, and mental health)	3.8	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Prisons, detention centres, secure units	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Overseas address	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No fixed abode	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* Please note that some address misclassifications have been identified in the 'Medical Facilities' category for some recent weeks, thus making this group appear incorrectly larger. These are being investigated

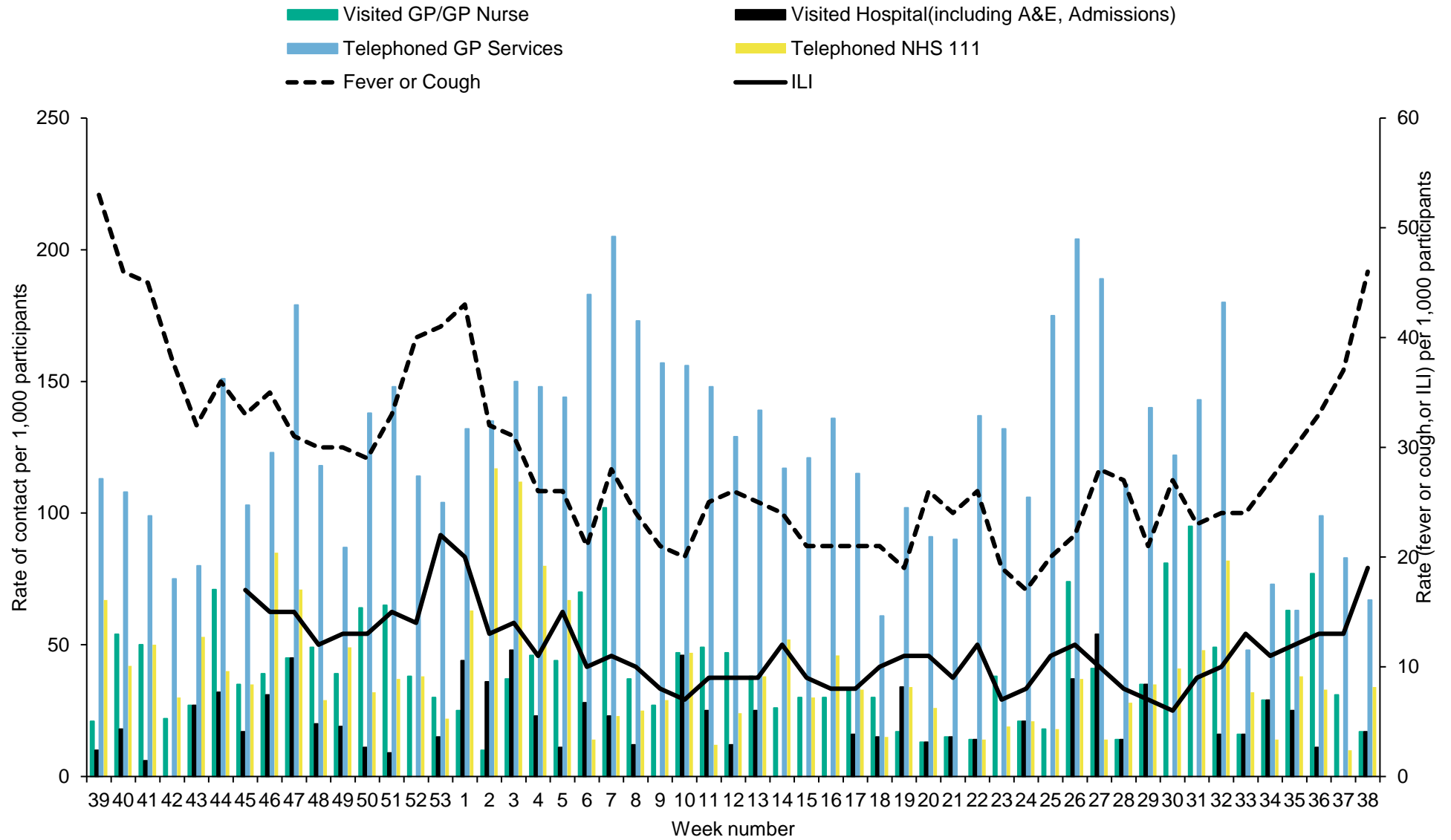
FluSurvey

An internet-based surveillance system has been developed based on FluSurvey. FluSurvey is a web tool survey designed to monitor trends of influenza-like illness (ILI) in the community using self-reported respiratory symptoms from registered participants. The platform has been adapted to capture respiratory symptoms, exposure risk and healthcare seeking behaviours among registered participants to contribute to national surveillance of COVID-19 activity as well as influenza activity since week 44.

Note: ILI is defined as sudden onset of symptoms with at least one of fever (chills); malaise; headache; muscle pain and at least one of cough; sore throat; shortness of breath.

A total of 2,603 participants completed the weekly surveillance survey in week 38, of which 119 (4.6%) reported fever or cough and 49 (1.9%) reported influenza-like illness (ILI). The most commonly used healthcare services reported by respondents remains telephoning a GP practice (Figure 28).

Figure 28: FluSurvey participants self-reporting fever or cough and ILI symptoms, and trends in healthcare seeking behaviour among these participants, England

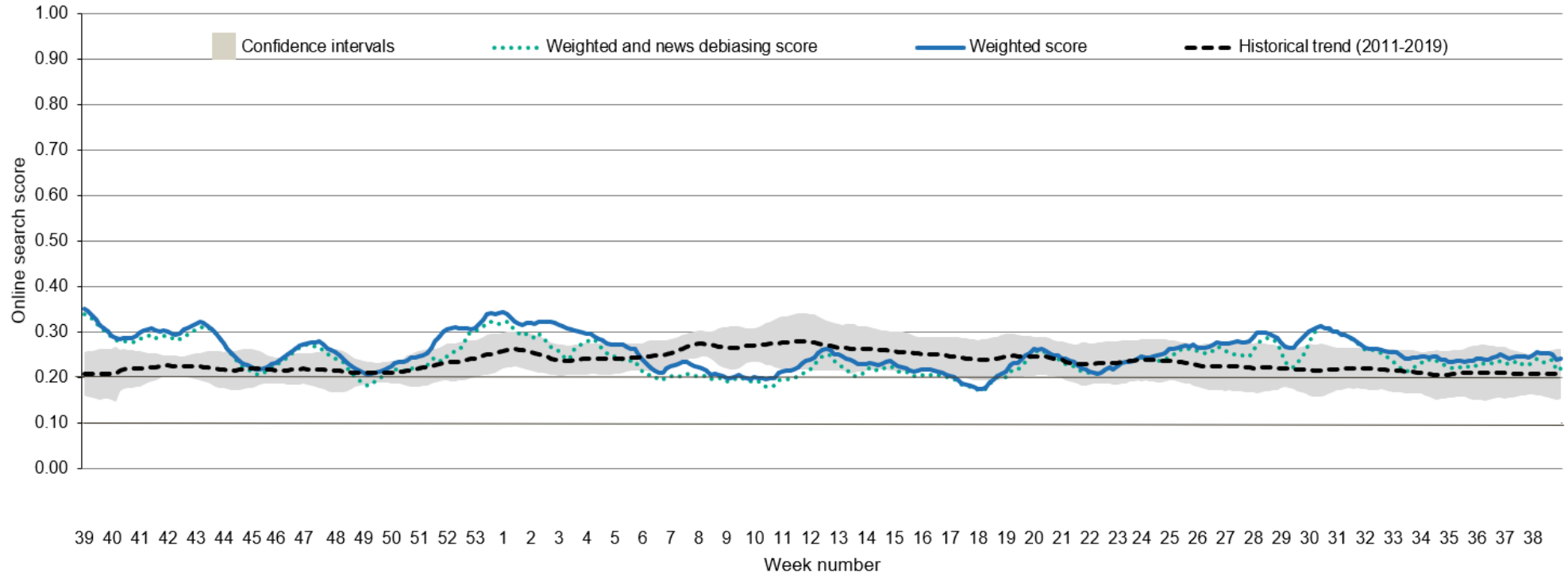


Google search queries

This is a web-based syndromic surveillance system which uses daily search query frequency statistics obtained from the Google Health Trends API. This model focuses on search queries about COVID-19 symptoms as well as generic queries about 'coronavirus' (for example 'COVID-19'). The search query frequency time series has been weighted based on symptom frequency as reported in other data sources. Frequency of searches for symptoms is compared with a baseline calculated from historical daily data. Further information on this model is available [here](#).

During week 38, the overall and media-debiasing weighted Google search scores remained stable (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Normalised Google search score for COVID-19 symptoms, with weighted score for media-debiasing and historical trend, England



NHS 111

Please note that different syndromic surveillance indicators (NHS 111, GP in hours, GP out of hours and emergency department attendances) are presented here than have been included in previous versions of this report. All indicators previously presented will continue to be published in the [PHE Syndromic Surveillance bulletins](#).

The NHS 111 service monitors daily trends in phone calls made to the service in England, to capture trends in infectious diseases such as influenza and norovirus.

Up to 26 September, NHS 111 calls for cold/flu and cough increased (Figure 30 and 31).

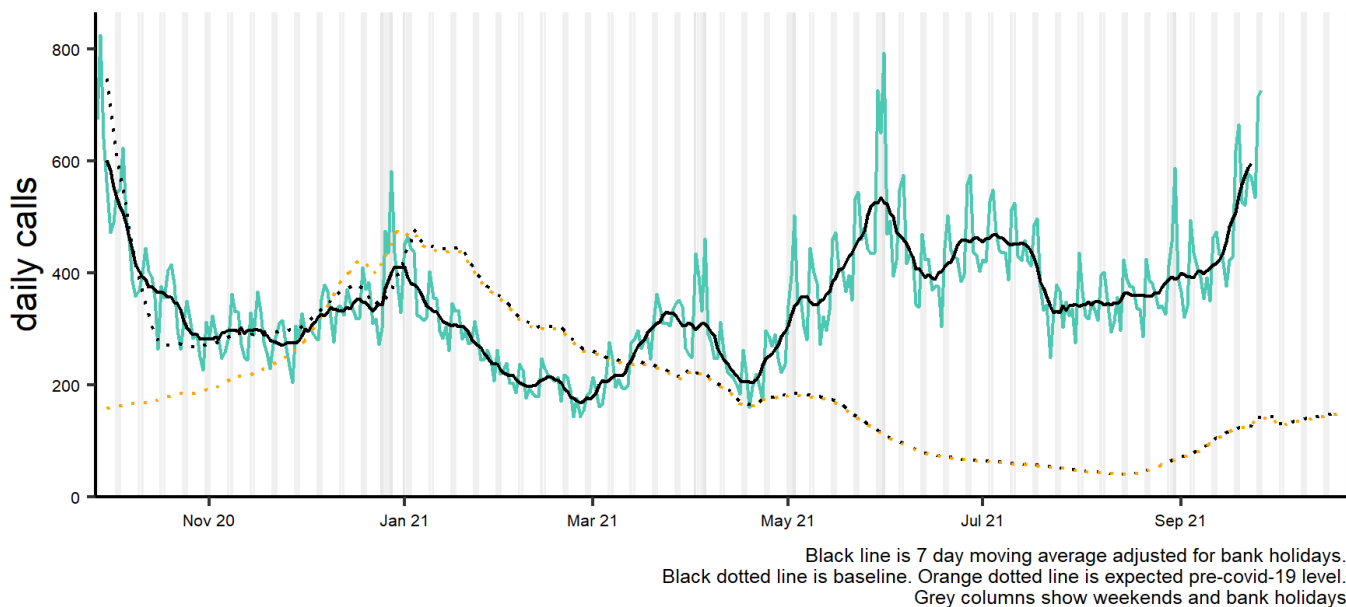
Please note that NHS 111 callers (from 11 May 2020) who are assessed as having probable COVID-19 symptoms are now triaged using symptom specific pathways such as cold or flu, which are included in routine syndromic indicators.

Further information about these caveats is available from the [PHE Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance bulletin](#).

Figure 30: NHS 111 telephony indicators (and 7-day moving average) for number of daily cold/flu calls, England (a) nationally and (b) by age group

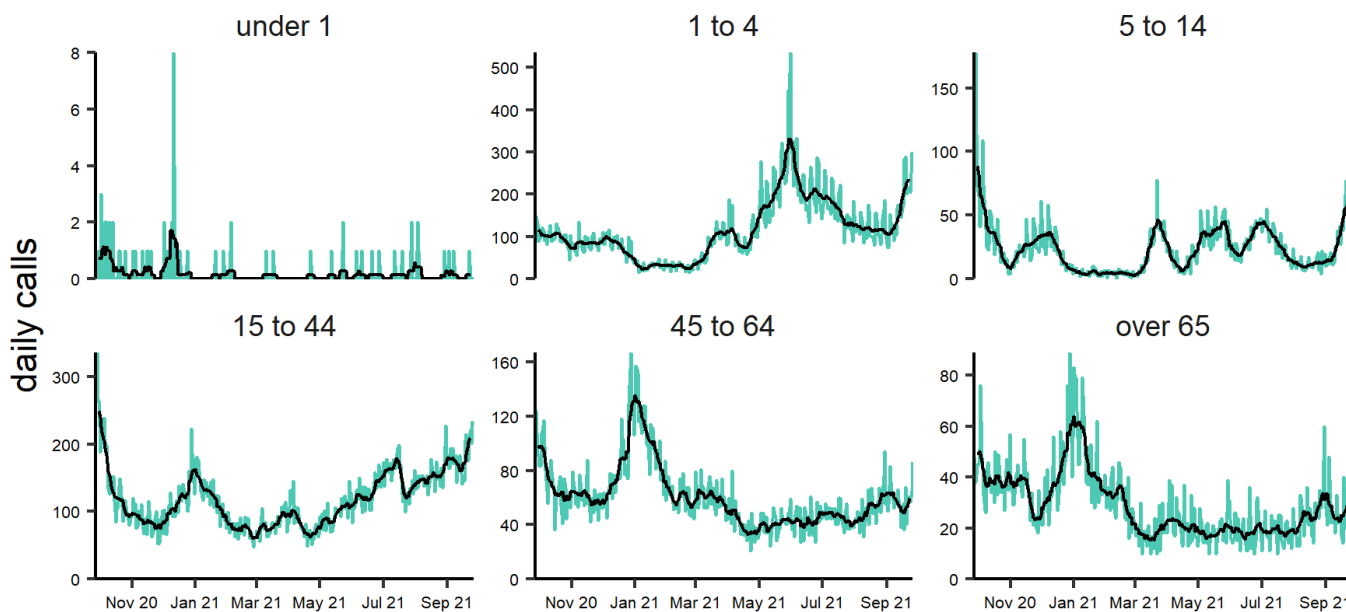
(a)

Cold or flu 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



(b)

Cold or flu by age group (years) 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021

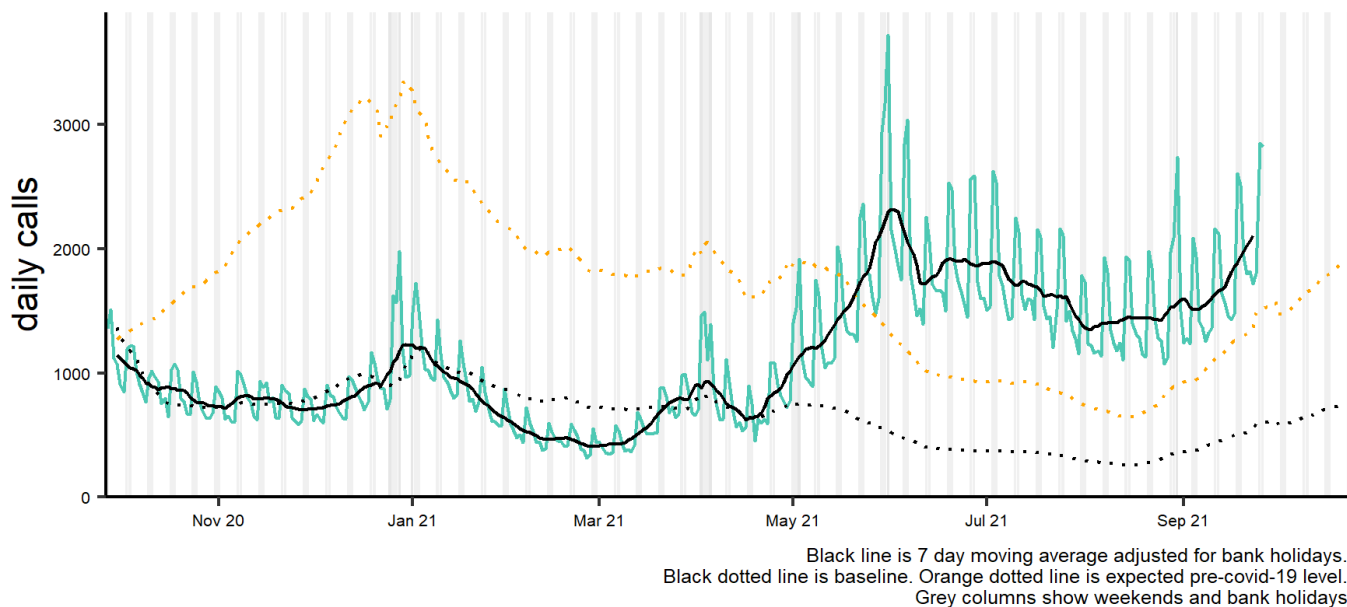


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

Figure 31: NHS 111 telephony indicators (and 7-day moving average) for number of daily cough calls, England (a) nationally and (b) by age group

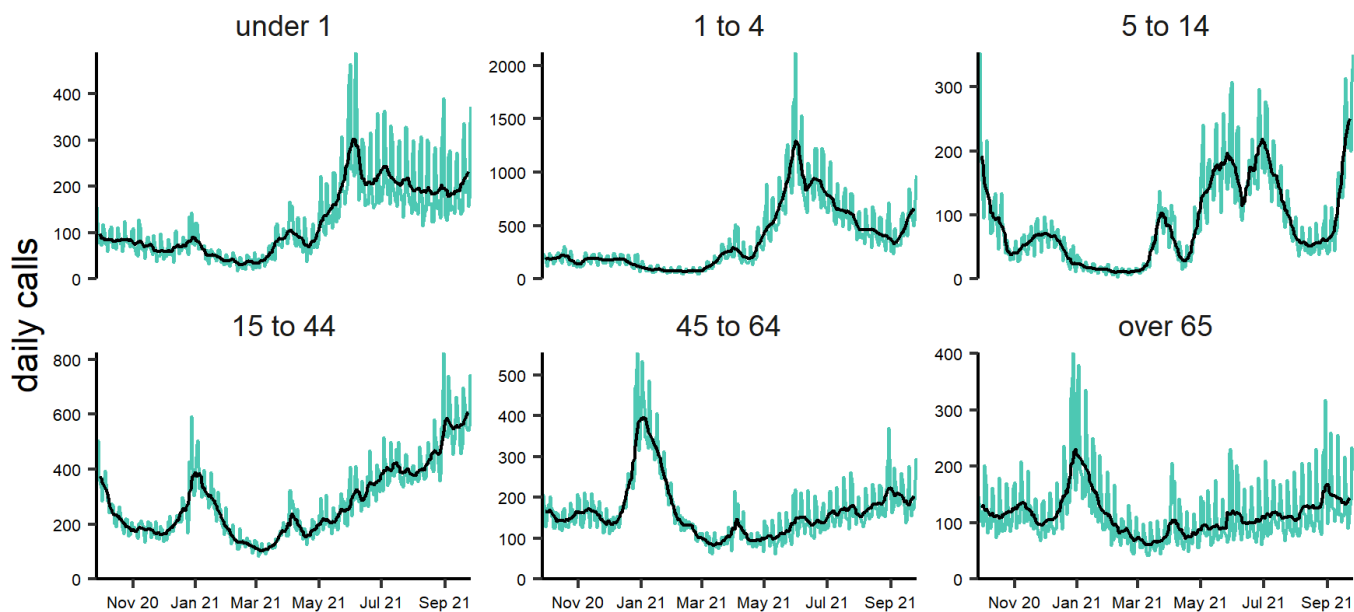
(a)

Cough 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



(b)

Cough by age group (years) 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

Primary care surveillance

RCGP (England)

The weekly ILI consultation rate through the RCGP surveillance was 1.7 per 100,000 registered population in participating GP practices in week 38 compared to 1.2 per 100,000 in the previous week. This is below the baseline threshold (12.2 per 100,000) (Figure 32). By age group, the highest rates were seen in the 75-year olds and over (3.2 per 100,000). The Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) consultation rate was at 46.6 per 100,000 in week 38, compared to the rate of 41.4 per 100,000 in the previous week. The COVID-19-like indicator consultation rate was at 207.2 per 100,000 in week 38 compared to a rate of 173.7 per 100,000 in the previous week (Figure 33).

Figure 32: RCGP ILI consultation rates, all ages, England

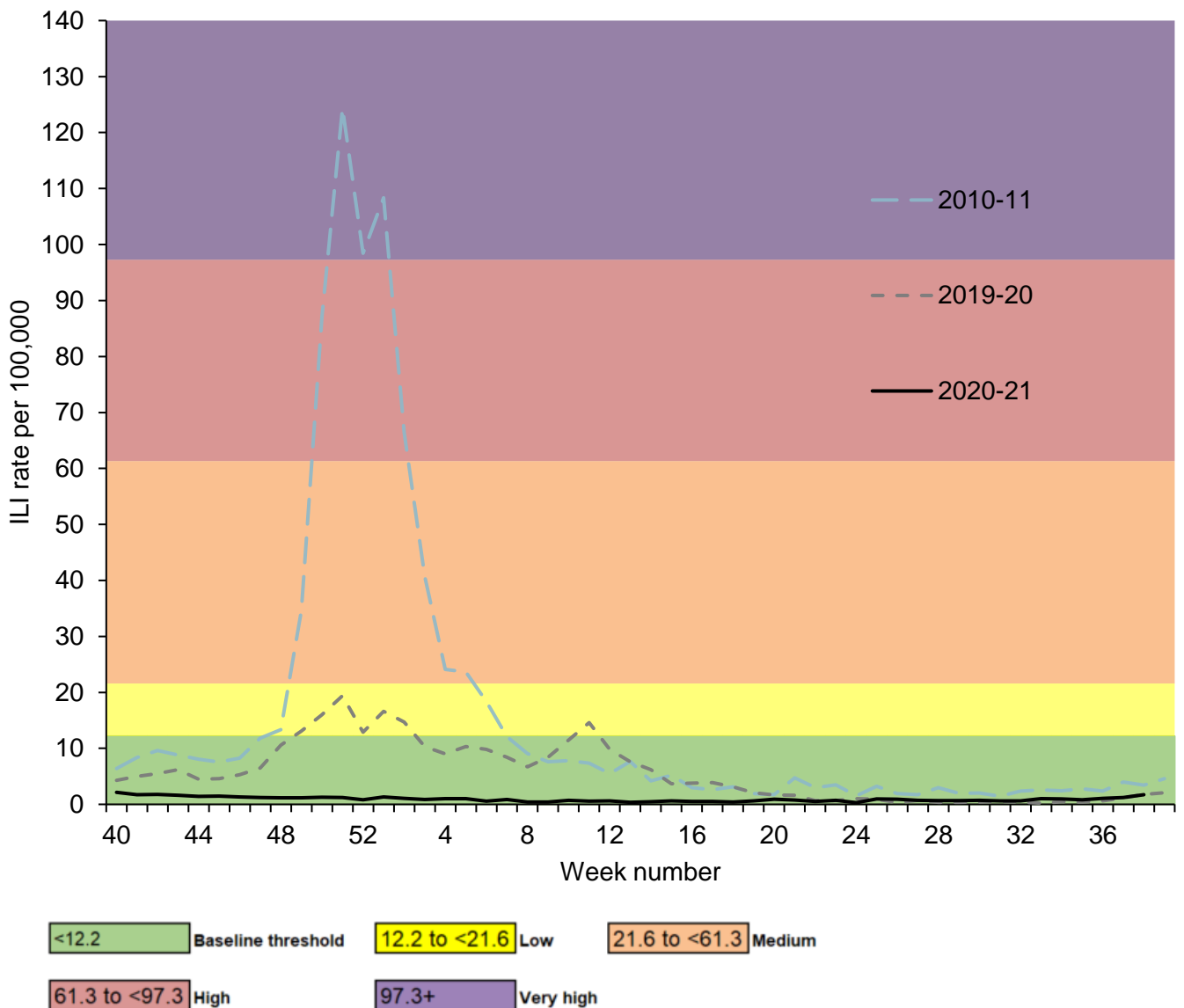
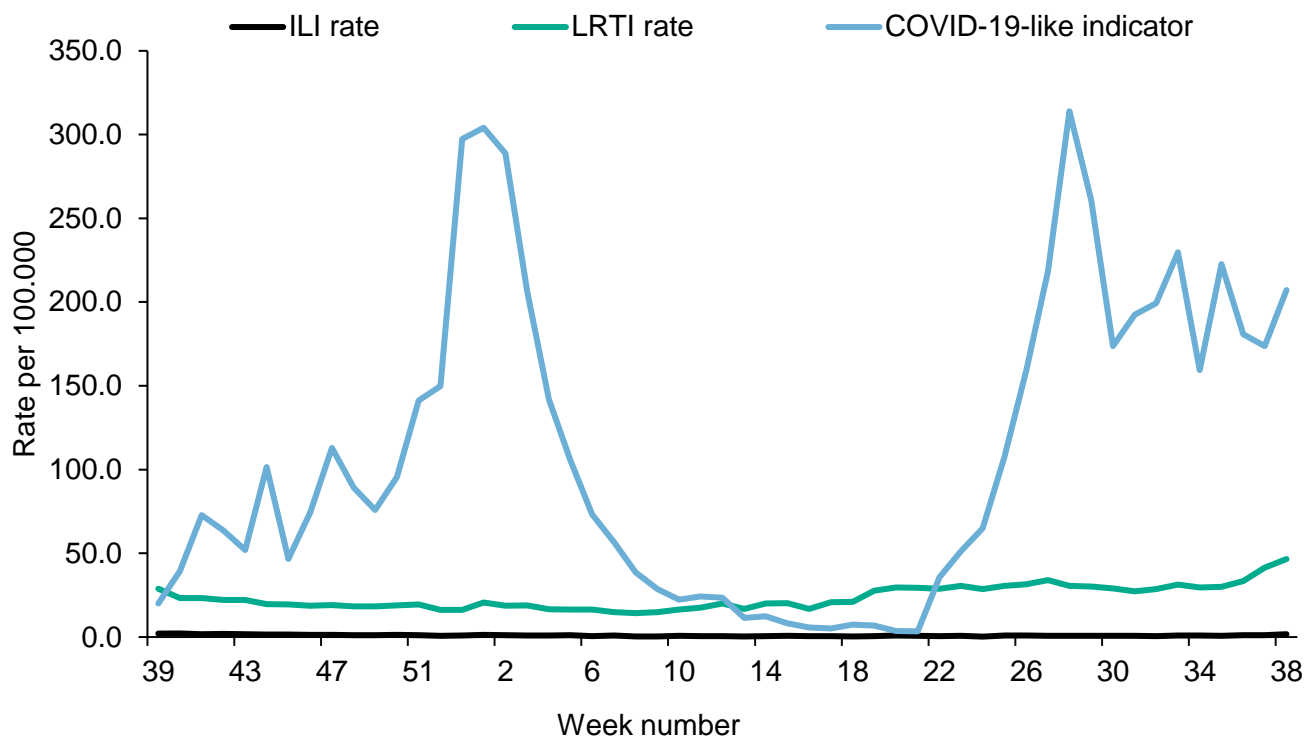


Figure 33: RCGP ILI, LRTI and COVID-19-like indicator consultation rates, England



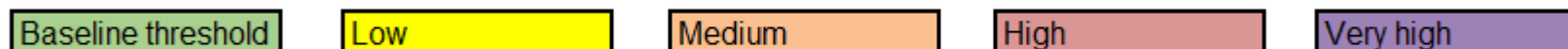
UK

Overall, weekly ILI consultations rates were below baseline levels in all UK schemes (Table 4).

By age group, the highest rates were seen in the 15 to 44-year olds in Scotland (1.2 per 100,000), the 45 to 64-year olds in Wales (2.76 per 100,000) and the 75-year olds and over in Northern Ireland (1.0 per 100,000).

Table 4: GP ILI consultations in the UK for all ages with MEM thresholds applied

GP ILI consultation rates (all ages)	Week number																		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
England (RCGP)	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.7
Wales	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.8	2.7	2.3	1.0	2.0
Scotland	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9
Northern Ireland	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.5



The Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) has been adopted by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to calculate thresholds for GP ILI consultations for the start of influenza activity (based on 10 seasons excluding 2009 to 2010), in a standardised approach across Europe. For MEM threshold values for each country, please visit the PHE webpage

[Sources of UK flu data: influenza surveillance in the UK.](#)

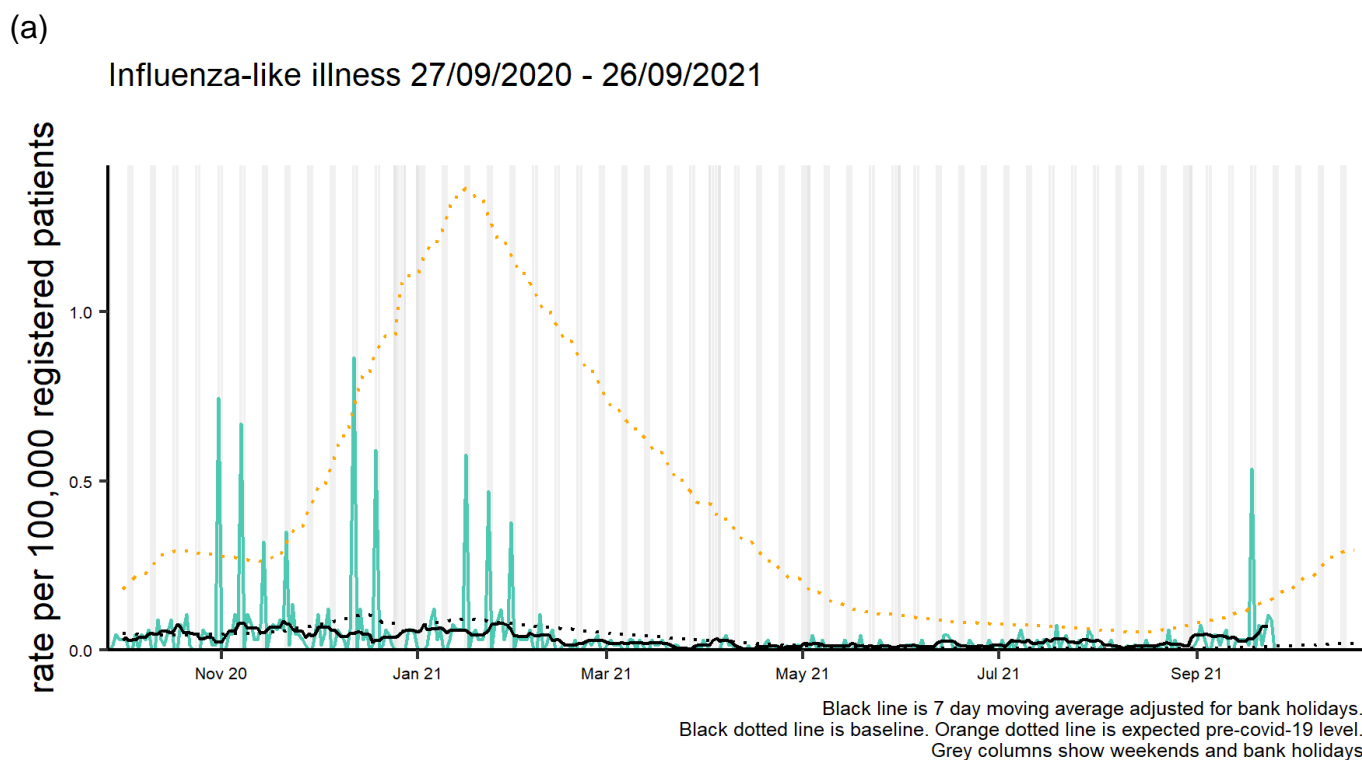
GP In Hours, Syndromic Surveillance

The GP In Hours (GPIH) syndromic surveillance system monitors the number of GP visits during regular hours of known clinical indicators.

Up to 26 September, GP in-hours consultations for influenza-like illness remained stable (Figure 34).

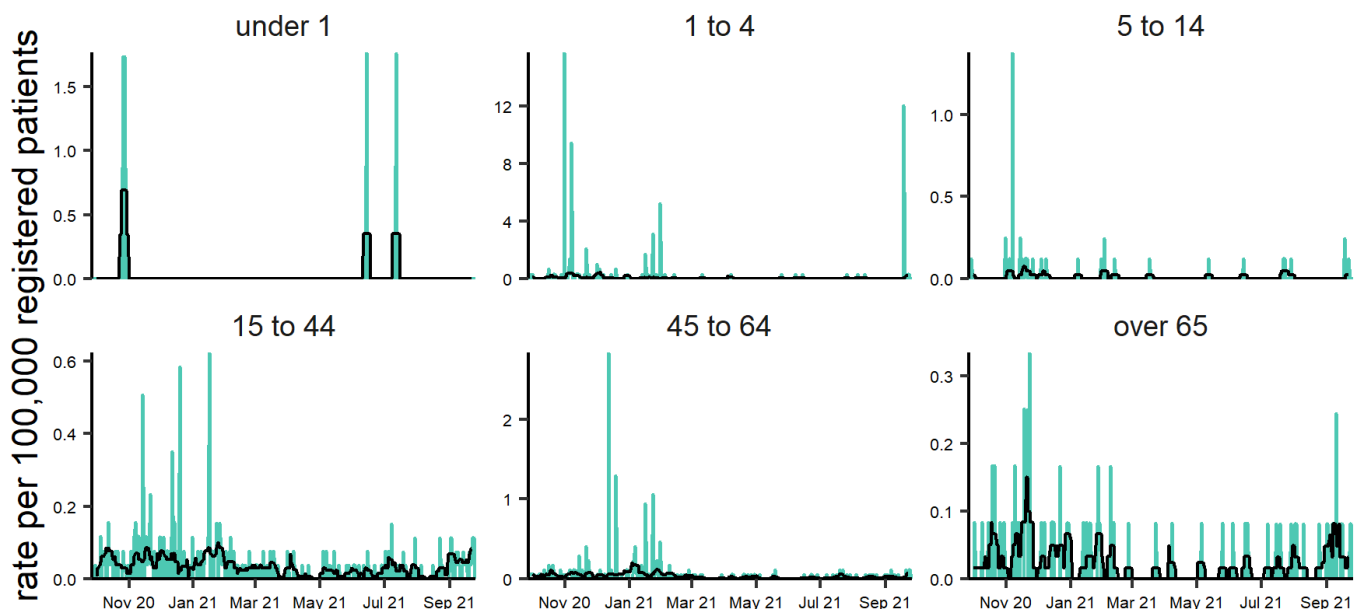
Further indicators and information about caveats are available from the [PHE GP In Hours Syndromic Surveillance bulletin](#).

Figure 34: GPIH clinical indicators for influenza-like illness GP consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age group and (c) by PHE Centre



(b)

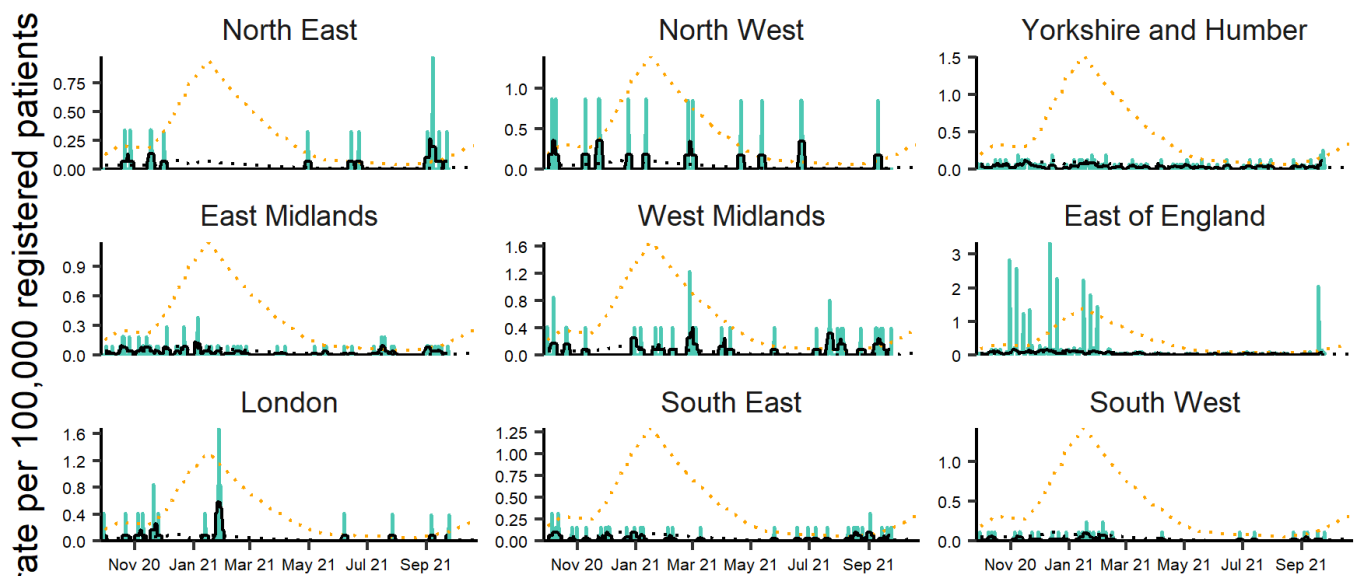
Influenza-like illness by age group (years) 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

(c)

Influenza-like illness by PHE centre 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Orange dotted line is expected pre-covid-19 level.

GPIH Baselines are modelled from historical data to give current seasonally expected levels. GP consultations rates decreased during 2020 due to changes in guidance on accessing health care, therefore separate modelled estimates are provided to show seasonally expected levels pre-covid-19.

GP Out of Hours, Syndromic Surveillance

The GP Out of Hours (GPOOH) syndromic surveillance system monitors the numbers of daily unscheduled visits and calls to GPs during evenings, overnight, on weekends and on public holidays. This system covers around 55% of England’s out of hour activity.

Up to 26 September, GP out-of-hours and unscheduled care consultations for ARI and ILI increased, with ARI increasing primarily in children aged 1 to 14 years (Figure 35 and 36).

Figure 35: GPOOH number of daily contacts for all ages for influenza-like illness, England

Influenza-like illness 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021

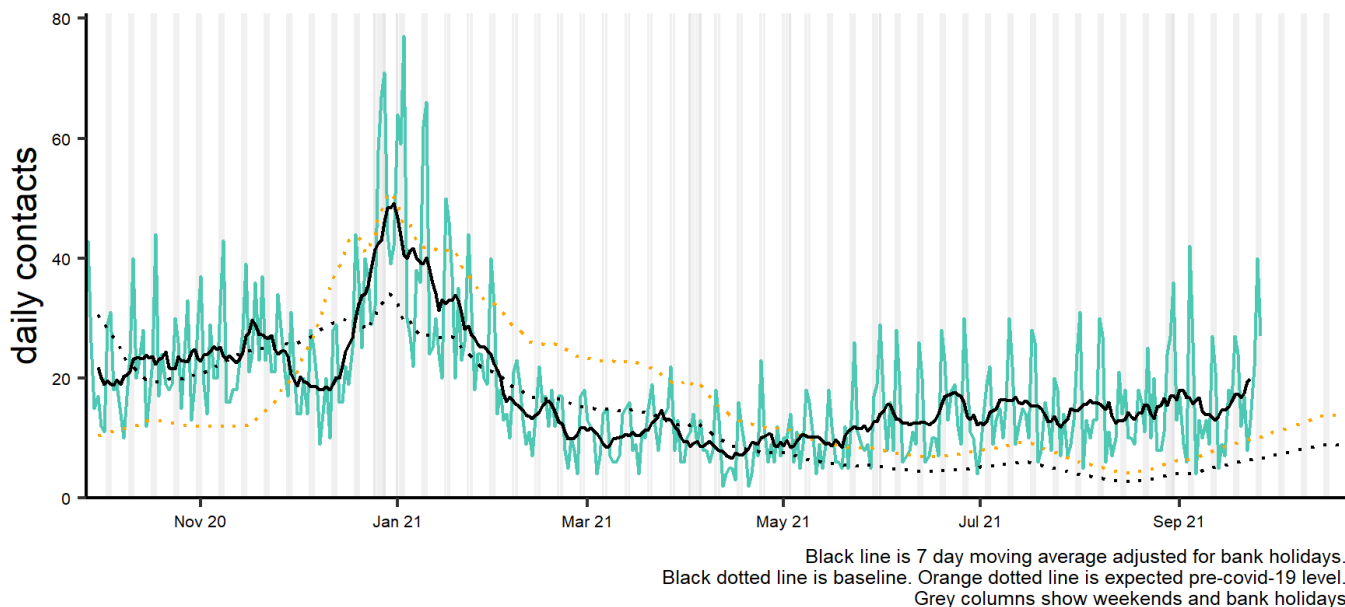
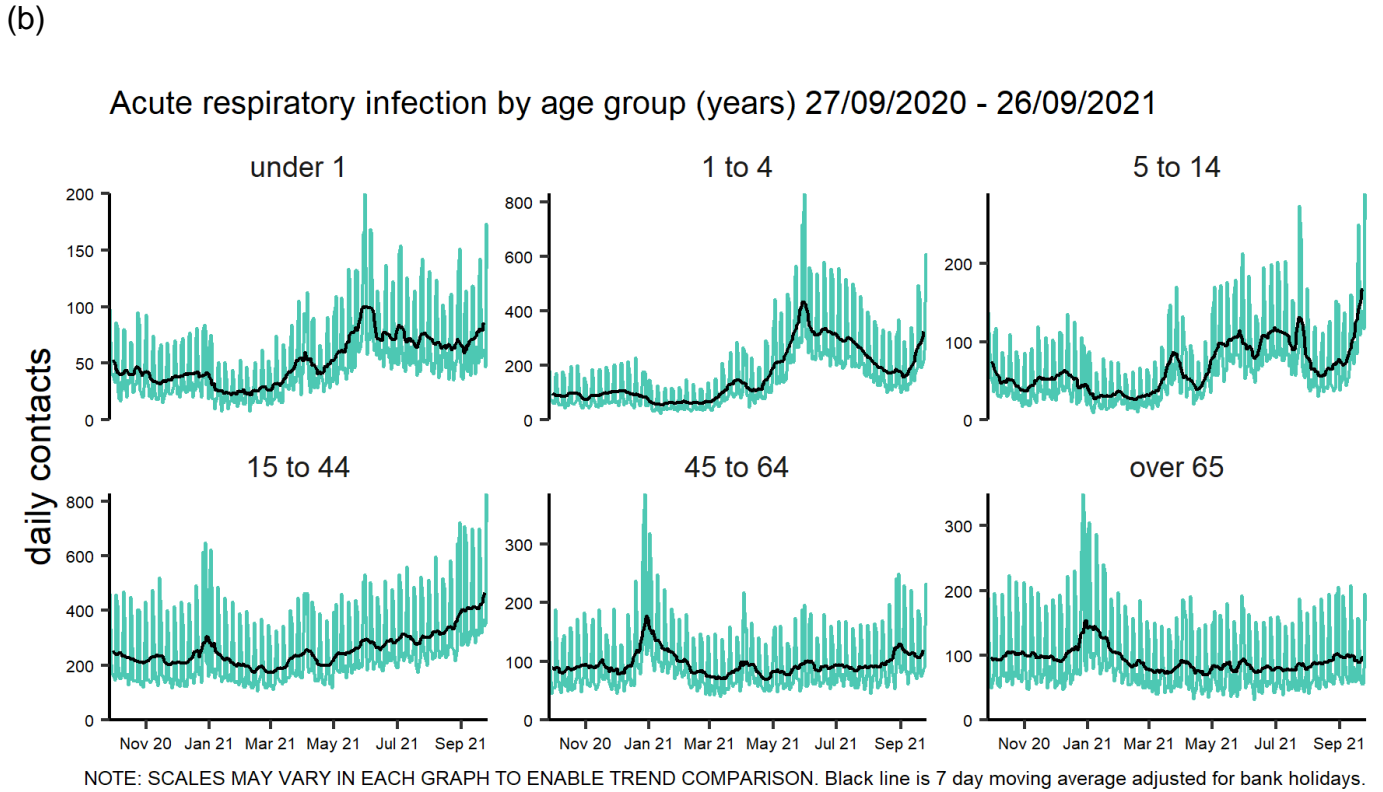
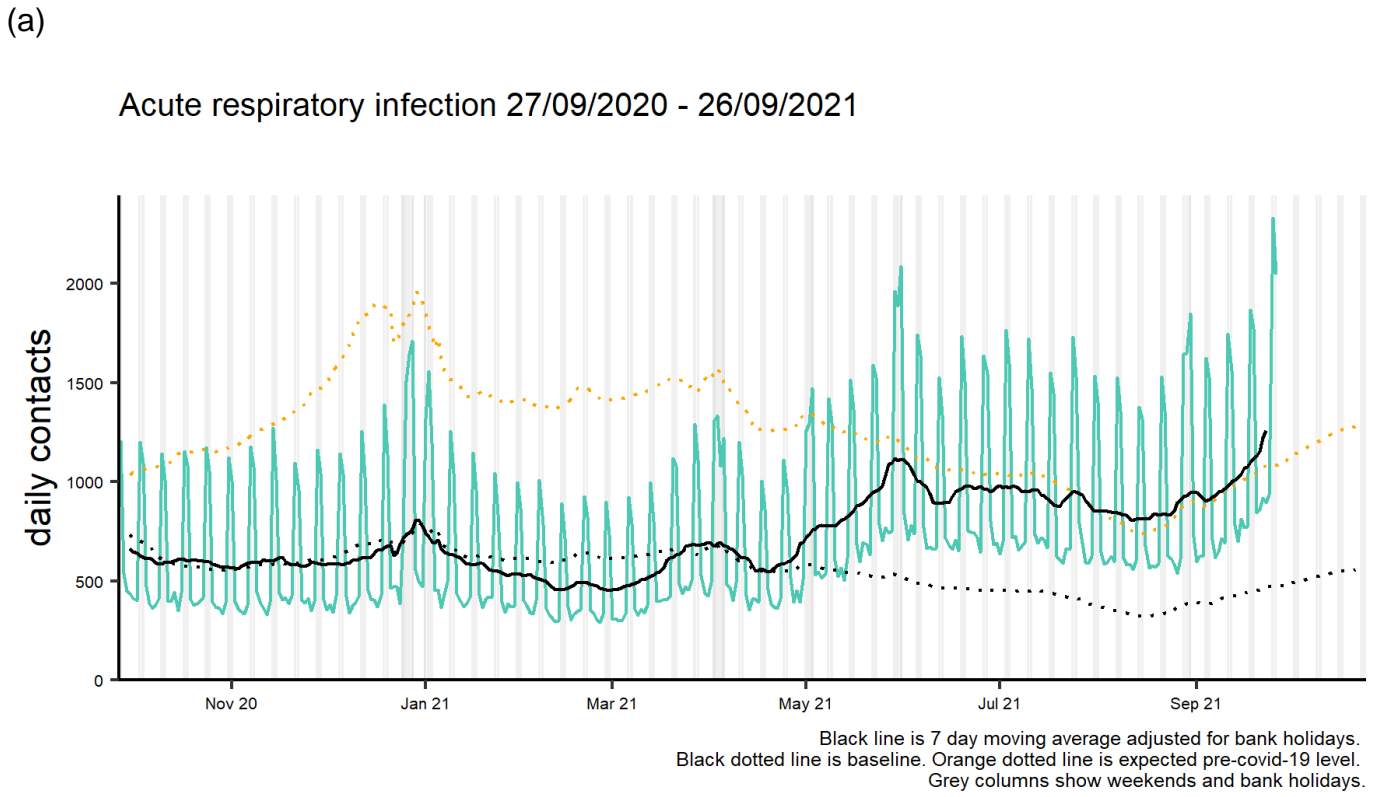


Figure 36: GPOOH number of daily contacts for acute respiratory infections, England (a) nationally and (b) by age group



Sentinel swabbing scheme in the UK

In week 38 2021, 8 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 with an overall positivity of 11.9% (8 out of 67) compared to 16.2% (17 out of 105) in the previous week, through the UK GP sentinel swabbing schemes (Figure 37).

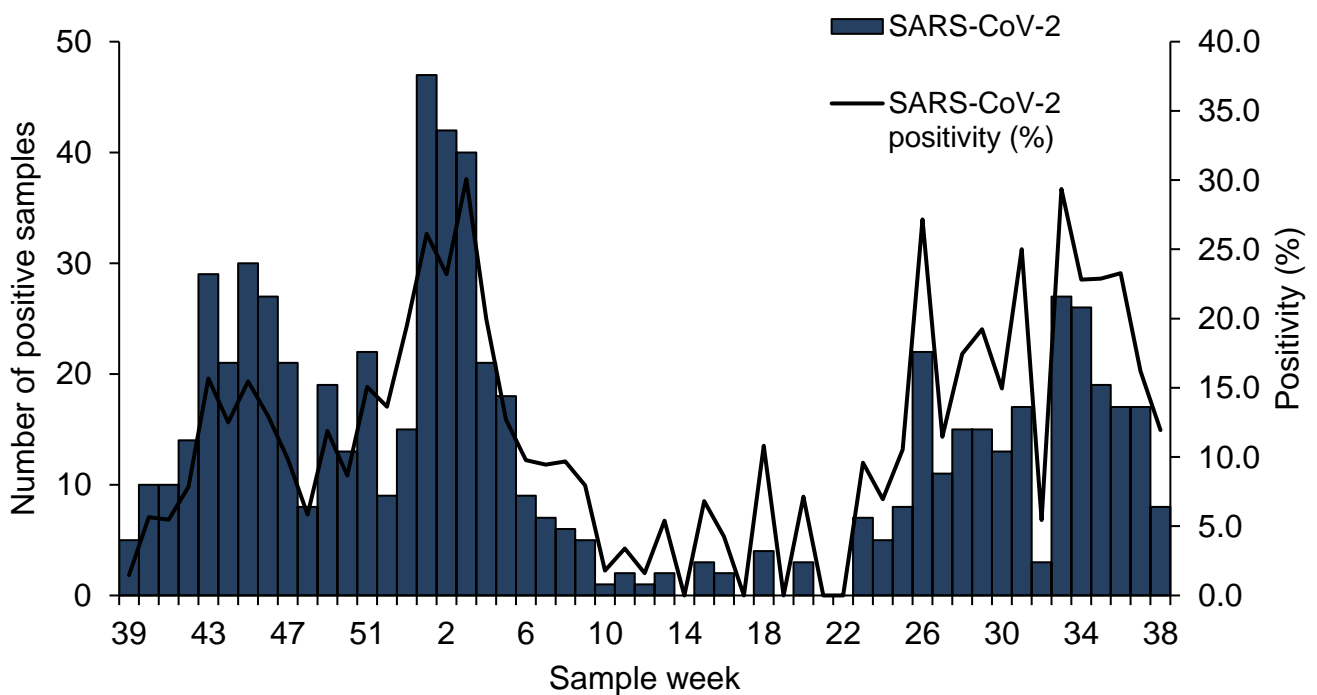
In week 38, 2 samples tested positive for RSV, with an overall positivity of 5.7% (2 out of 35) compared to 19.2% (15 out of 78) in the previous week.

A graph for influenza will be included when a positive specimen is identified through the scheme.

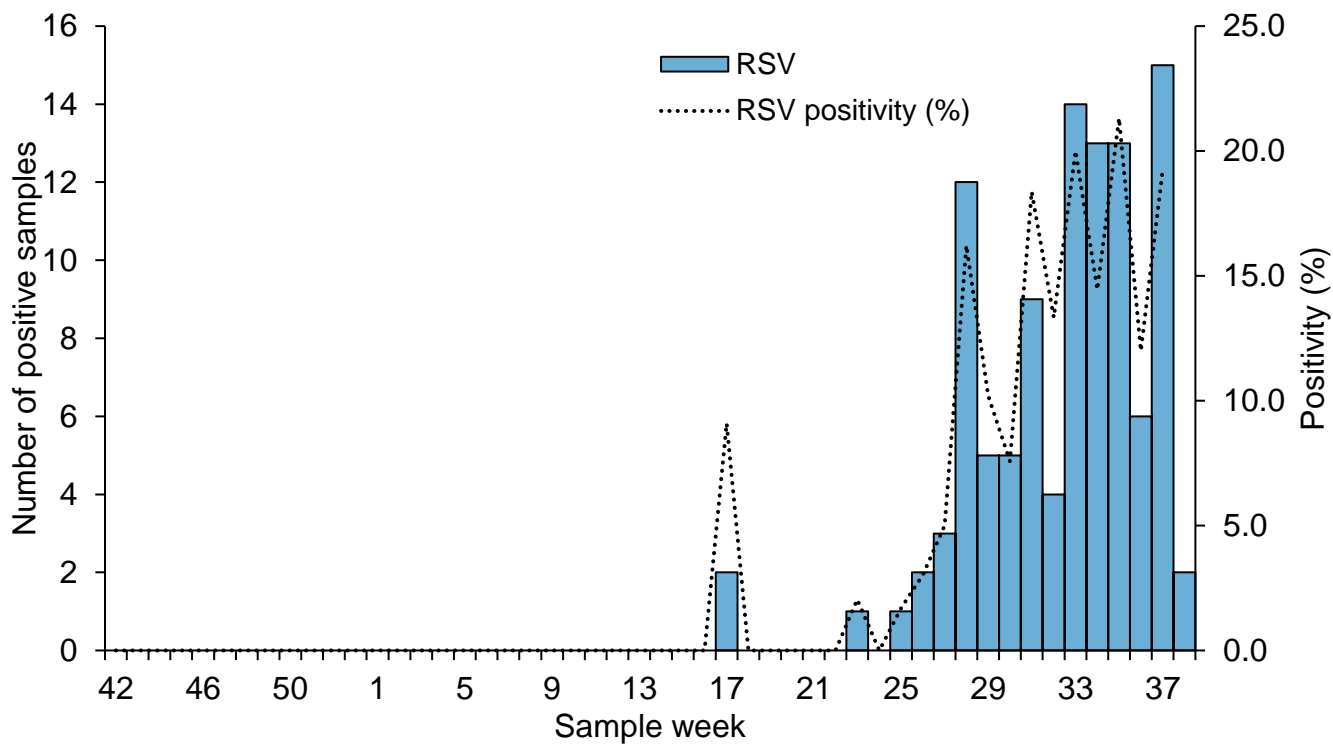
Samples up to week 41 2020 were only tested for SARS-CoV-2.

Figure 37: Number of positive samples and weekly positivity (%) for (a) COVID-19 and (b) RSV, UK GP sentinel swabbing scheme

(a)



(b)



*For the most recent week, more samples are expected to be tested therefore the graph in Figure 37 should be interpreted with caution

*Positivity (%) is not calculated when the total number tested is less than 10

Secondary care surveillance

SARI Watch

The Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Watch surveillance system was established in 2020 to report the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza and COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital and critical care units (ICU and HDU) in NHS acute trusts across England. This has replaced the USISS Mandatory and Sentinel data collections for influenza surveillance used in previous seasons, and the COVID-19 hospitalisations in England surveillance system (CHESS) collections for COVID-19 surveillance.

The weekly rate of new admissions of COVID-19, influenza and RSV cases is based on the trust catchment population of those NHS Trusts who made a new return. This may differ from other published figures such as the total number of people currently in hospital with COVID-19.

Trends in hospital and critical care admission rates need to be interpreted in the context of testing recommendations.

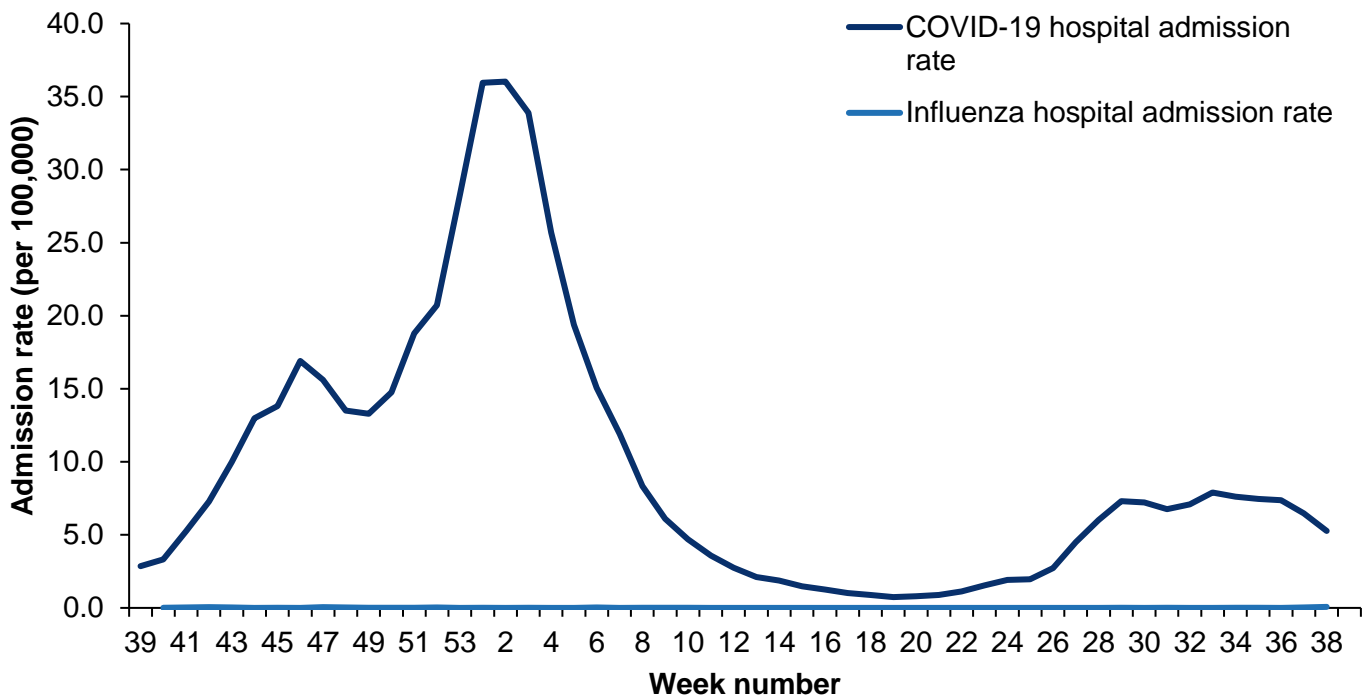
Hospitalisations, SARI Watch

In week 38, the overall weekly hospital admission rate for COVID-19 decreased. There were 7 new hospital admissions to sentinel Trusts for influenza (3 influenza A(not subtyped) and 4 influenza B) in week 38.

The hospitalisation rate for COVID-19 was at 5.26 per 100,000 in week 38 compared to 6.46 per 100,000 in the previous week.

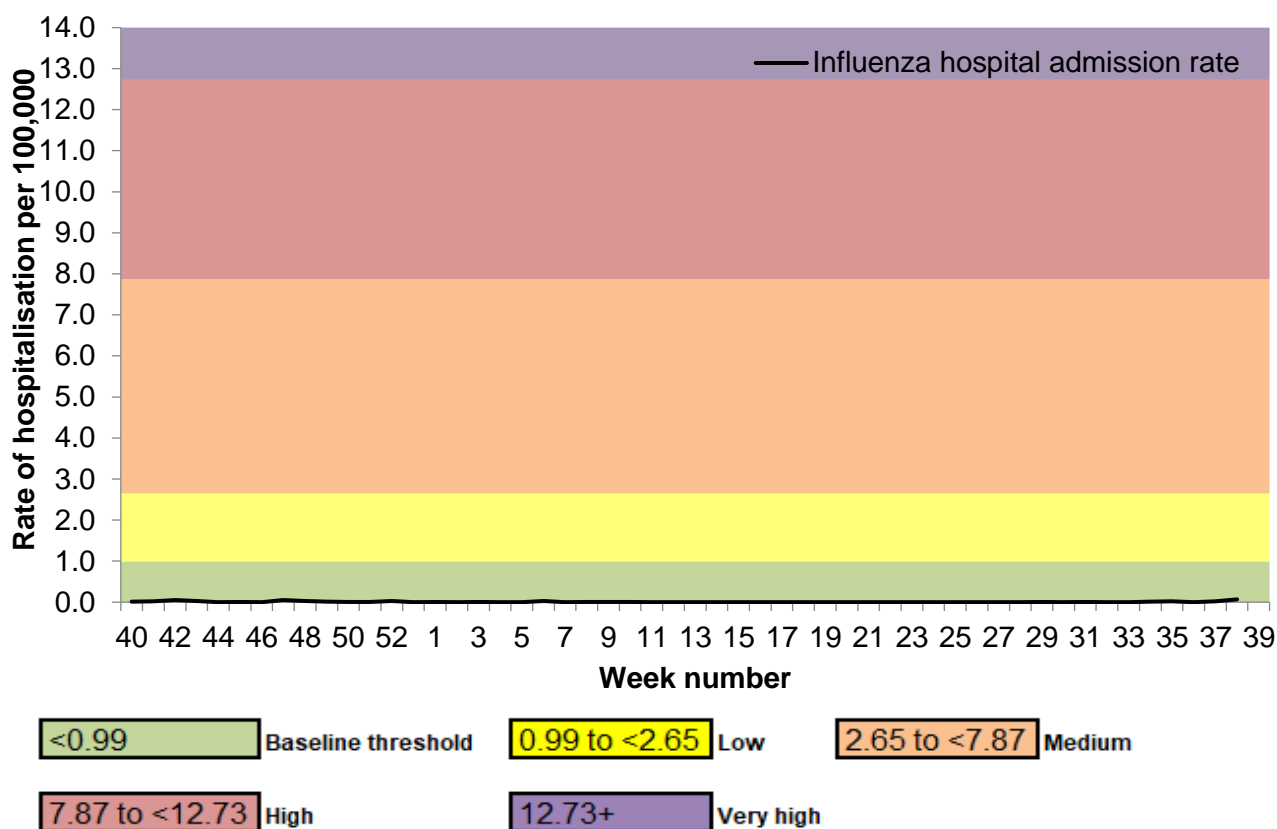
By PHE centre, the highest hospital admission rate for COVID-19 was observed in the North East. By age groups, the highest hospital admission rate for confirmed COVID-19 was in the 85-year olds and over.

Figure 38: Weekly overall hospital admission rates of new COVID-19 and influenza positive cases per 100,000 population reported through SARI Watch, England



- * influenza hospital admission rate is reported from week 40 2020 onwards
- * influenza hospital admission rate based on 25 sentinel NHS trusts for week 38
- * COVID-19 hospital admission rate based on 110 NHS trusts for week 38
- * SARI Watch data are provisional

Figure 39: Weekly overall influenza hospital admission rates per 100,000 trust catchment population with MEM thresholds, SARI Watch, England



* the MEM thresholds used are those from the 2019 to 2020 season due to the pandemic

Figure 40: Weekly influenza hospital admissions by influenza type, SARI Watch, England

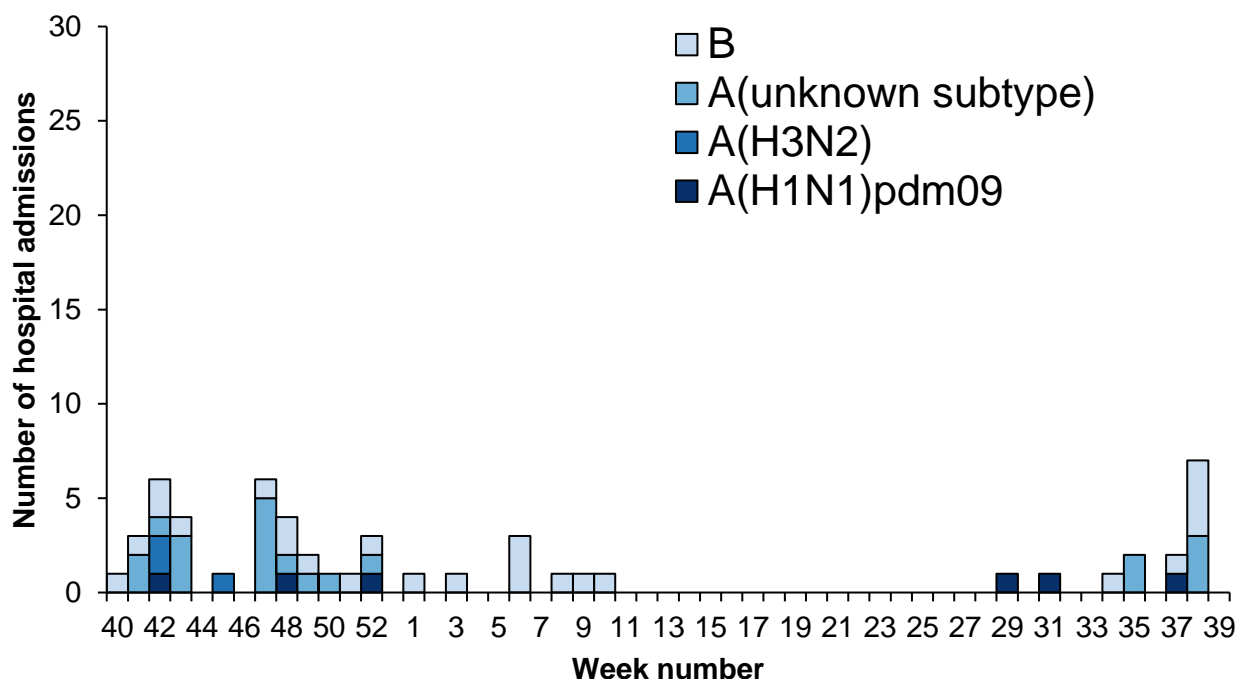


Figure 41: Weekly hospital admission rate by PHE Centre for new (a) COVID-19 positive cases and (b) influenza reported through SARI Watch

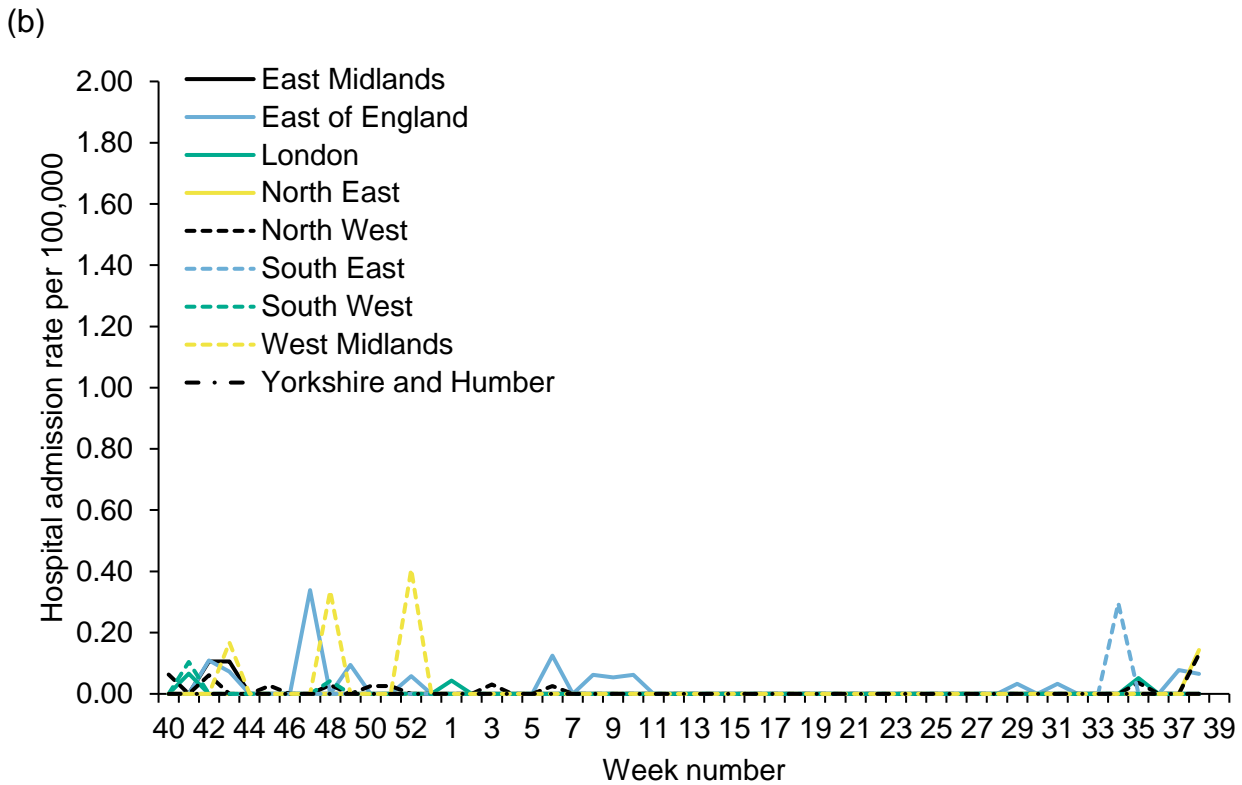
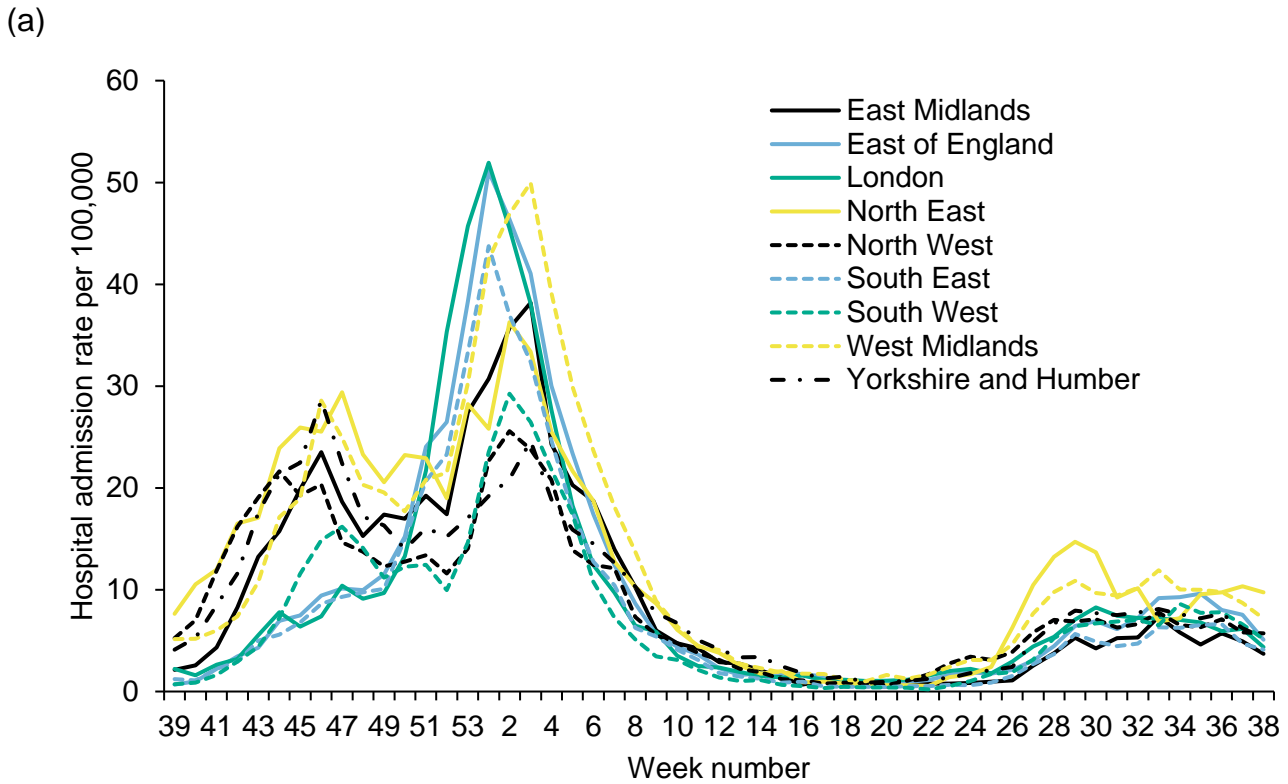
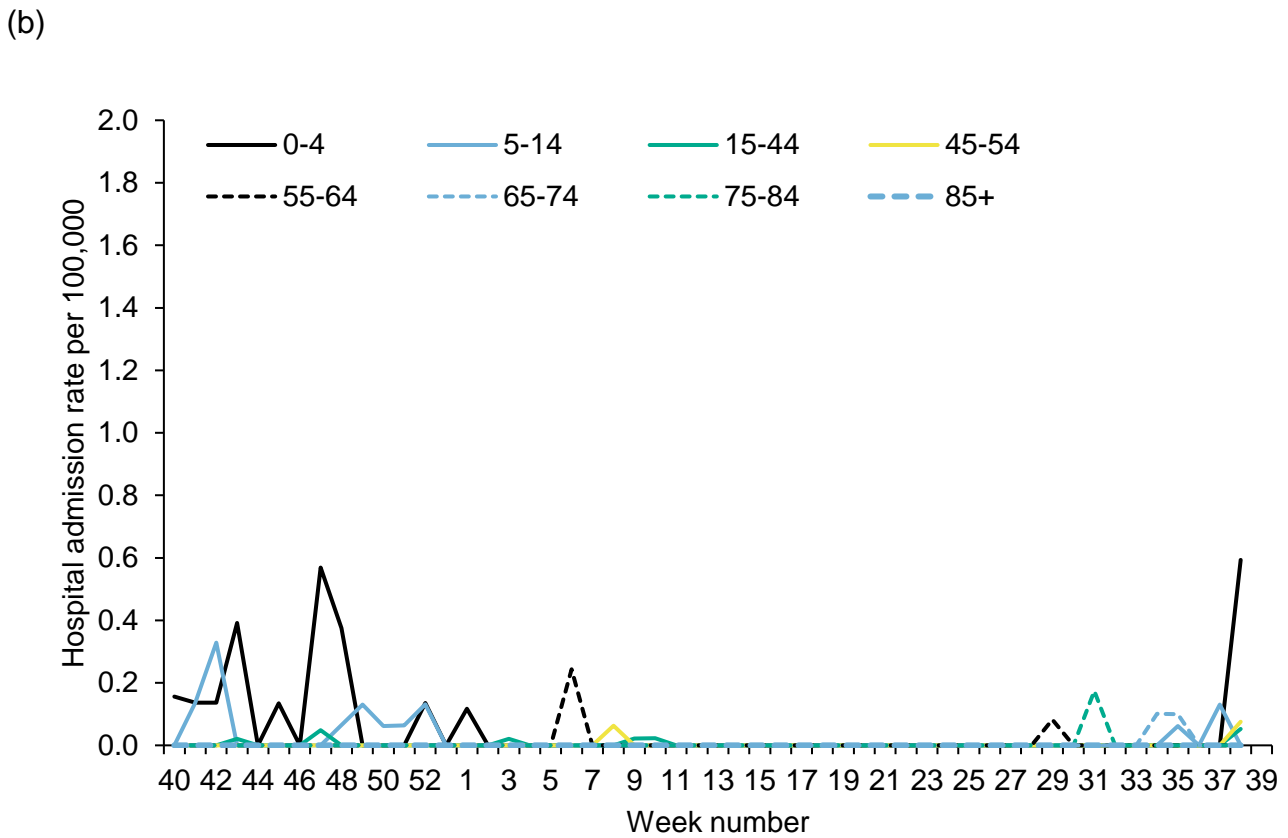
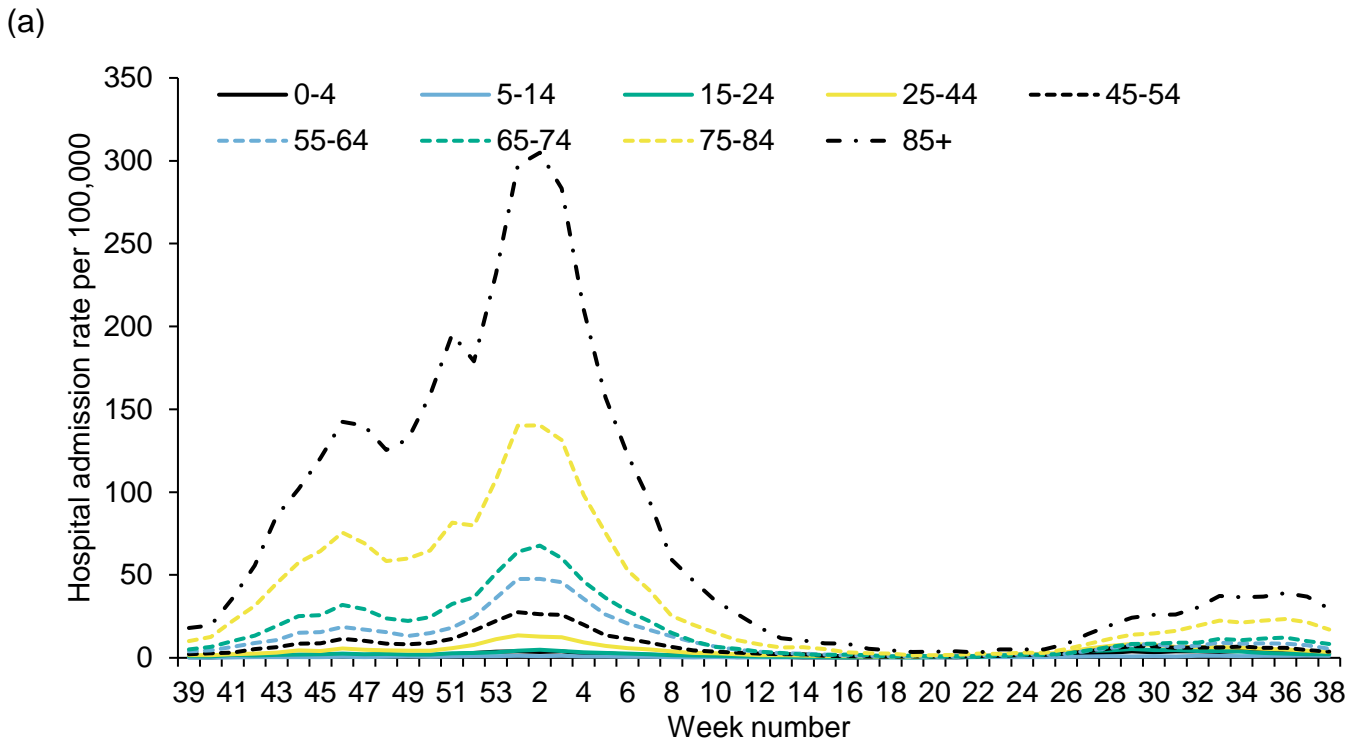


Figure 42: Weekly hospital admission rate by age group for new (a) COVID-19 positive cases and (b) influenza reported through SARI Watch



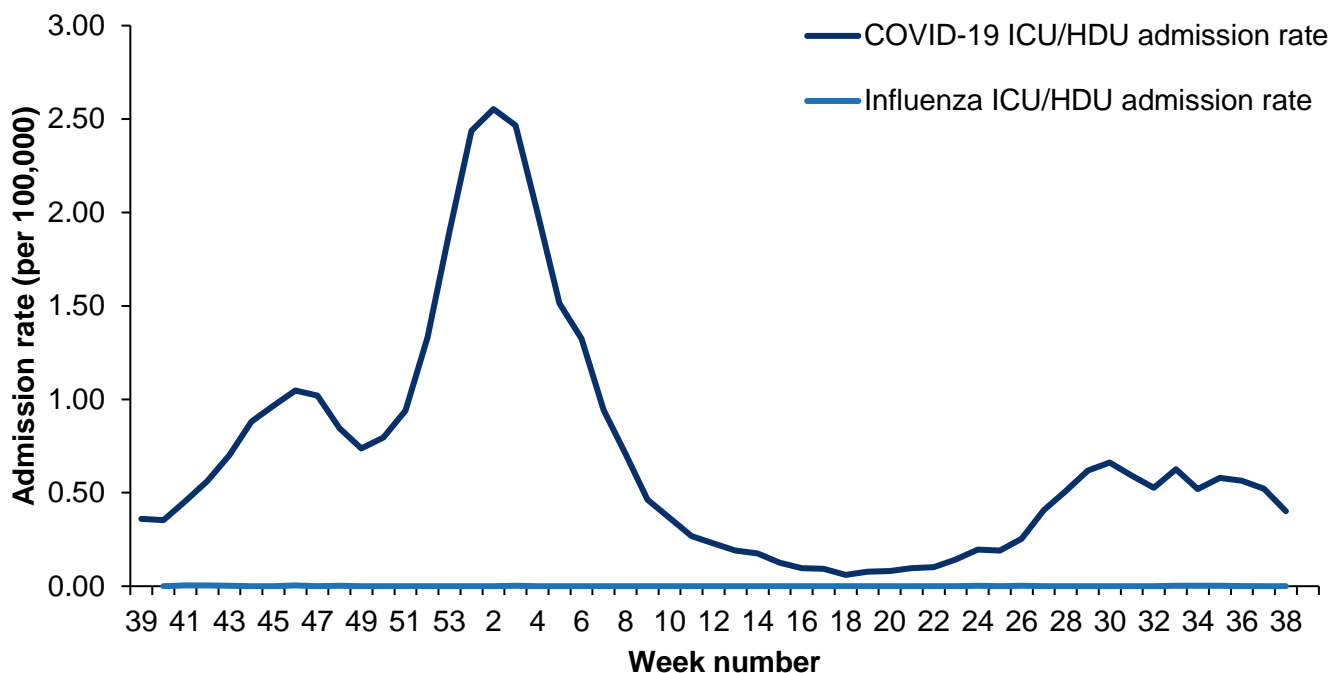
ICU or HDU admissions, SARI Watch

In week 38, the overall weekly ICU or HDU admission rates for COVID-19 decreased. There were no new ICU or HDU admissions for influenza in week 38.

The ICU or HDU rate for COVID-19 was at 0.40 per 100,000 in week 38 compared to 0.52 per 100,000 in the previous week.

By PHE Centre, the highest ICU or HDU admission rates for COVID-19 were observed in the North East. By age groups, the highest ICU or HDU admission rates for COVID-19 were observed in the 85-year olds and over.

Figure 43: Weekly overall ICU or HDU admission rates of new COVID-19 and influenza positive cases per 100,000 population reported through SARI Watch, England



- * influenza ICU or HDU admission rate is reported from week 40 2020 onwards
- * influenza ICU or HDU admission rate based on 84 NHS trusts for week 38
- * COVID-19 ICU or HDU admission rate based on 101 NHS trusts for week 38
- * SARI Watch data are provisional

Figure 44: Weekly overall influenza ICU or HDU admission rates per 100,000 trust catchment population with MEM thresholds, SARI Watch, England

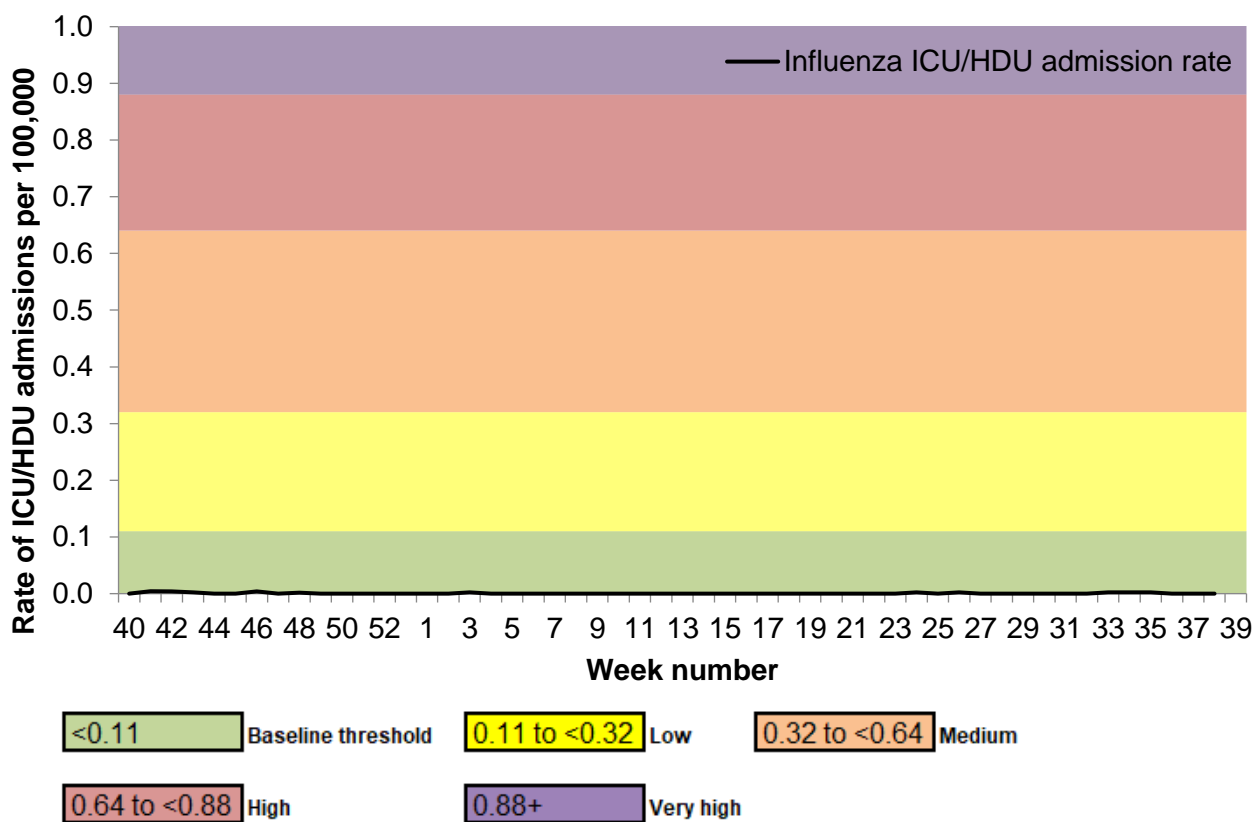


Figure 45: Weekly influenza ICU or HDU admissions by influenza type, SARI Watch, England

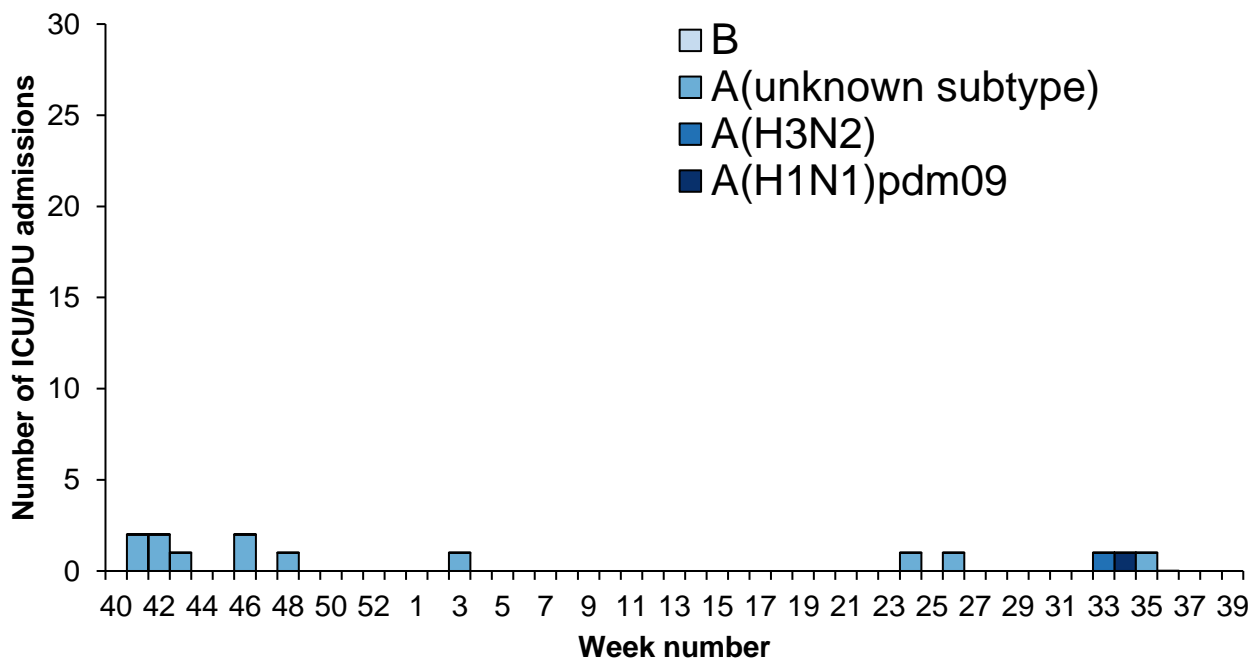


Figure 46: Weekly ICU or HDU admission rate by PHE Centre for new (a) COVID-19 positive cases and (b) influenza, reported through SARI Watch

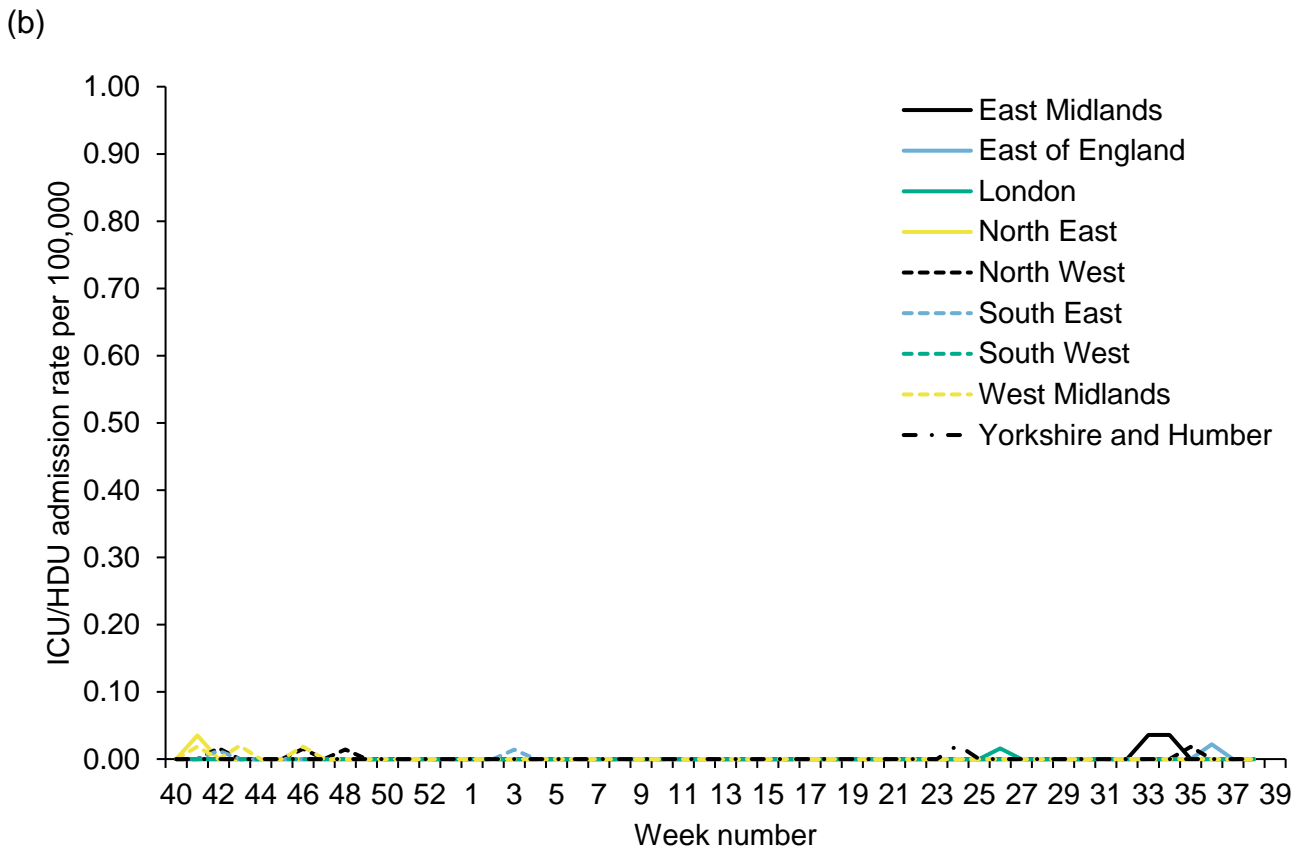
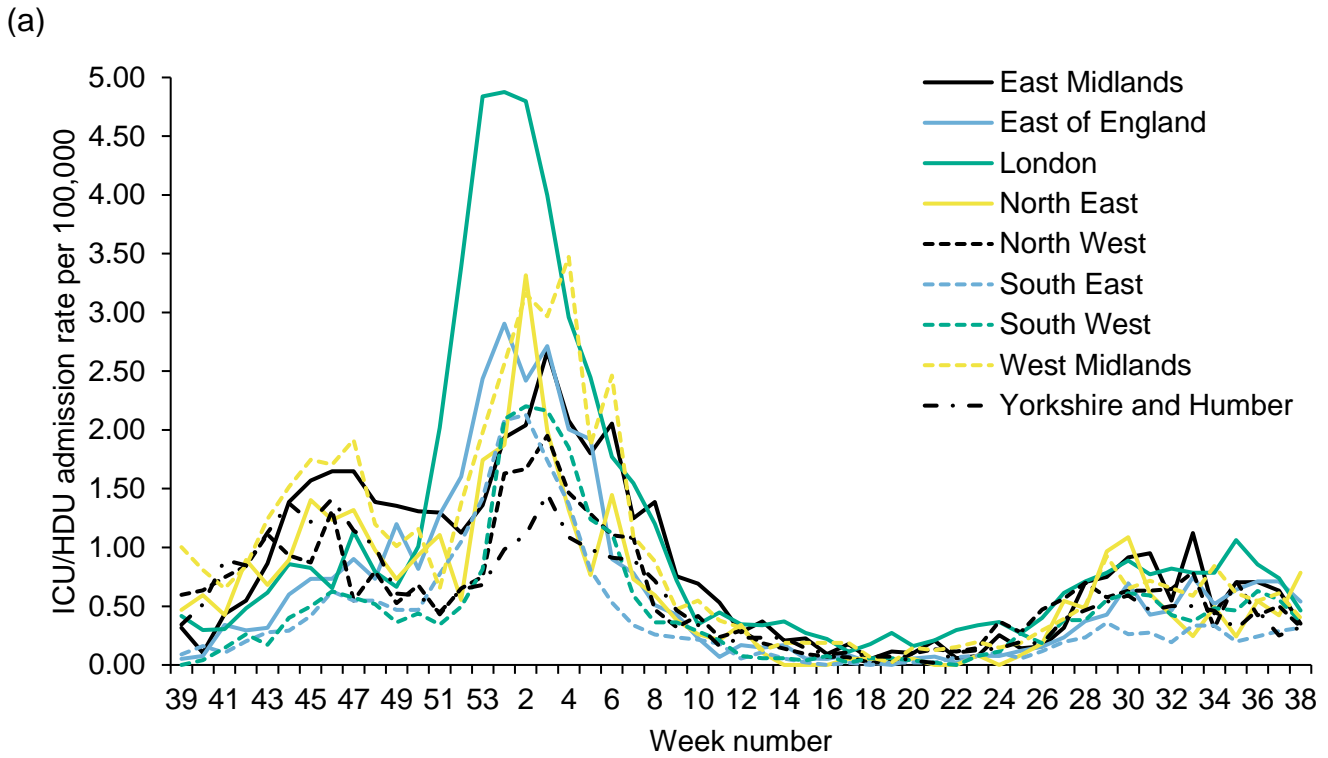
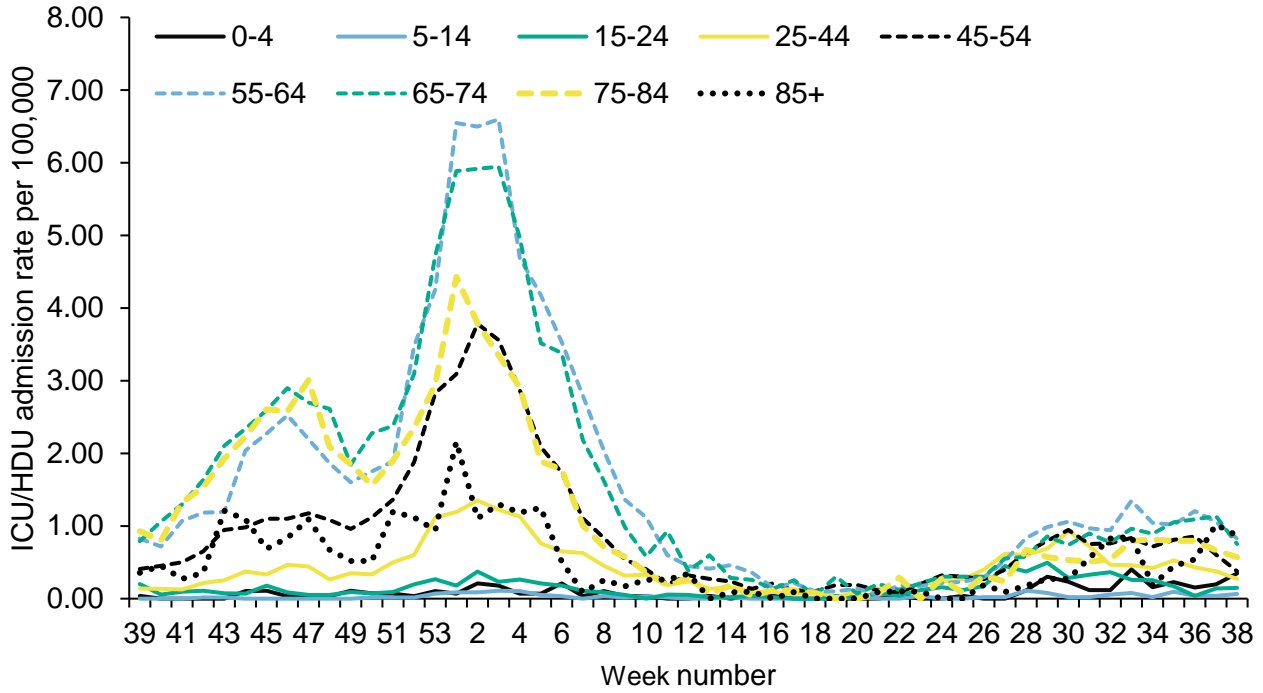
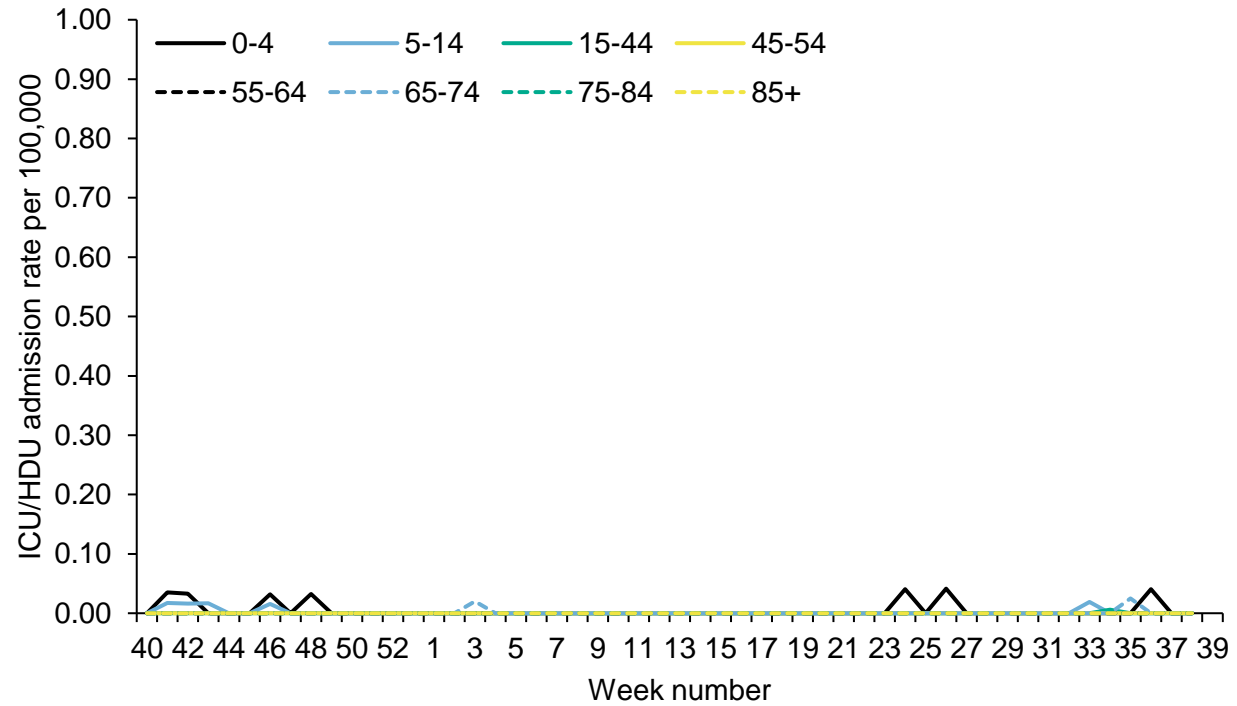


Figure 47: Weekly ICU or HDU admission rate by age group for new (a) COVID-19 positive cases and (b) influenza, reported through SARI Watch

(a)



(b)

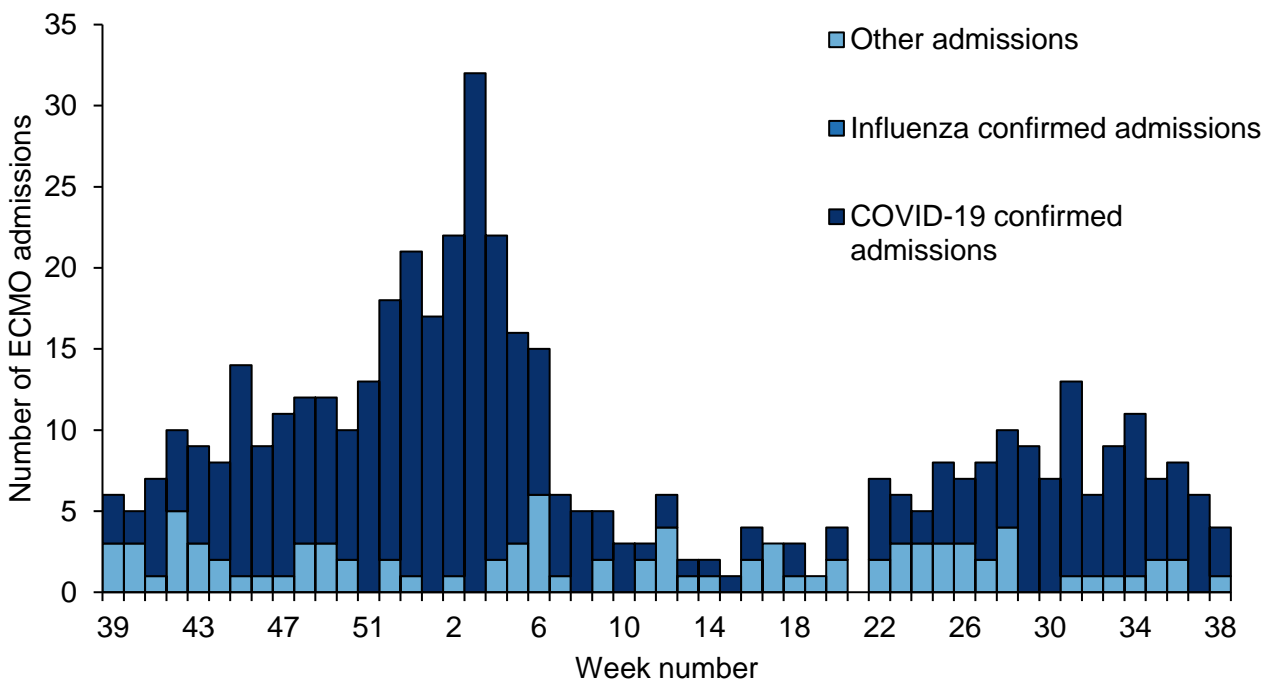


ECMO, SARI Watch

From week 39 2020, a total of 376 laboratory confirmed COVID-19 admissions have been reported from the 6 Severe Respiratory Failure (SRF) centres in the UK.

There were 3 new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 admission reported in week 38 (Figure 48).

Figure 48: Laboratory confirmed ECMO admissions (COVID-19, influenza and non-COVID-19 confirmed) to Severe Respiratory Failure centres in the UK

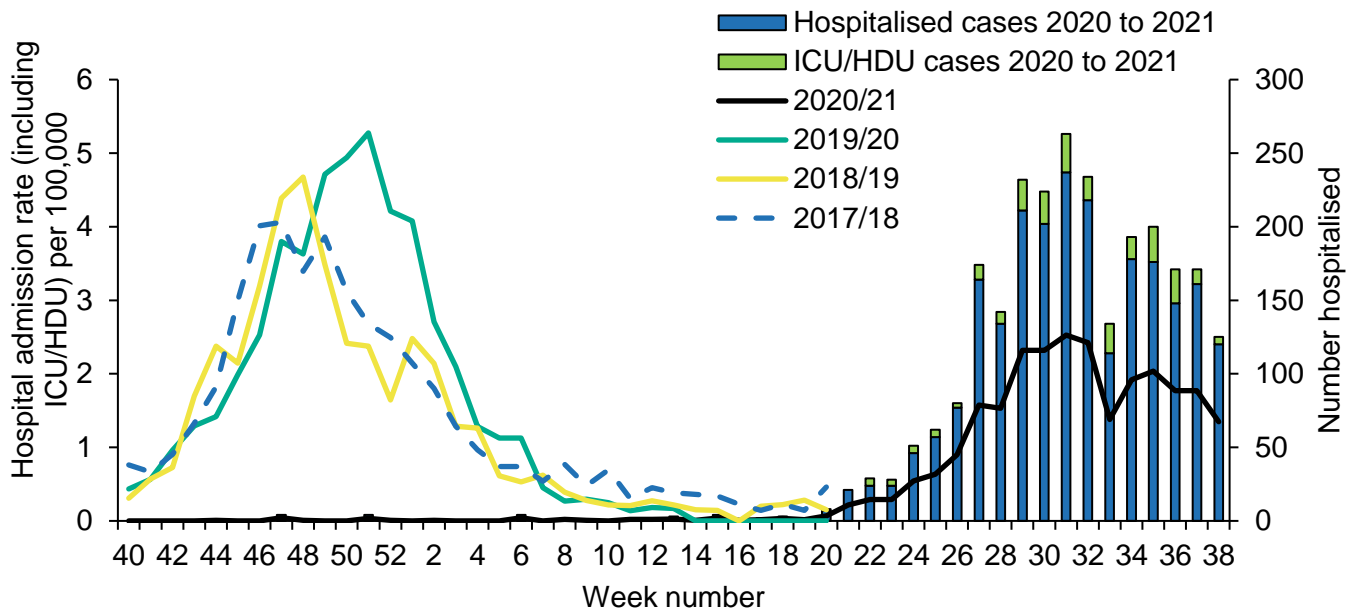


* SARI Watch data are provisional

RSV admissions, SARI Watch

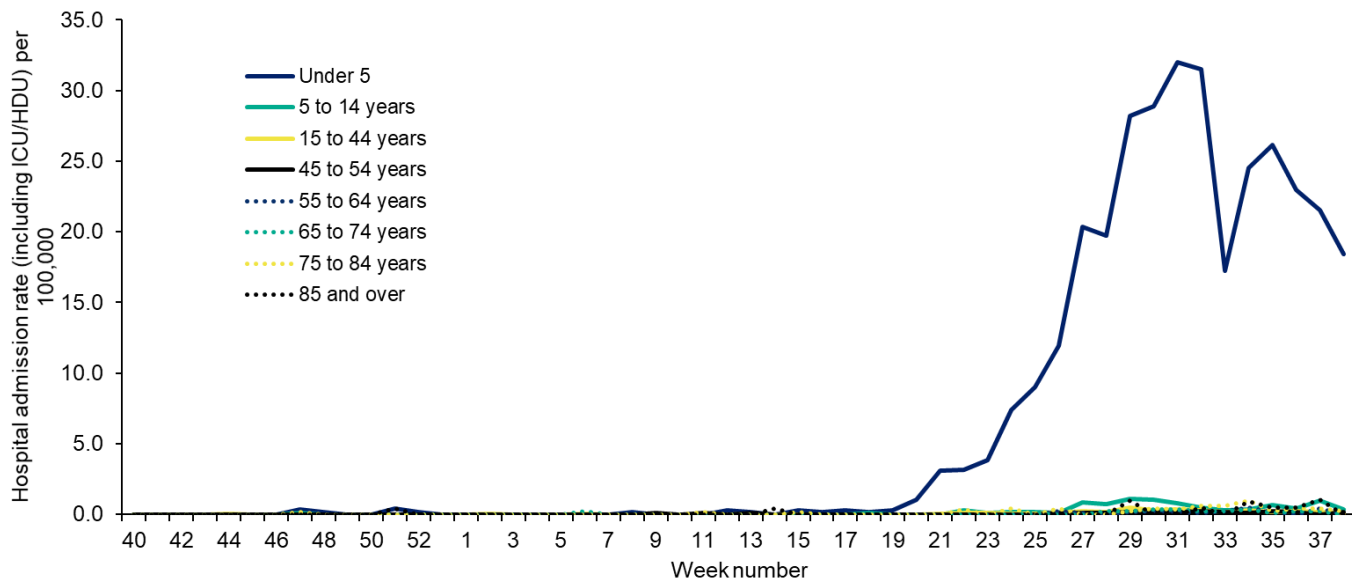
Data on hospitalisations, including ICU/HDU admissions, with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are shown below. RSV SARI Watch surveillance is sentinel.

Figure 49: Weekly overall hospital admission rates (including ICU/HDU) of RSV positive cases per 100,000 population reported through SARI Watch, England



* Please note that in previous seasons, RSV SARI Watch surveillance has run from week 40 to week 20. In the 2020 to 2021 season this was extended to run throughout the year, to allow for surveillance of out-of-season trends

Figure 50: Weekly hospitalisation (including ICU/HDU) admission rates by age group for new RSV cases reported through SARI Watch in 2020 to 2021, England



* Please note that rates are based on the number of hospitalised cases divided by the Trust catchment population, multiplied by 100,000

* SARI Watch data are provisional

Emergency Department attendances, Syndromic surveillance

The **Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance System (EDSSS)** monitors the daily visits in a network of emergency departments across England.

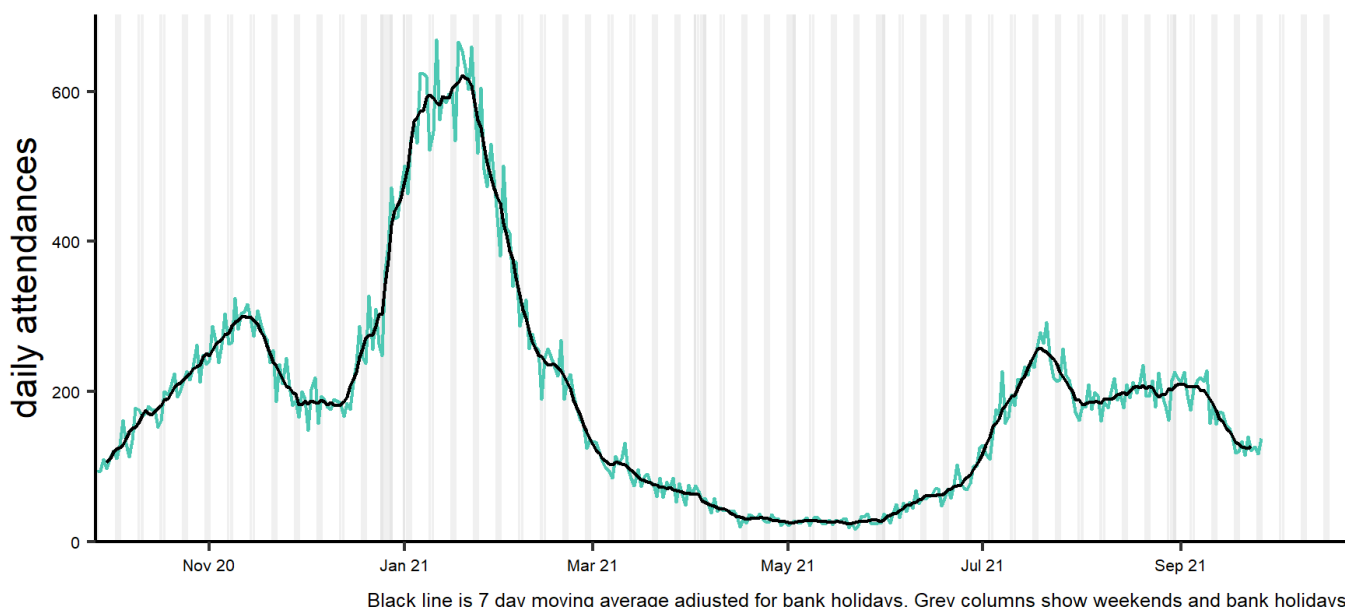
Up to 26 September 2021, the daily number of ED attendances as reported by 95 EDs for COVID-19-like infection decreased, and for acute respiratory infection increased in children under the age of 14 (Figure 51).

Please note: the COVID-19-like ED indicator is an underestimation of the number of COVID-19 attendances as it only includes attendances with a COVID-19-like diagnosis as their primary diagnosis. The EDSSS COVID-19-like indicator should therefore be used to monitor trends in ED attendances and not to estimate actual numbers of COVID-19 ED attendances. Further information about these caveats is available from the **PHE Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance** bulletin.

Figure 51: Daily ED attendances for COVID-19-like infections, England (a) nationally, (b) by age group and (c) by PHE Centre

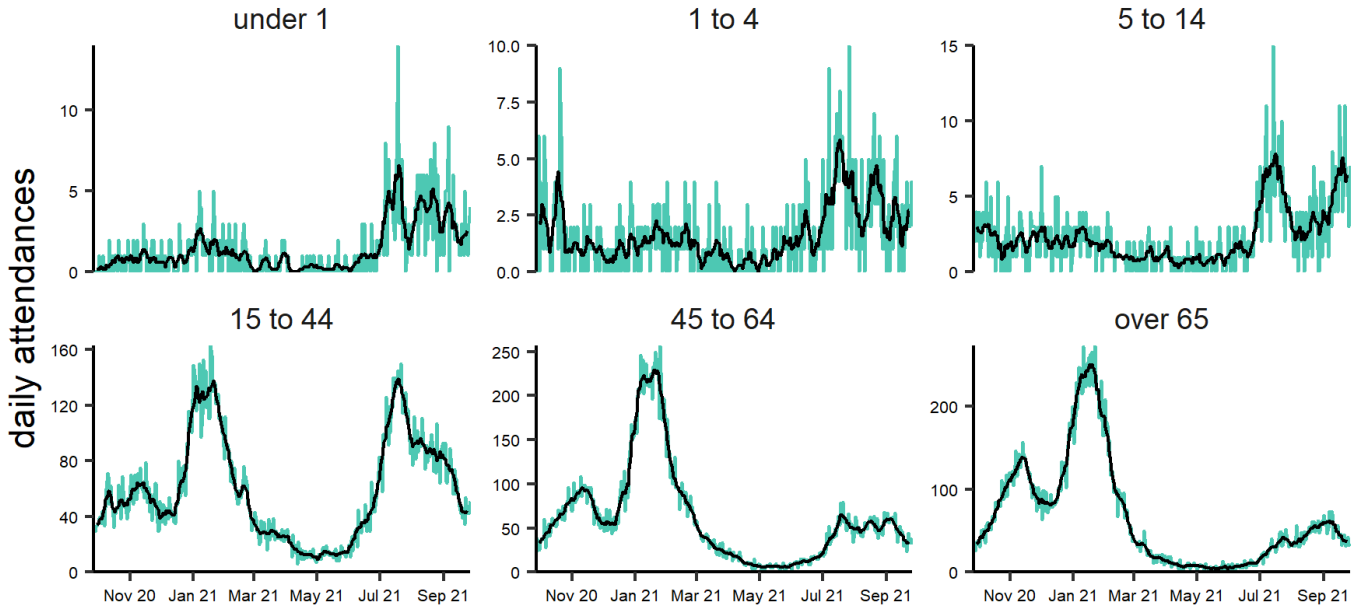
(a)

Covid-19-like 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



(b)

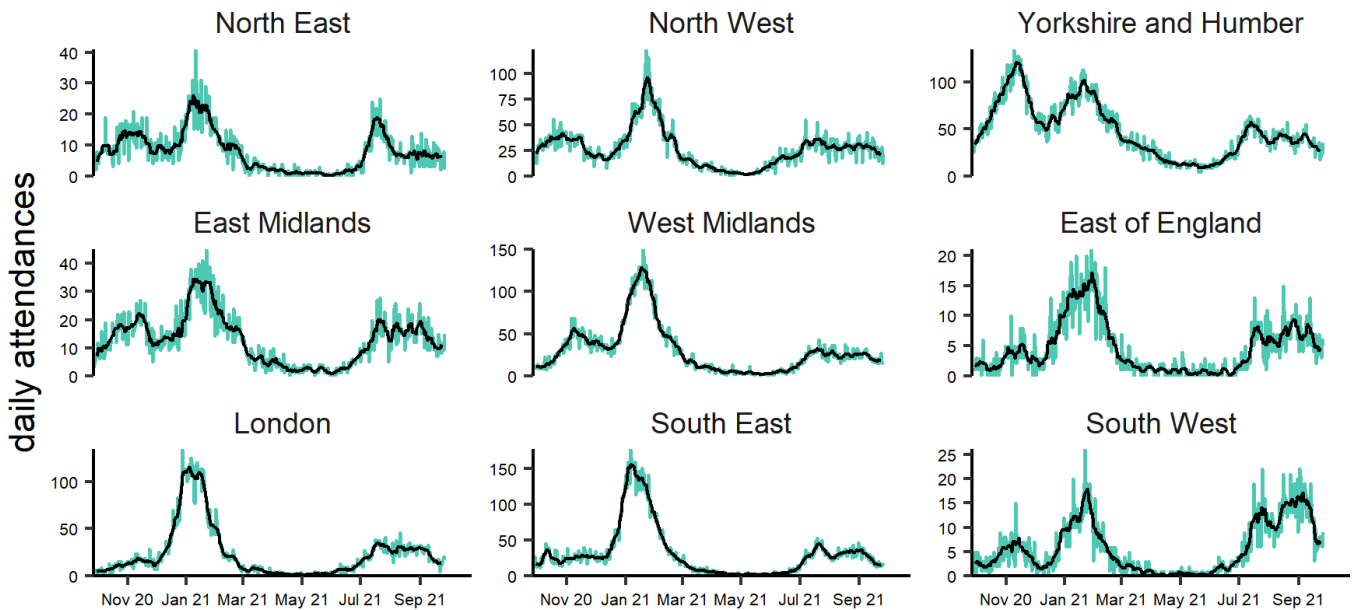
Covid-19-like by age group (years) 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

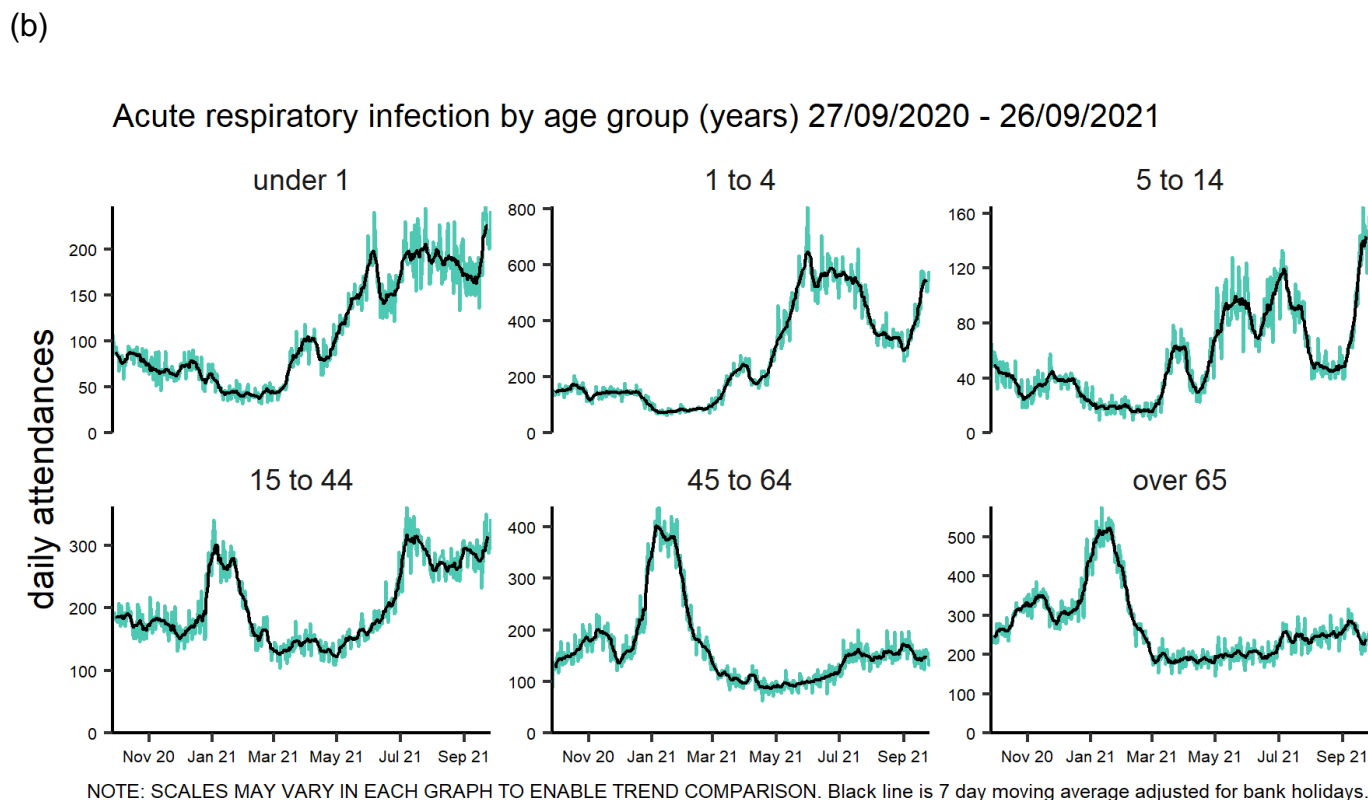
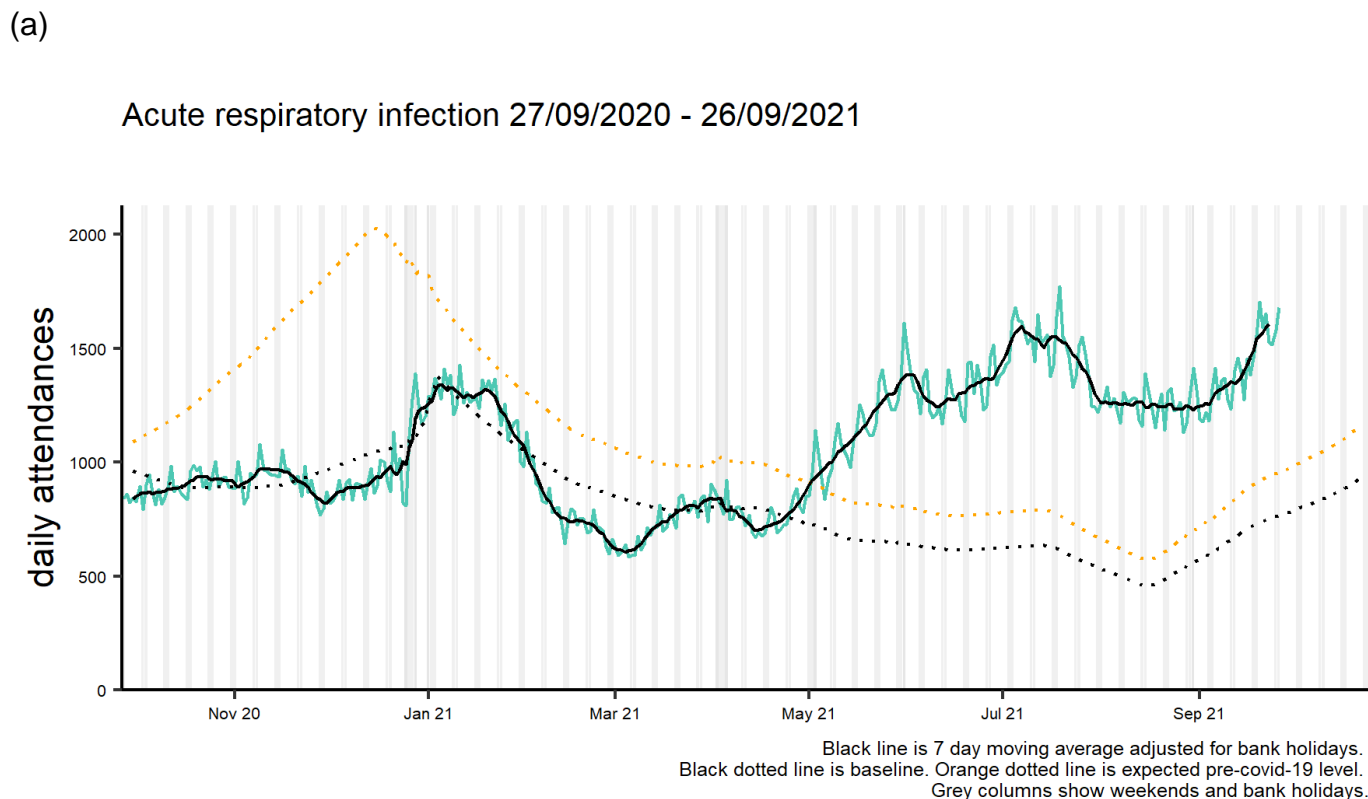
(c)

Covid-19-like by PHE centre 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



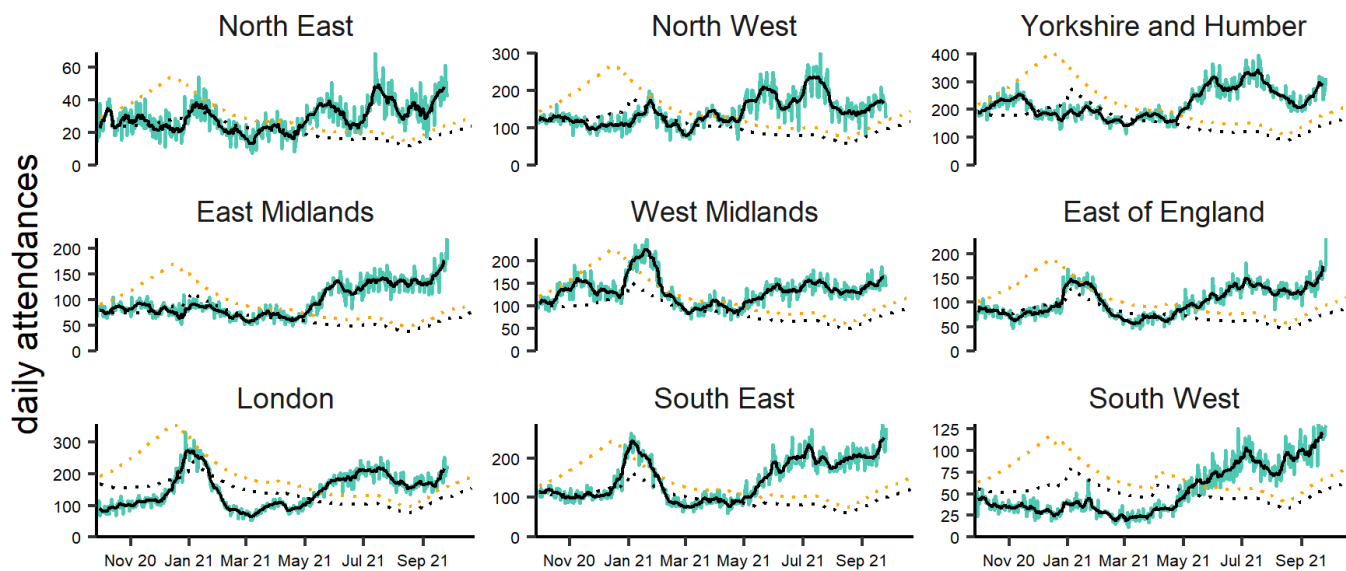
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

Figure 52: Daily ED attendances for acute respiratory infections, England (a) nationally, (b) by age group and (c) by PHE Centre



(c)

Acute respiratory infection by PHE centre 27/09/2020 - 26/09/2021



NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON. Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Orange dotted line is expected pre-covid-19 level.

Mortality surveillance

Cumulative COVID-19 deaths

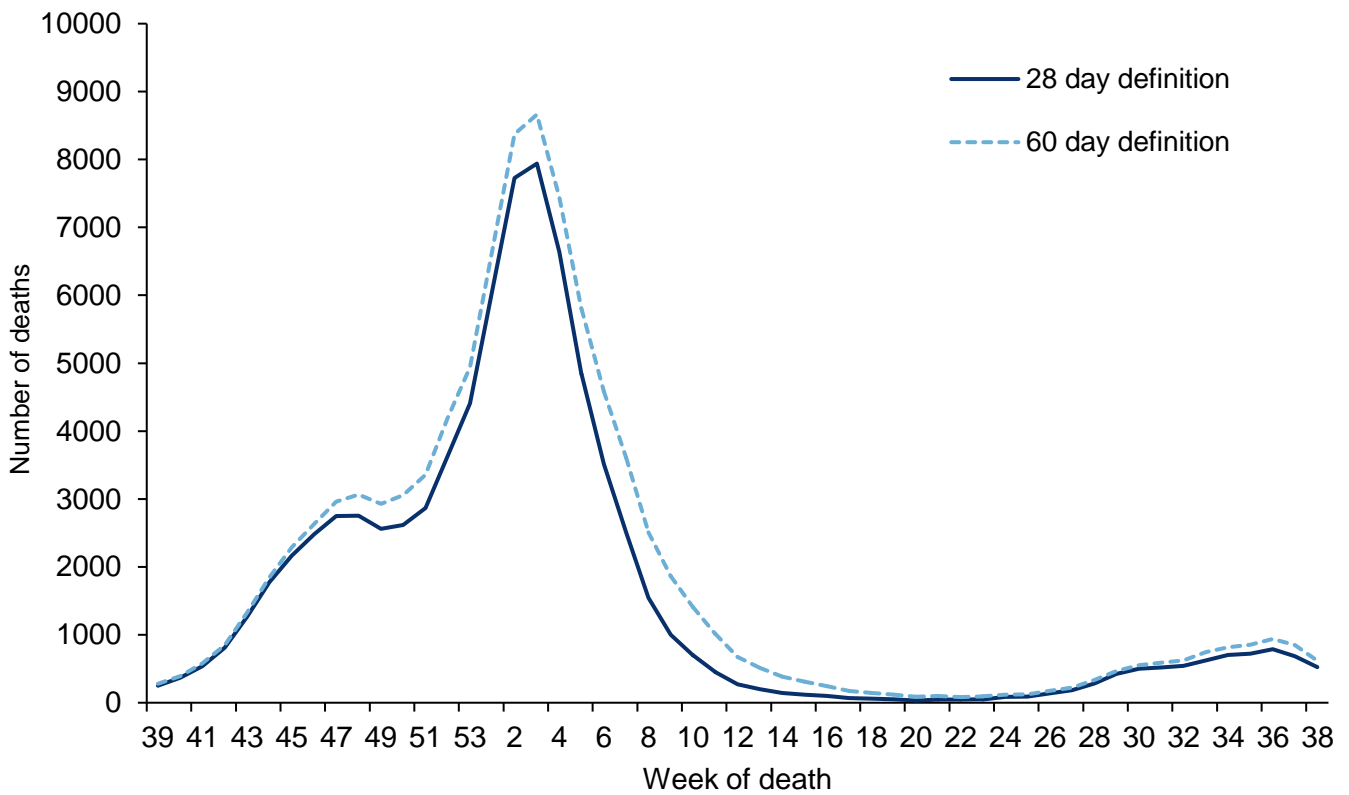
Changes to the definitions of COVID-19 related deaths in England are described in more detail in an accompanying [PHE technical summary](#).

The current definitions used for mortality surveillance of COVID-19 in England are:

- (a) 28 day definition: A death in a person with a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 test and died within (equal to or less than) 28 days of the first positive specimen date
- (b) 60 day definition: A death in a person with a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 test and either: died within 60 days of the first specimen date OR died more than 60 days after the first specimen date only if COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate

The introduction of these definitions will affect the numbers which have been presented in past reports and therefore Figure 53 represents these differences by definition.

Figure 53: Number of deaths since by week of death and time since laboratory confirmation of COVID-19, England



*The data are shown by the week of death. This gives the most accurate analysis of this time progression, however, for the most recent weeks' numbers more deaths are expected to be registered therefore this should be interpreted with caution

Figure 54: Age-sex pyramid of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 deaths, for the past year

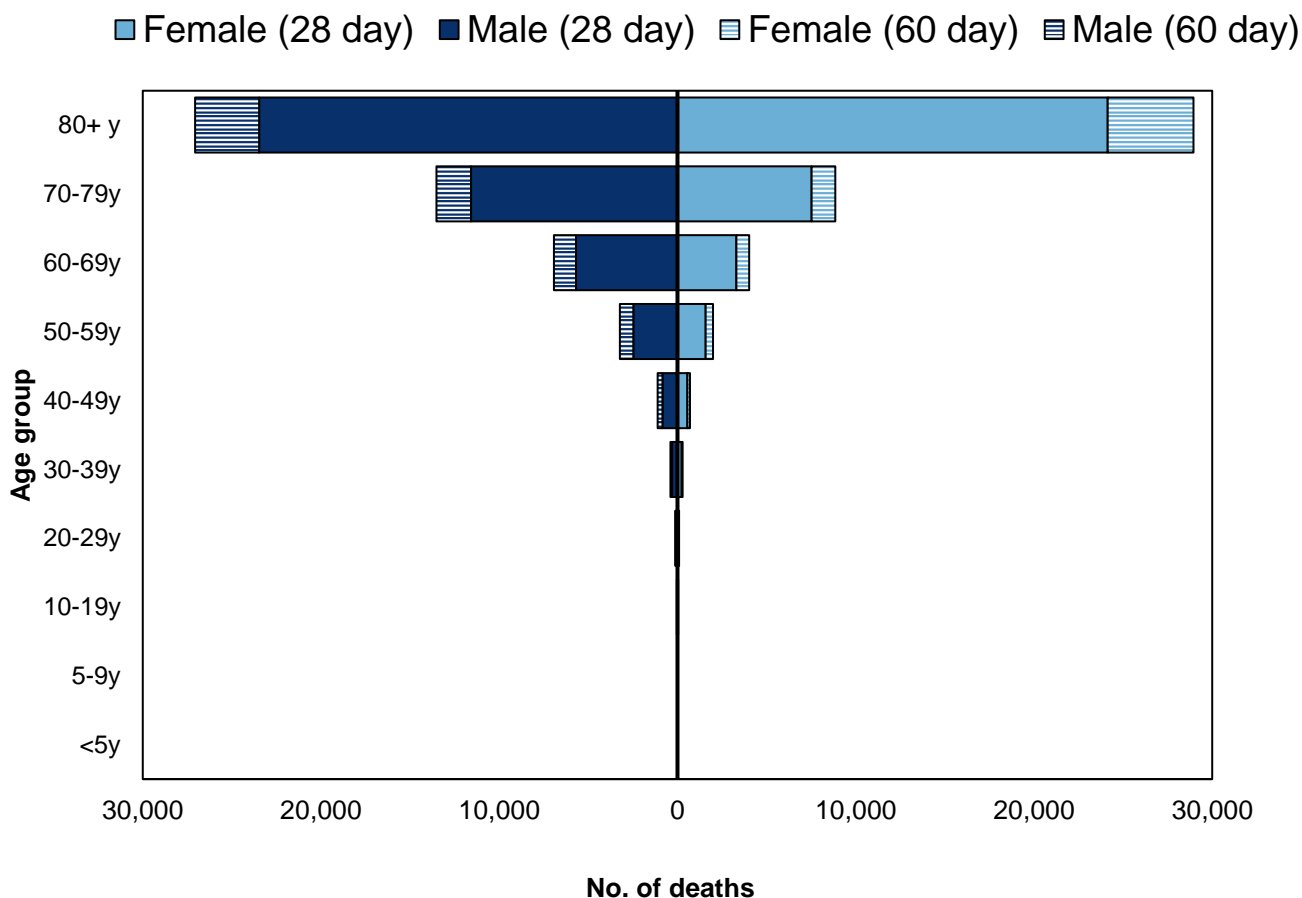


Table 5: Ethnic group (%) of COVID-19 deaths and time since laboratory confirmation of COVID-19, England, for the past year

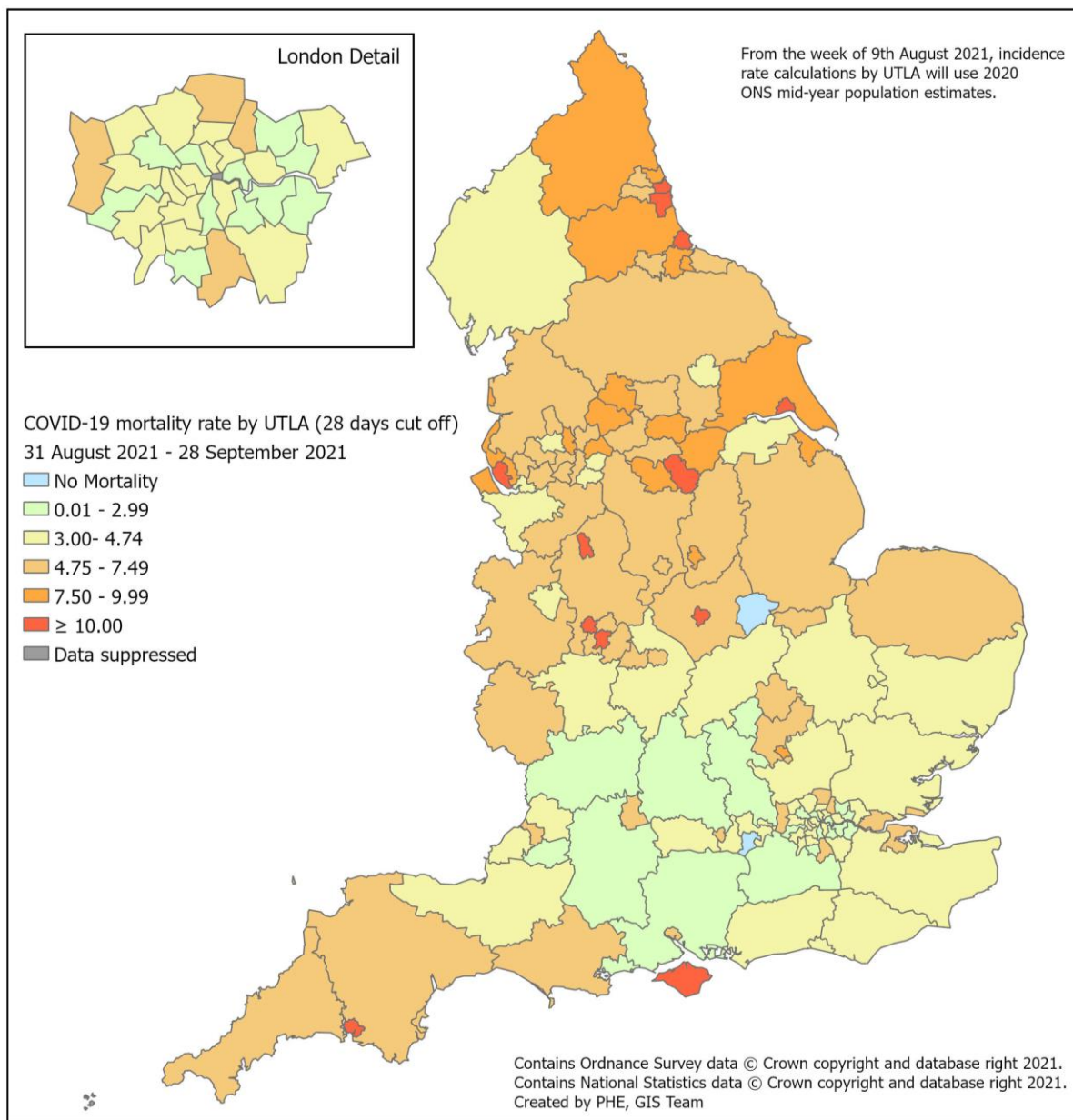
Ethnicity	28 day definition	60 day definition
White	88.8	88.8
Asian / Asian British	7.4	7.3
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	2.9	2.9
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	0.5	0.5
Other ethnic group	0.5	0.5

Table 6: Cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths since and time since laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 by PHE Centres, for the past year

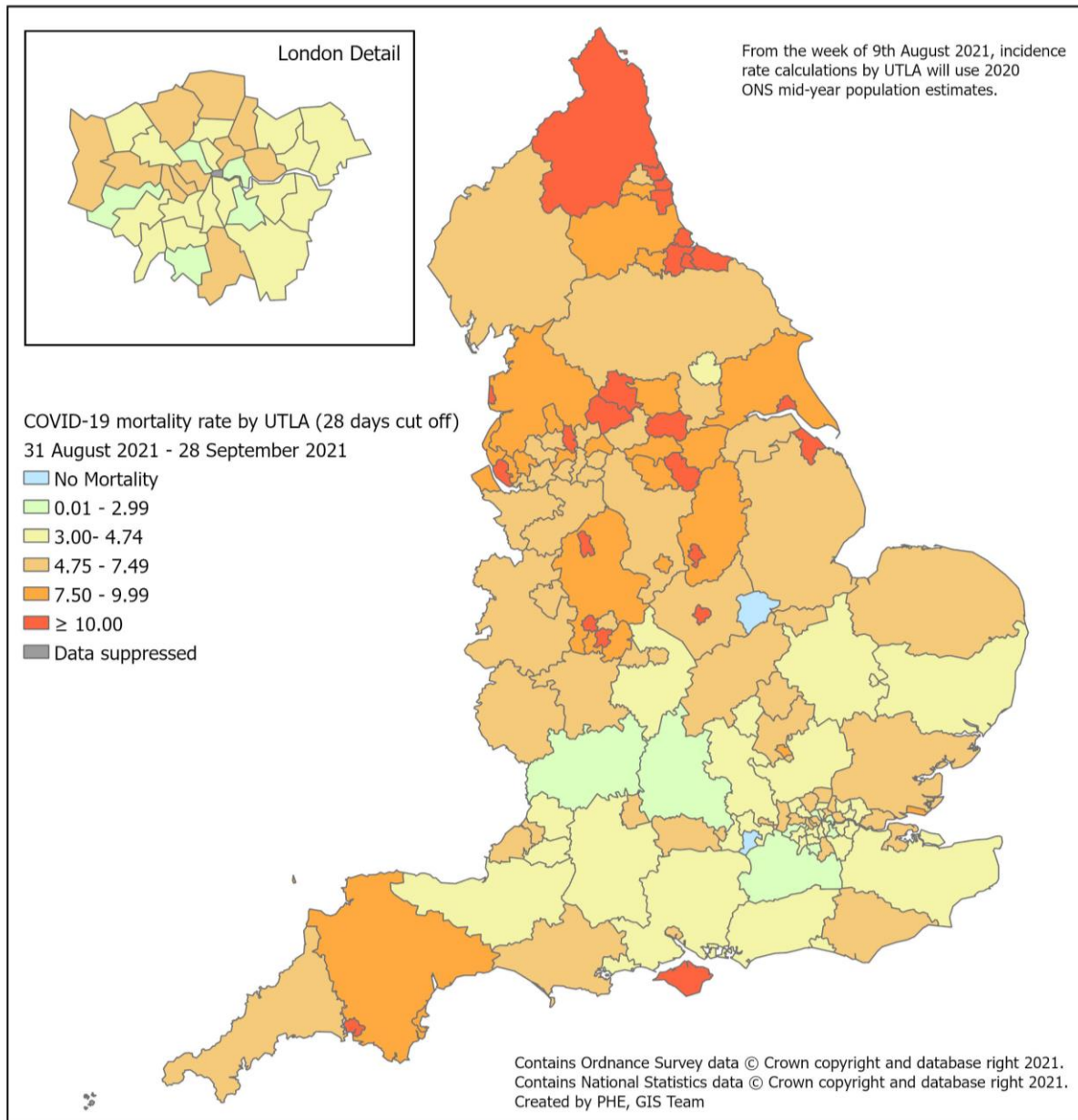
PHE Centres	28 day definition	60 day definition
North East	4,356	5,169
North West	12,895	15,369
Yorkshire and Humber	8,250	9,761
West Midlands	9,741	11,643
East Midlands	7,795	9,242
East of England	10,247	12,105
London	10,137	12,216
South East	12,570	14,909
South West	5,466	6,384

Figure 55: Cumulative mortality rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population tested under Pillars 1 and 2 for the past 4 weeks by (a) 28 day definition and (b) 60 day definition

(a)



(b)



Daily excess all-cause mortality (England)

Deaths occurring from 1 January 2020 to 22 September 2021 were assessed to calculate the daily excess above a baseline using age-group and region specific all cause deaths as provided daily by the General Register Office (GRO). The deaths were corrected to allow for delay to registration based on past data on these delays and the baseline was from the same day of the year in the previous 5 years plus or minus 7 days with an extrapolated time trend, and with 2 and 3 standard deviation (SD) limits shown (Figure 56).

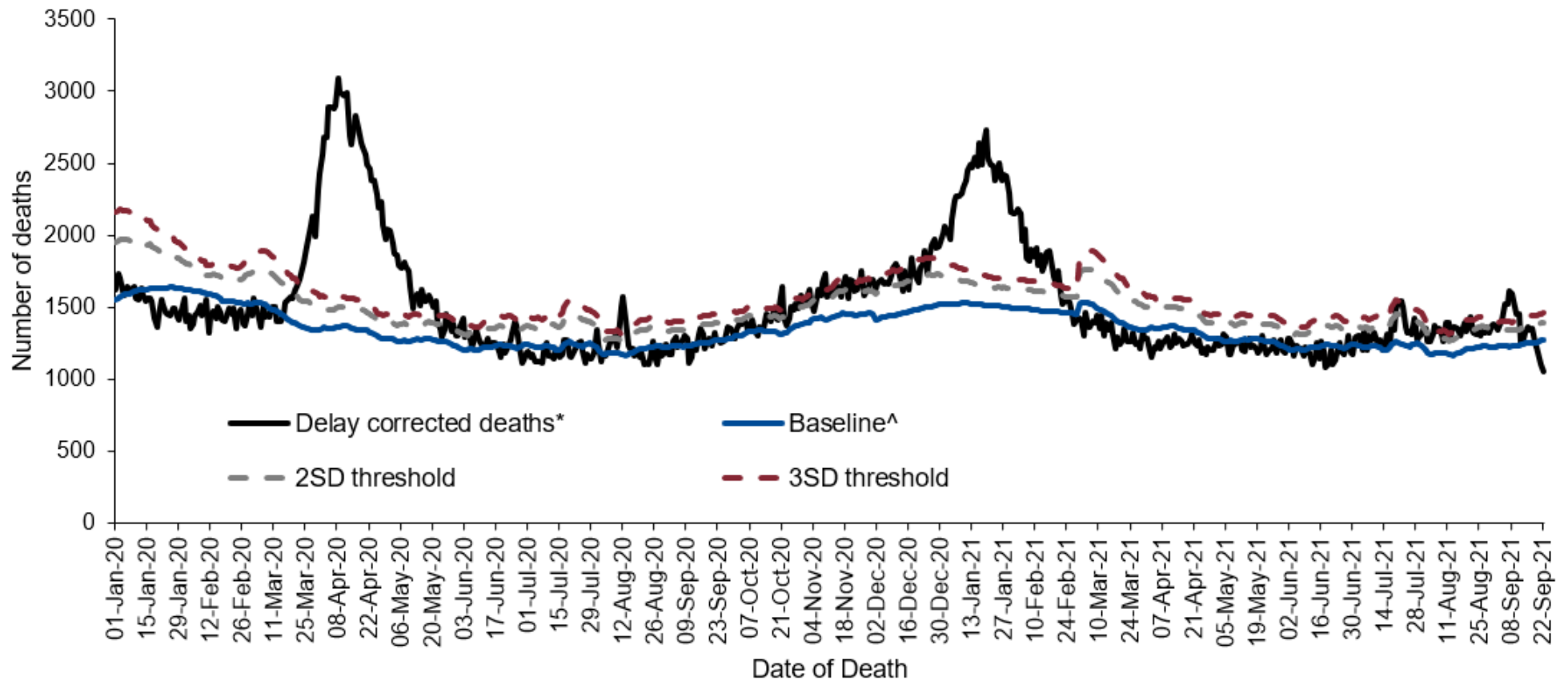
Weeks in which at least 2 days exceeded the 3SD threshold are shown in Table 7 and the daily difference from the baseline by age and region is given in Figure 56.

Note that as these data are by date of death with delay corrections, numbers are subject to change each week, particularly for more recent days.

The current week's model supersedes models presented in previous week.

No excess all-cause mortality was observed in week 37, overall, by age or sub-nationally. Week 36 2021 included a heatwave period of three days with high temperatures (mean Central England Temperature >20c) which may have contributed to the excess seen in this week. The excess mortality noted in week 33 2020 and week 29 2021 coincide with heat waves (Figure 56, 57 and Table 7).

Figure 56: Daily excess all-cause deaths in all ages, England, 1 January 2020 to 22 September 2021



^Baseline calculation:

January to November 2020: same day in previous 5 years plus or minus 1 week with a linear trend.

December 2020 to February 2021: past 3 low flu years plus or minus 2 weeks, no trend.

March 2021 onwards: same baseline as 2020

* corrected for delay to registration from death

Other measures of excess mortality published by PHE are the [Fingertips excess mortality in England report](#), which uses ONS death registration data; and the [PHE all-cause mortality surveillance report](#), which uses the EuroMOMO model to measure excess deaths.

Table 7: Excess all-cause deaths by (a) age group and (b) PHE centres, England

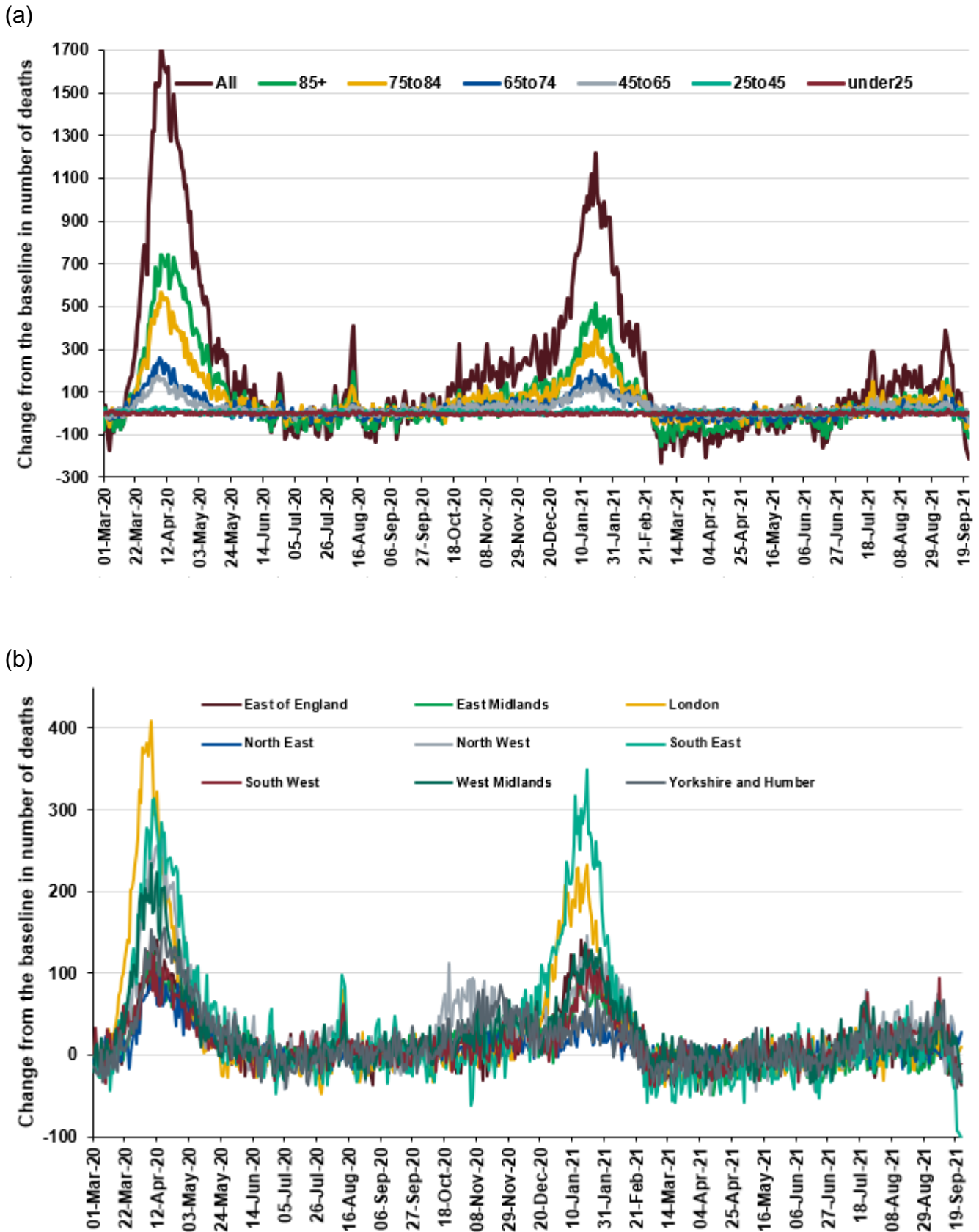
(a)

Age Group	Excess detected in week 37 2021?	Weeks in excess from week 10 to 53 2020	Weeks in excess from week 01 to 37 2021
All	x	13 to 21, 33, 43, 45 to 46, 50, 52 to 53	01 to 07, 31 to 33, 35 to 36
under 25	x	None	None
25 to 44	x	14 to 16	None
45 to 64	x	12 to 19, 49 to 50, 52 to 53	01 to 08, 29 to 30, 36
65 to 74	x	13 to 19, 46, 48, 52 to 53	01 to 07, 36
75 to 84	x	13 to 21, 33, 45, 49, 52 to 53	01 to 07, 32, 36
85+	x	13 to 21, 33, 53	01 to 07, 36

(b)

PHE Centres	Excess detected in week 37 2021?	Weeks in excess from week 10 to 53 2020	Weeks in excess from week 01 to 37 2021
East of England	x	14 to 19, 52, 53	01 to 07
East Midlands	x	13 to 19, 48	01 to 07
London	x	12 to 19, 33, 52 to 53	01 to 06, 36
North East	x	14 to 21	02 to 04
North West	x	13 to 19, 33, 42 to 47	01 to 07, 32, 35 to 36
South East	x	13 to 21, 33, 50 to 53	01 to 07
South West	x	13 to 19, 33	01 to 07, 29, 36
West Midlands	x	13 to 20, 45, 48	01 to 07, 29, 36
Yorkshire and Humber	x	14 to 21, 23, 43, 45 to 50	02 to 04, 32, 35 to 36

Figure 57: Daily excess all-cause deaths by (a) age group and (b) PHE centres, England, 1 March 2020 to 22 September 2021



Microbiological surveillance

SARS-CoV-2 variants

PHE conducts surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants. Further information including an overview of variants, information on new variants and [detailed surveillance of particular variants of concern](#) can be found on GOV.UK and in the latest [technical briefing](#).

Antimicrobial susceptibility

Table 8 shows in the 12 weeks up to week 38 2021, the proportion of all lower respiratory tract isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, MRSA and MSSA tested and susceptible to antibiotics. These organisms are the key causes of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) and the choice of antibiotics reflects the British Thoracic Society empirical guidelines for management of CAP in adults.

Table 8: Antimicrobial susceptibility surveillance in lower respiratory tract

Organism	Antibiotic	Specimens tested (N)	Specimens susceptible (%)
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	Penicillin	1,280	83
	Macrolides	1,418	79
	Tetracycline	1,377	81
<i>H. influenzae</i>	Amoxicillin/ampicillin	5,718	57
	Co-amoxiclav	6,233	63
	Macrolides	1,736	6
	Tetracycline	6,306	97
<i>S. aureus</i>	Methicillin	4,474	93
	Macrolides	5,126	71
MRSA	Clindamycin	256	51
	Tetracycline	292	70
MSSA	Clindamycin	3,172	77
	Tetracycline	3,900	93

* Macrolides = erythromycin, azithromycin and clarithromycin

Data source: PHE's SGSS AMR module, please note that this is different to the data source used in the reports published between weeks 41 2020 to 05 2021 inclusive of the 2020 to 2021 influenza season when the SGSS CDR module was used instead due to a PHE SGSS AMR data infrastructure issue which has now been resolved. Therefore, the above results are not directly comparable to the results reported between weeks 41

2020 and 05 2021. The AMR module of SGSS was used during the 2019 to 2020 influenza season. There has been a reduction in the total number of bacterial positive lower respiratory tract clinical samples reported to PHE since mid-March 2020

COVID-19 sero-prevalence surveillance

The results from testing samples provided by healthy adult blood donors aged 17 years and older, supplied by the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHS BT collection) between weeks 35 2020 and week 37 2021 are summarised. This programme has previously involved testing approximately 1,000 donor samples from 2 different NHS regions each week. As of week 44 2020, approximately 250 samples from each geographic NHS region are tested each week. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign began on the 8 December 2020 (week 50) with a phased roll out by age and risk group.

Seroprevalence in Adults aged 17 years and older (Blood Donors)

The results presented here are based on testing blood donor samples with Roche nucleoprotein (N) and Roche spike (S) antibody assays.

Nucleoprotein (Roche N) assays only detect post-infection antibodies, whereas spike (Roche S) assays will detect both post-infection antibodies and vaccine-induced antibodies. Thus, changes in seropositivity for the Roche N assay will reflect the effect of natural infection. Increases in seropositivity as measured by S antibody will reflect both infection and vaccination. Antibody responses to both targets will reflect infection or vaccination occurring at least 2 to 3 weeks previously given the time taken to generate a COVID-19 antibody response. Donors have been asked to defer donations for at least 7 full days post vaccination.

This report presents Roche N and Roche S seropositivity estimates on the same set of samples, using a 4-week rolling prevalence for national and age group estimates and a 12-week rolling prevalence for regional estimates. Seroprevalence estimates reported are based on seropositivity which are unadjusted for the sensitivity and specificity of the assays used.

National prevalence

Overall population weighted (by age group, sex and NHS region) antibody prevalence among blood donors aged 17 years and older in England was 18.7% (95% CI 17.6% - 19.8%) using the Roche N assay and 97.9% (95% CI 97.4% - 98.3%) using the Roche S assay for the period 26 August to 17 September (weeks 34 to 37 2021). 1,153 out of 6,436 were Roche N positive and 6,322 out of 6,435 samples were Roche S positive. This compares with 18.9% (95% CI 17.9% - 19.8%) Roche N seropositivity and 97.8% (95% CI 97.4% - 98.1%) Roche S seropositivity for the period of 26 July 2021 to 20 August 2021 (weeks 30 to 33 2021).

Seropositivity (weighted by region, age group and sex) varies over time. Figure 58 shows the overall 4-weekly rolling proportion seropositive over time for the Roche N and Roche S assays. Seropositivity estimates are plotted weekly using the mid-point of a rolling 4-weekly period.

Regional prevalence of infection over time

Seropositivity (weighted by age group and sex) using the Roche N assay which detects infection only, varies by region (Figure 59).

Regional seropositivity estimates are plotted using the mid-point of a 12-weekly rolling period that reduces to 8 weekly in the most recent weeks to allow for a more representative current estimate of seropositivity. Previously, regional Roche N seropositivity was reported using a 4-week rolling period; however, this was changed due to the difficulty interpreting regional trends when using a 4-weekly window, given the fluctuation in sampling locations each week for some regions.

In London, the 12-weekly rolling seropositivity increased from 23.5% (95% CI 21.9% - 25.1%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 26.0% (95% CI 24.1% - 28.0%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

Data from the Midlands show the proportion seropositive increased from 15.4% (95% CI 14.1% - 16.8%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 20.0% (95% CI 18.2% - 22.0%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

Seropositivity in the North East and Yorkshire region increased from 14.7% (95% CI 13.4% - 16.1%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 19.1% (95% CI 17.3% - 21.0%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

Data from the North West show that seropositivity has increased from 20.5% (95% CI 19.0% - 22.0%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 22.3% (95% CI 20.3% - 24.3%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

Seropositivity increased in the South East region from 11.8% (95% CI 10.6% - 13.0%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 14.3% (95% CI 12.7% - 16.0%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

In the South West region, seropositivity increased from 8.8% (95% CI 7.8% - 10.0%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 12.5% (95% CI 11.1% - 14.2%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

In the East of England, seropositivity increased from 13.8% (95% CI 12.6% - 15.1%) in weeks 18 to 29 2021 to 15.3% (95% CI 13.6% - 17.1%) in weeks 30 to 37 2021.

London has consistently seen the highest Roche N seropositivity with the lowest observed in the South West.

Prevalence by age group

Seropositivity estimates by age group using the Roche N and Roche S assays are presented below. Prevalence for all age groups for weeks 41 to 44 has been excluded due to a change in sampling strategy from week 44 which resulted in a small number of samples from older age groups in some regions which makes interpretation of trends for this period difficult.

Based on testing samples using the Roche N assay (Figure 60) as a marker of infection, the highest seropositivity has consistently been observed in those aged 17 to 29 and the lowest in those aged 70 to 84.

Small increases in Roche N seropositivity have recently been observed in 30 to 39-year olds from 20.8% (95% CI 18.7%- 23.0%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 23.3% (95% CI 20.8% - 26.1%) in weeks 34 to 37 and in individuals aged 60 to 69 from 11.3% (95% CI 9.7% – 13.0%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 13.0% (95% CI 11.2% - 15.1%) in weeks 34 to 37. Prevalence in individuals aged 17 to 29 has decreased from 29.0% (95% CI 26.2% - 31.9%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 28.0% (95% CI 24.7% - 31.6%) in weeks 34 to 37 and in those aged 40 to 49 years from 19.8% (95% CI 17.7% - 21.9%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 18.2% (95% CI 16.0% - 20.5%) in weeks 34 to 37. Similarly, decreases were also observed in 50 to 59 year olds from 18.5% (95% CI 16.9% - 20.3%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 17.5% (95% CI 15.6% - 19.5%) in weeks 34 to 37 and in individuals aged 70 to 84 from 8.2% (95% CI 6.1% - 10.9%) in weeks 30 to 33 to 6.7% (95% CI 4.8% - 9.5%) in weeks 34 to 37. Decreases in Roche N seropositivity may be due to waning of the N antibody response over time, however it's important to note that confidence intervals overlap.

The sharp increases in seropositivity across all age groups using the Roche S assay reflect the presence of antibodies induced by vaccination (Figure 60).

Roche S seropositivity increased earliest in those aged 70 to 84 and since week 13 plateaued, reaching 99.3% (95% CI 97.6% - 99.8%) in weeks 34 to 37 2021. Seropositivity in those aged 60 to 69 has also plateaued since week 16 reaching 98.8% (95% CI 97.8% - 99.3%) in weeks 34 to 37 2021. A plateauing in Roche S seropositivity since week 19 has been observed in those aged 50 to 59 reaching 99.0% (95% CI 98.4% - 99.4%) in weeks 34 to 37 2021. A plateauing in seropositivity has been observed in the 40 to 49-year olds since week 23 reaching 98.5% (95% CI 97.6% – 99.0%) in weeks 34 to 37. Plateauing has been observed in the 30 to 39-year olds from week 28 reaching 97.5% (95% CI 96.3% - 98.3%) in weeks 34 to 37. A plateauing in seropositivity has recently been observed in the 17 to 29-year olds reaching 95.5% (95% CI 93.4% - 96.9%) in weeks 34 to 37 2021.

Seropositivity estimates for S antibody in blood donors are likely to be higher than would be expected in the general population and this probably reflects the fact that donors are

more likely to be vaccinated. Seropositivity estimates for N antibody will underestimate the proportion of the population previously infected due to (i) blood donors are potentially less likely to be exposed to natural infection than age matched individuals in the general population (ii) waning of the N antibody response over time and (iii) recent observations from PHE surveillance data that N antibody titres appear to be lower in individuals who acquire infection following two doses of vaccination.

Vaccination has made an important contribution to the overall Roche S increases observed since the roll out of the vaccination programme, initially amongst individuals aged 50 years and above who were prioritised for vaccination as part of the phase 1 programme and more recently in younger adults as part of phase 2 of the vaccination programme. Roche S seropositivity is now >95% across all adult age groups.

Figure 58: Overall 4-weekly rolling SARS-CoV-2 antibody seroprevalence (% seropositive) in blood donors

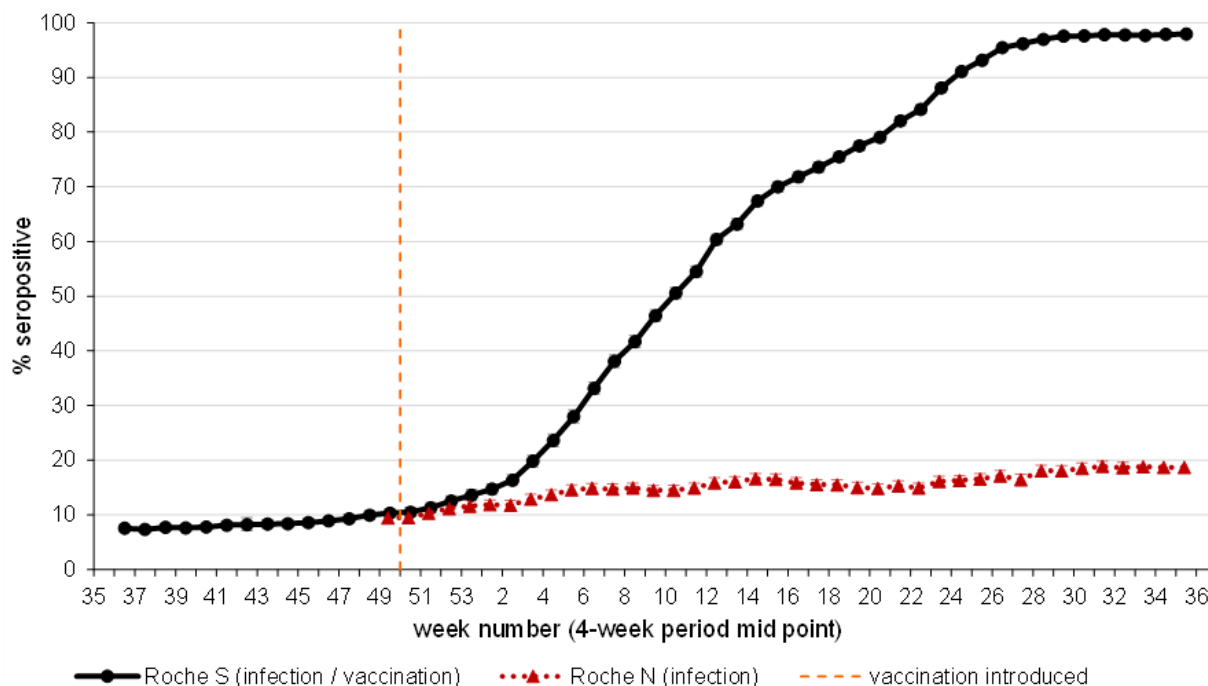


Figure 59: 12-weekly rolling SARS-CoV-2 antibody seroprevalence (% seropositive) in blood donors by region, using Roche N test; error bars show 95% confidence intervals

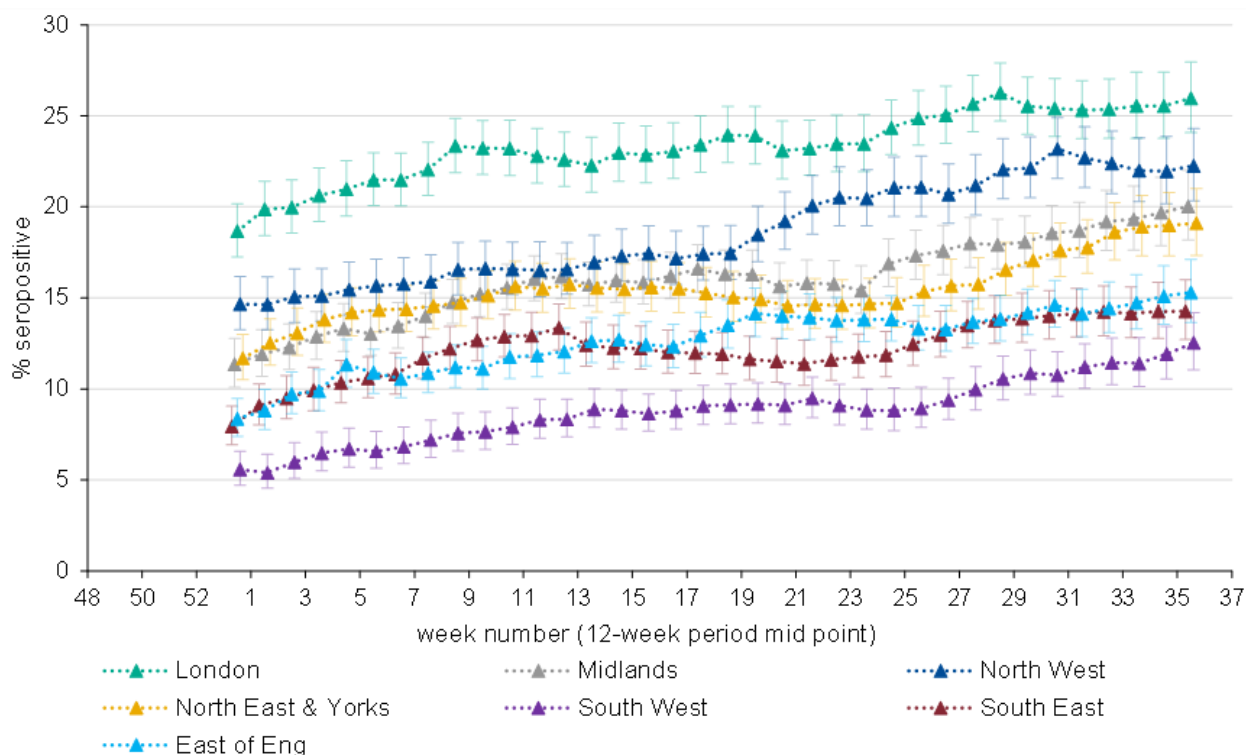
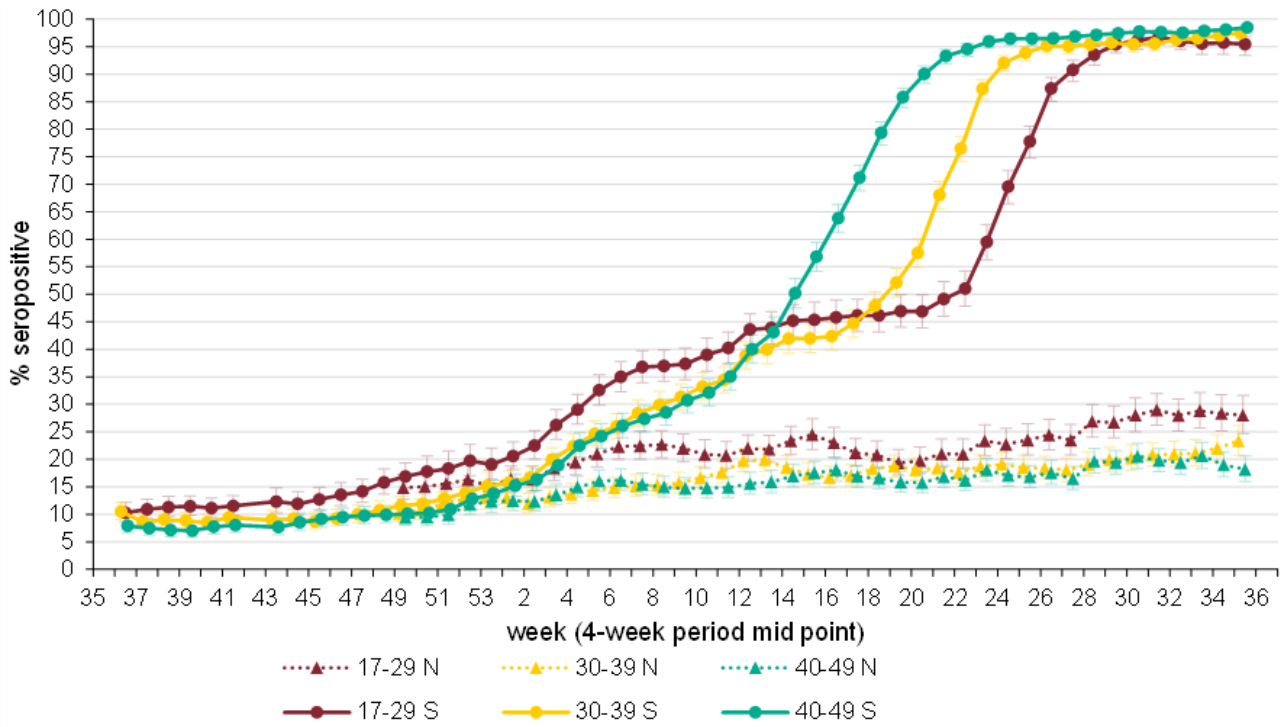
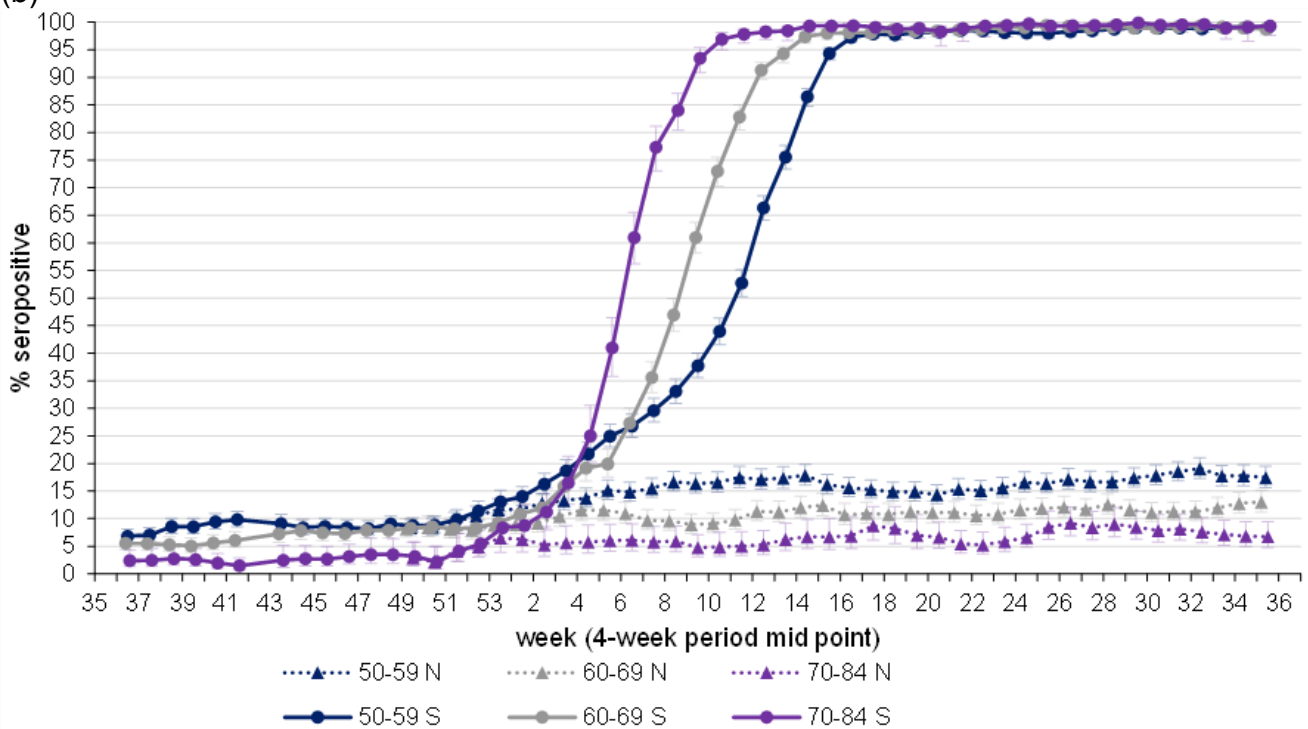


Figure 60: Population weighted 4-weekly rolling SARS-CoV-2 antibody seroprevalence (% seropositive) in blood donors from the Roche S and Roche N assays by a) age groups 17 to 29, 30 to 39 and 40 to 49, b) age group 50 to 59, 60 to 69 and 70 to 84

(a)



(b)



COVID-19 vaccination

COVID-19 vaccine uptake in England

COVID-19 vaccinations began in England on 8 December 2020 during week 50 2020 (week ending 13 December 2020). Cumulative data up to week 38 2021 (week ending 26 September 2021) was extracted from the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS). The data presented this week is the provisional proportion of people in England who had received one dose and two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination by age group. The overall vaccine uptake in the population for dose 1 was 65.1% and 59.9% for dose 2. The breakdown by sex showed vaccine uptake in males was 62.6% and 67.4% in females for dose 1. For dose 2 total uptake was 57.4% in males and 62.5% in females. The vaccine uptake rate in adults aged 18 and over was 79.9% (39,628,864/49,599,164) for dose 1 and 74.8% (37,120,858/49, 599,164) for dose 2.

Table 9: Provisional cumulative COVID-19 vaccine uptake by age in England

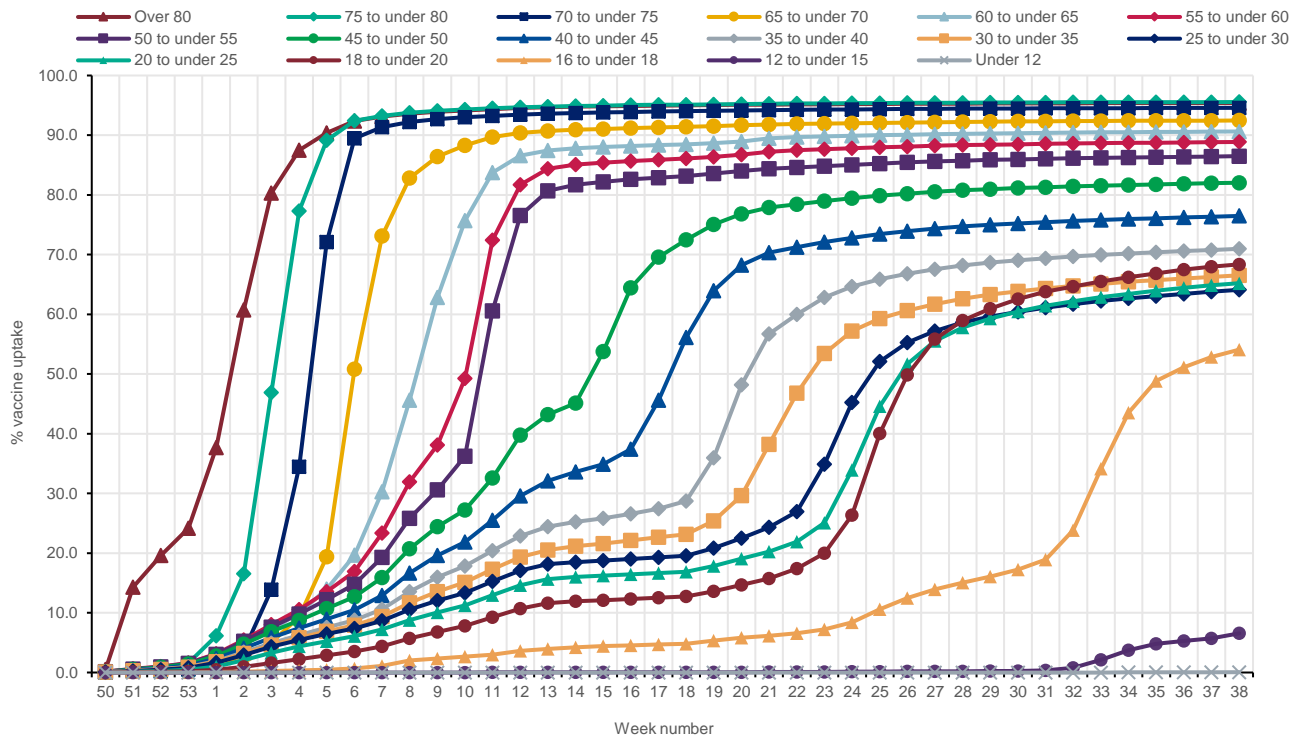
NATIONAL	Vaccinated with at least 1 dose			Vaccinated with 2 doses		
	People in NIMS cohort	Number vaccinated	% vaccine uptake	People in NIMS cohort	Number vaccinated	% vaccine uptake
Over 80	2,740,394	2,613,886	95.4	2,740,394	2,568,900	93.7
75 to under 80	2,065,917	1,974,279	95.6	2,065,917	1,953,734	94.6
70 to under 75	2,863,771	2,708,655	94.6	2,863,771	2,678,866	93.5
65 to under 70	2,887,713	2,670,319	92.5	2,887,713	2,630,149	91.1
60 to under 65	3,451,311	3,127,794	90.6	3,451,311	3,049,302	88.4
55 to under 60	4,080,980	3,626,521	88.9	4,080,980	3,519,701	86.2
50 to under 55	4,233,801	3,662,144	86.5	4,233,801	3,543,728	83.7
45 to under 50	4,012,621	3,291,738	82.0	4,012,621	3,142,843	78.3
40 to under 45	4,142,416	3,168,110	76.5	4,142,416	2,973,532	71.8
35 to under 40	4,534,322	3,217,975	71.0	4,534,322	2,944,114	64.9
30 to under 35	4,785,508	3,183,795	66.5	4,785,508	2,820,750	58.9
25 to under 30	4,493,225	2,880,255	64.1	4,493,225	2,458,342	54.7
20 to under 25	3,956,026	2,579,632	65.2	3,956,026	2,105,285	53.2
18 to under 20	1,351,159	923,761	68.4	1,351,159	731,612	54.1
16 to under 18	1,357,434	734,105	54.1	1,357,434	200,448	14.8
12 to under 16	2,849,729	187,003	6.6	2,849,729	5,895	0.2
Under 12	8,533,224	4,609	0.1	8,533,224	61	0.0
Total*	62,339,551	40,555,030	65.1	62,339,551	37,327,648	59.9

*Caution should be exercised when summing the regional or age figures as the sum of the regions will not equal the England total. This is due to individuals vaccinated in England who have a registered address in Scotland or Wales or where their address is unknown. There were also vaccinations where the individual had an unknown region and age group.

Data are provisional and subject to change following further validation checks. Any changes to historic figures will be reflected in the most recent publication. Please note that numbers published by PHE are for public health surveillance purposes only.

Figure 61: Cumulative weekly COVID-19 vaccine uptake by age in England for (a) Dose 1 and (b) Dose 2

(a)



(b)

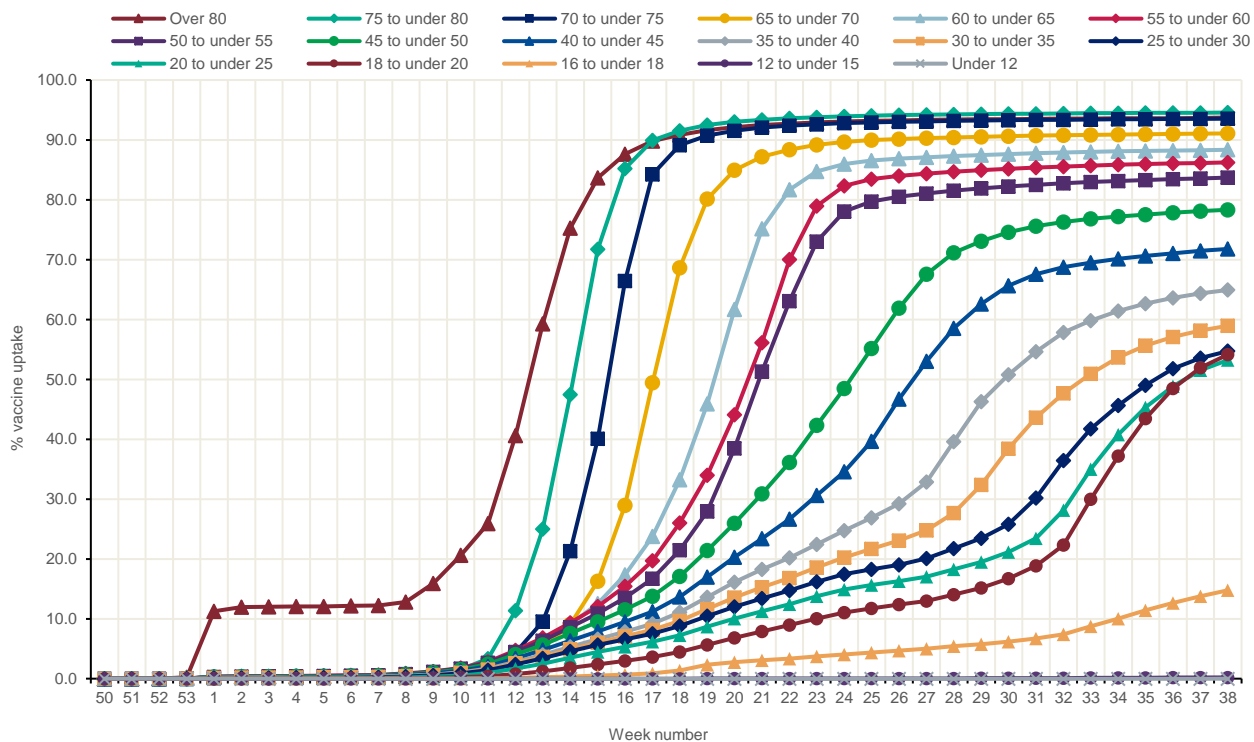


Figure 62: Age-Sex pyramid for COVID-19 vaccine uptake by age in England for Dose 1

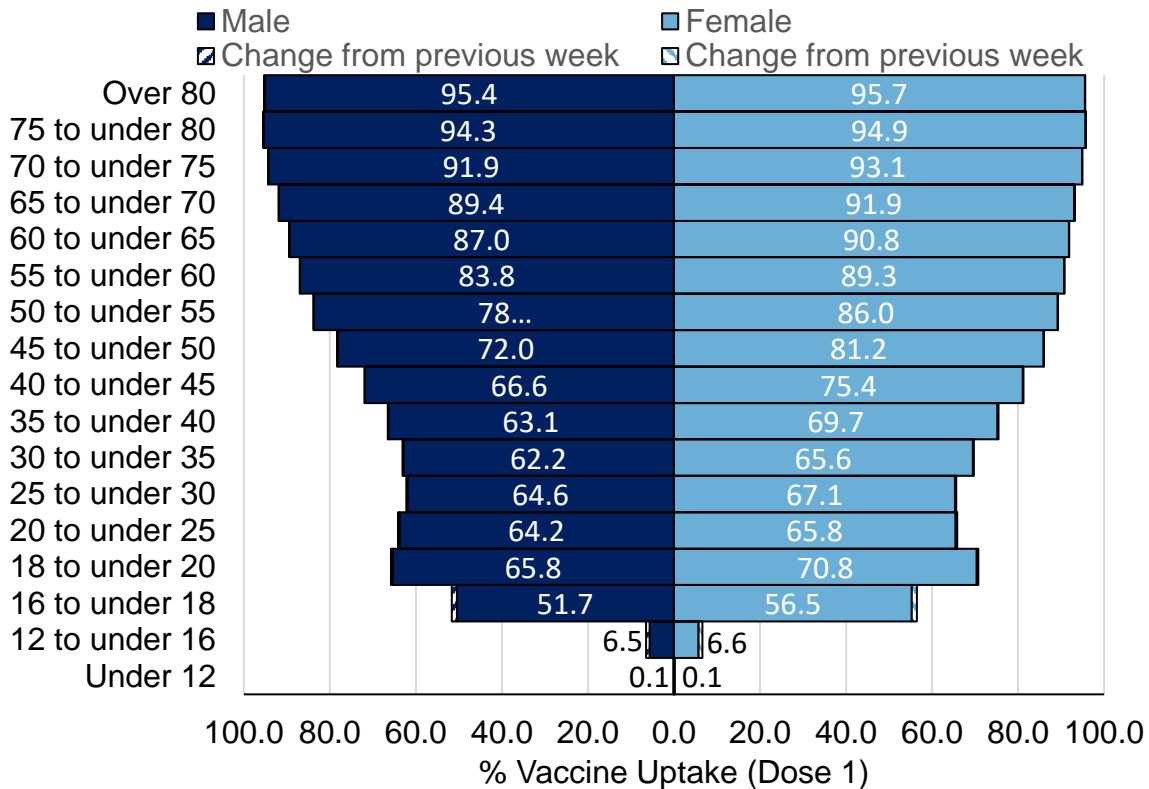


Figure 63: Age-Sex pyramid for COVID-19 vaccine uptake by age in England for Dose 2

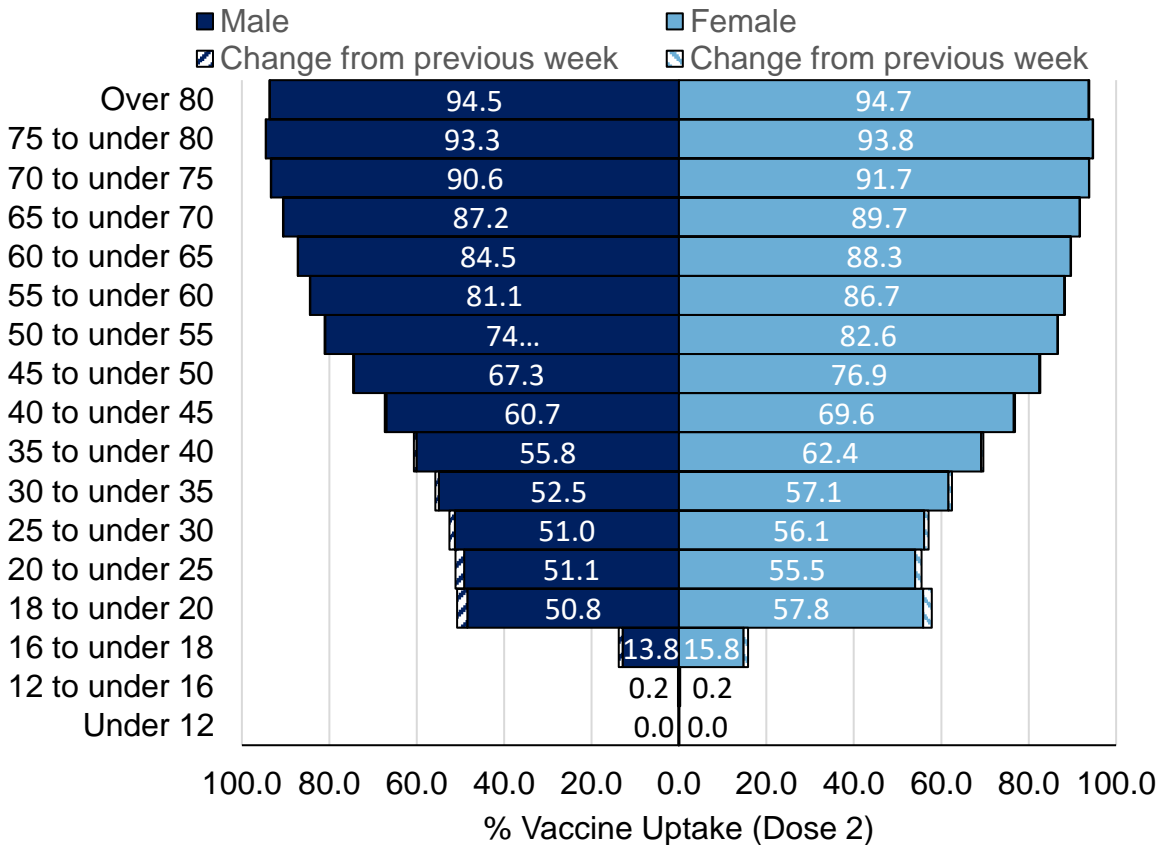
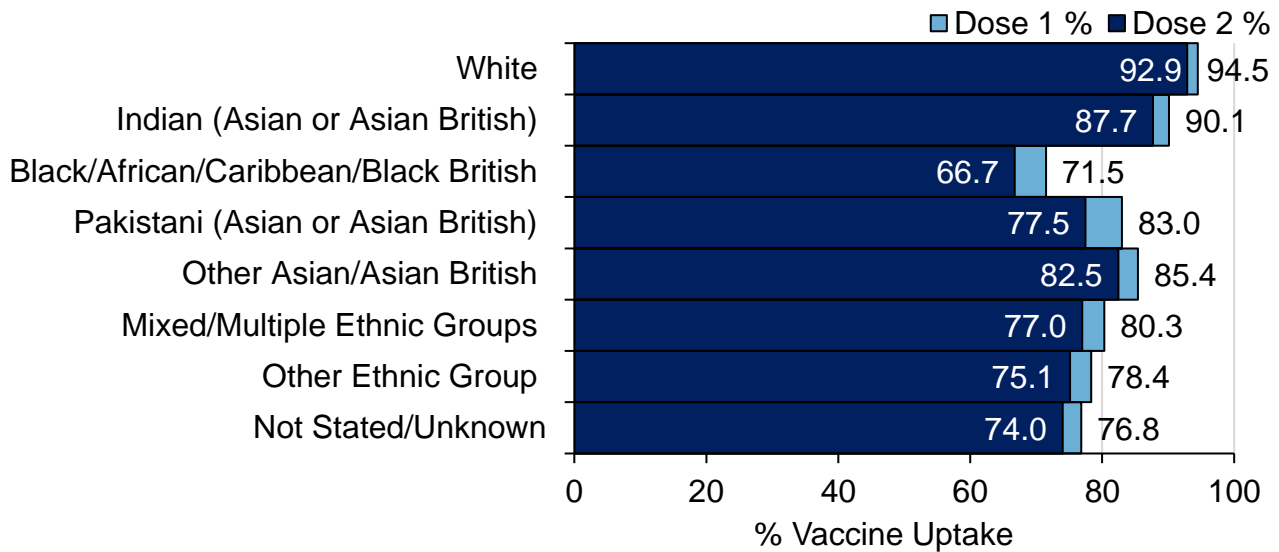


Figure 64: Cumulative weekly COVID-19 vaccine uptake by ethnicity in England in those aged 50 and over



From the 6 January 2021 (week 1 2021), the JCVI advises initially prioritising delivery of the first vaccine dose to maximise the public health impact in the short term and reduce the number of preventable deaths from COVID-19. [See statement.](#)

For UK COVID-19 daily counts of vaccinations, please see the [Vaccinations' section of the UK COVID-19 dashboard.](#)

For COVID-19 management information on the number of COVID-19 vaccinations provided by the NHS in England, please see the [COVID-19 vaccinations](#) webpage.

International update

Global COVID-19 update

Globally, up to 21 September 2021, a total of 232,987,672 cases of COVID-19 infection have been reported worldwide, including 4,766,119 COVID-19 related deaths.

For further information on the global COVID-19 situation please see the [WHO COVID-19 situation reports](#).

Figure 65: Global map of cumulative COVID-19 cases

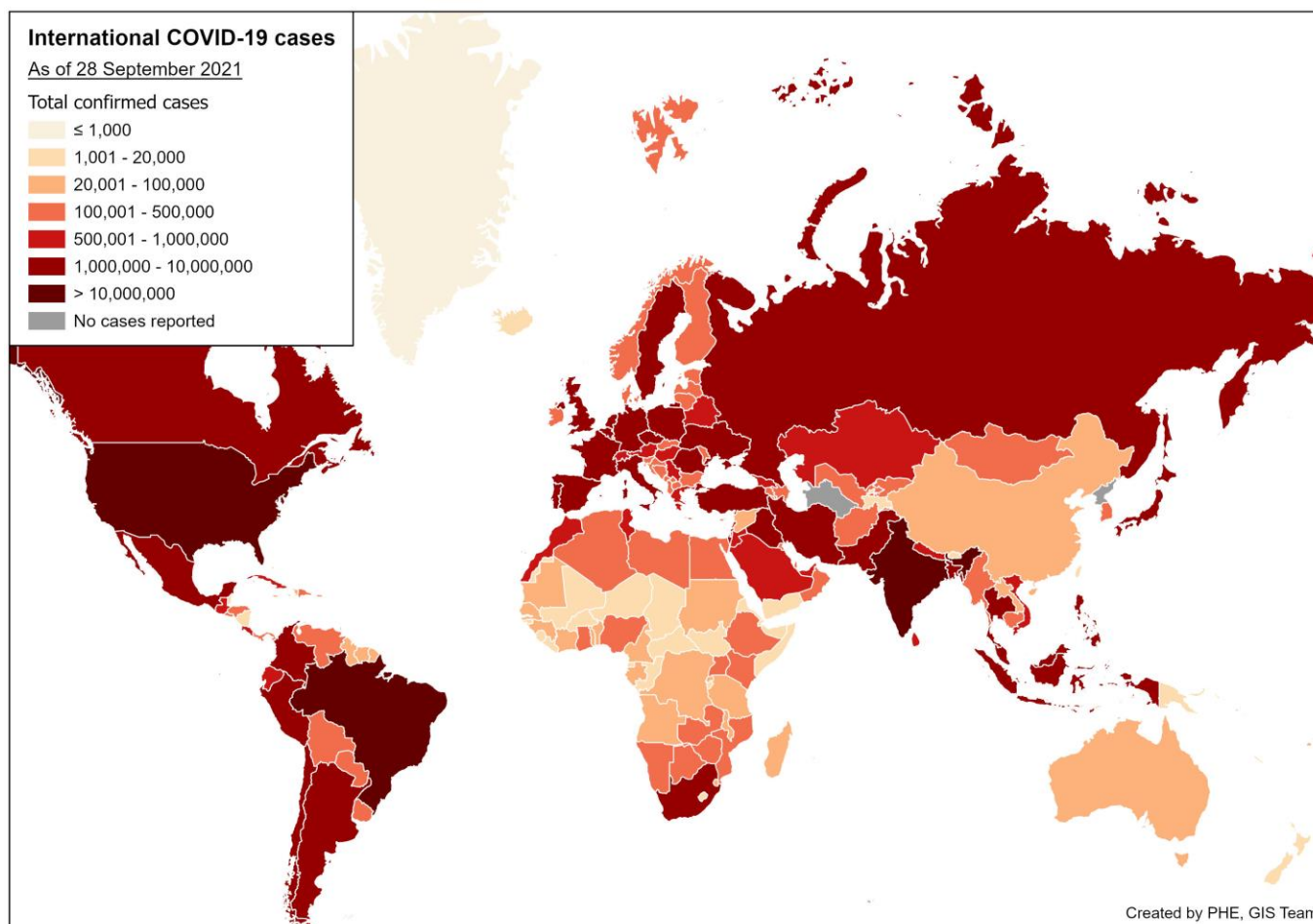
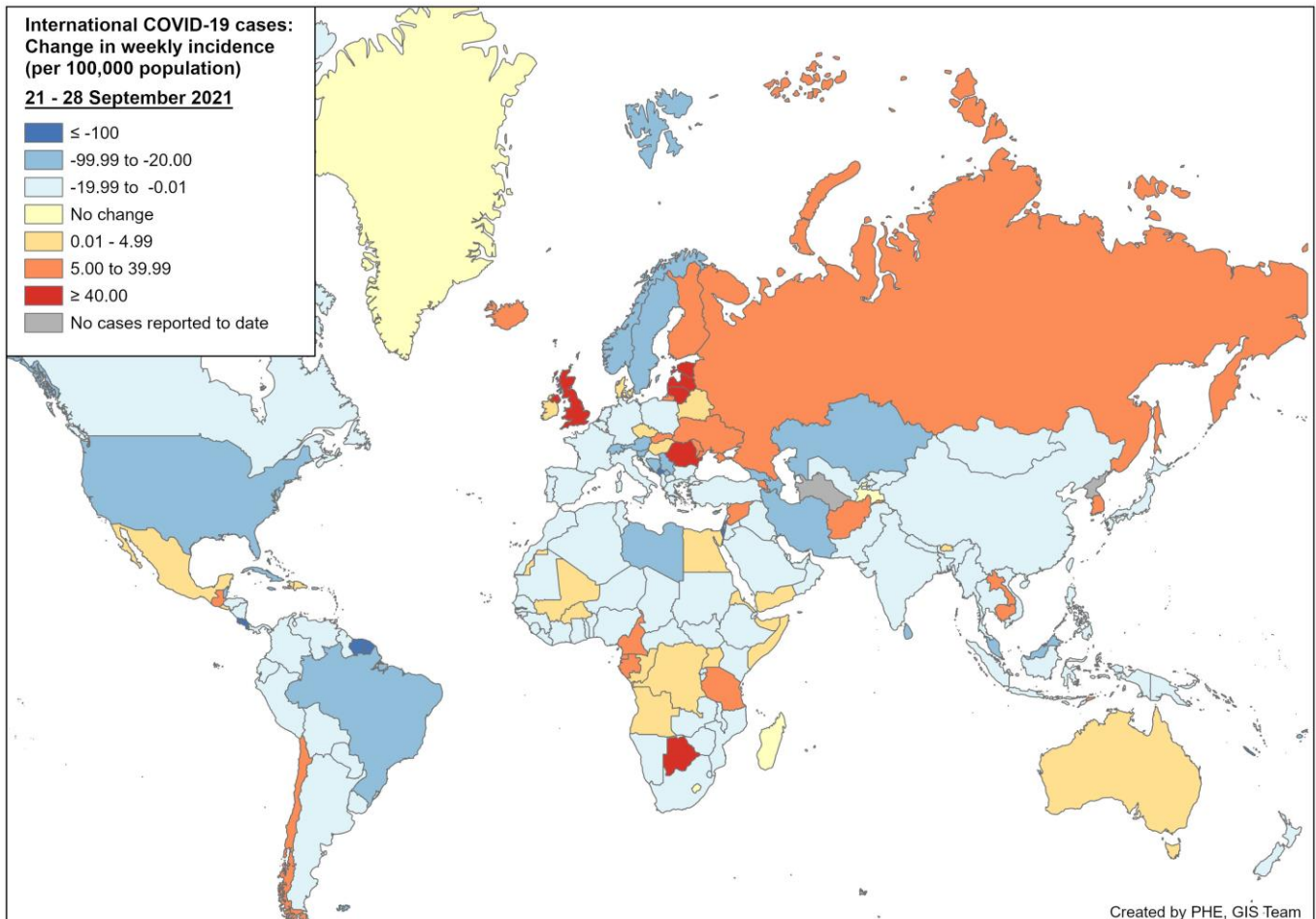


Figure 66: Global map of change in weekly COVID-19 case incidence rate per 100,000 population compared to the previous week



Global influenza update

Updated on 17 September 2021 (based on data up to 12 September 2021) ([WHO website](#)).

In the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained below baseline overall. In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity was reported at inter-seasonal levels. Worldwide, influenza A and B viruses were detected in similar proportions.

In the Caribbean and Central American countries, sporadic influenza B virus detections were reported in some countries.

In tropical South America, one influenza A detection was reported in Peru this period.

In Western Africa, a few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections were reported in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali. Ghana also reported influenza A(H3N2) detections. Senegal reported detections of influenza A viruses. SARI activity was high in Togo but no influenza detections were reported.

In Middle Africa, Cameroon reported a few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and one influenza B/Victoria lineage detection.

In Eastern Africa, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections were reported in Tanzania. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were reported in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. Influenza B viruses (Victoria lineage for those where lineage was determined) were reported in Kenya and Mozambique. ILI rates remained elevated in Zambia.

In Southern Asia, influenza detections of predominantly A(H3N2) and influenza B/Victoria lineage viruses continued to be reported in India and Nepal, though showing a decreasing trend. In addition, a few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections were reported in India. Sporadic detections of influenza A(H3N2) viruses were reported in Pakistan.

In South East Asia, a few influenza A(H3N2) virus detections were reported in the Philippines in recent weeks. In Lao People's Democratic Republic, ILI and SARI levels remained below the average of the previous three years.

In the countries of North America, influenza activity indicators, including the percent of tests positive for influenza and influenza like illness (ILI) activity, were at low levels with sporadic detections of influenza A and B viruses.

In Europe, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels with detections of influenza A (predominated A(H3N2) for those specimens that were subtyped) and B viruses reported in some countries.

In Central Asia, no influenza detections were reported across reporting countries in this period.

In Northern Africa, no reports were received for this reporting period.

In Western Asia, Lebanon, Oman and Qatar reported influenza A(H3N2) virus detections.

In East Asia, influenza illness indicators and influenza activity remained low.

The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 275,940 specimens during the period 30 August to 12 September 2021. A total of 1884 specimens were positive for influenza viruses, of which 808 (42.9%) were typed as influenza A and 1076 (57.1%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 54 (7.3%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 686 (92.7%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 973 (99.8%) belonged to the B-Victoria lineage and 2 (0.2%) to the B-Yamagata lineage.

Influenza in Europe

Updated on 23 September 2021 ([Joint ECDC-WHO Europe Influenza weekly update](#))

For weeks 33 to 36 of 2021, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels throughout Europe.

For week 36 2021, of 424 sentinel specimens tested for influenza viruses, none were positive. Since the start of the 2020 to 2021 season, of 50,578 sentinel-source specimens tested for influenza viruses, 47 were positive.

Influenza in the Northern Hemisphere

For further information on influenza in the United States of America please see the [Centre for Disease Control weekly influenza surveillance report](#).

For further information on influenza in Canada please see the [Public Health Agency weekly influenza report](#).

Other respiratory viruses

Avian influenza

Latest update on 08 August 2021 ([WHO website](#)).

Since the previous update on 22 June 2021, one human case of infection with an avian influenza A(H5N1) virus and six human cases of infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) viruses were reported officially.

Influenza A(H5) viruses:

According to reports received by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), various influenza A(H5) subtypes continue to be detected in birds in Africa, Europe and Asia.

Influenza A(H7N9) viruses:

There have been no publicly available reports from animal health authorities in China or other countries on influenza A(H7N9) virus detections in animals in recent months. Overall, the risk assessments have not changed.

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Latest update on 17 August 2021 ([WHO website](#)).

Up to 17 August 2021, a total of 5 cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, MERS-CoV, (three imported and 2 linked cases) have been confirmed in the UK through the on-going surveillance since September 2012.

On 2 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) notified WHO of one laboratory-confirmed case of MERS-CoV ([WHO website](#)).

Between 12 March and 31 July 2021, the National IHR Focal Point of Saudi Arabia reported four additional cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection, including one associated death. ([WHO website](#)).

From 2012 through 31 July 2021, a total of 2,578 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV and 888 associated deaths were reported globally to WHO under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

Further information on management and guidance of possible cases is available online. The latest ECDC MERS-CoV risk assessment can be found [here](#), where it is highlighted that risk of widespread transmission of MERS-CoV remains very low.

Related links

[Previous national COVID-19 reports](#)

[Previous weekly influenza reports](#)

[Annual influenza reports](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine surveillance reports](#)

[PHE monitoring of the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination](#)

[Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern: technical briefings](#)

PHE has delegated authority, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to process Patient Confidential Data under Regulation 3 The Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002

Regulation 3 makes provision for the processing of patient information for the recognition, control and prevention of communicable disease and other risks to public health.

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000

www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk)

www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

© Crown copyright 2021

Prepared by: The Immunisation and Countermeasures Division, National Infection Service
For queries relating to this document, please contact: respscidsc@phe.gov.uk

Published 30 September 2021

Gateway number: GOV-8887

OGL

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [OGL](https://www.ogil.io). Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.



PHE supports the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

