



16 December 2020.

Field Service | From local to global: combining expertise in epidemiology and microbiology to protect the population from public health threats.

Contact ReSST

**Year: 2020    Week: 50**

## Summary.

[Subscribe to the weekly syndromic surveillance email](#)

### Reporting week: 07 December to 13 December 2020.

Emergency department COVID-19-like attendances continued to decrease during week 50, but at a slower rate compared to previous weeks. All syndromic indicators for influenza-like illness remain stable and below seasonally expected levels.

**Note:** during the COVID-19 pandemic, patients with COVID-19 symptoms are generally advised to initially access a COVID-19 test through the national COVID-19 testing programme. This is likely to result in lower numbers of patients accessing health advice as monitored through syndromic surveillance systems. Syndromic data should therefore be interpreted with some caution and in the context of other COVID-19 monitoring data sources.

#### Remote Health Advice:

NHS 111 'potential COVID-19' calls and online assessments were stable during week 50 (figures 8 & 17) however online assessments increased in London and the South East (figure 17b). Calls for 'loss of taste or smell' were stable but online assessments increased (figures 5 & 15). Online assessments for cold/flu increased slightly (figure 12).

[Access bulletin](#)

#### GP In Hours:

During week 50 COVID-19-like consultations decreased (figure 1). Other respiratory indicators remained stable, including influenza-like illness (figure 3). Please note that from 14-18 November 2020 a technical problem at one of our data providers resulted in over-reporting of daily COVID consultations. This issue has now been rectified however we have highlighted this period of poor data quality in Figure 1.

[Access bulletin](#)

#### GP Out of Hours:

During week 50, GP out of hours respiratory indicators remained stable, although influenza-like illness contacts decreased slightly (figures 2-6).

[Access bulletin](#)

#### Emergency Department:

Emergency department COVID-19-like attendances decreased further during week 50 but at a slower rate compared to previous weeks (figure 3). Attendances stabilised in the North East, East Midlands and South East, but increased in East of England and London PHE Centres (figure 3b).

[Access bulletin](#)

#### Ambulance:

COVID-19-like and breathing problems ambulance calls increased during week 50 (figures 2 and 3).

[Access bulletin](#)

16 December 2020

- Key messages are provided from each individual system.
- The different PHE syndromic surveillance systems access data from different areas of the national health care system.
- Each syndromic surveillance system is able to monitor a different selection of syndromic indicators based upon a different case mix of patients.
- Access to the full version of each syndromic surveillance bulletin is available through the PHE Syndromic Surveillance website found at: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses>); reports are made available on Thursday afternoons.

---

## **Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance System:**

*A remote health advice syndromic surveillance system that monitors syndromic calls from remote health advice services e.g. NHS 111 each day across England.*

## **GP In-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System:**

*A large general practitioner surveillance system monitoring daily consultations for a range of clinical syndromic indicators across England.*

## **GP Out-of-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System (GPOOHS):**

*A syndromic surveillance system monitoring daily GP out-of hours activity and unscheduled care across England using a range of clinical syndromic indicators.*

## **Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance System (EDSSS):**

*A national ED network across England monitoring daily attendances and presenting symptoms/diagnoses.*

## **National Ambulance Syndromic Surveillance System (NASSS):**

*The national ambulance syndromic surveillance system (NASSS) monitors daily calls made by persons to an ambulance trust. All 10 ambulance trusts in England provide data.*

---

We thank and acknowledge the contribution of all data providers including:

- NHS 111 and NHS Digital.
  - QSurveillance®; University of Oxford; EMIS/EMIS practices; ClinRisk®.
  - TPP, ResearchOne and participating SystemOne GP practices.
  - Advanced Health & Care and the participating OOH service providers.
  - Participating EDSSS emergency departments.
  - Royal College of Emergency Medicine.
  - North East, North West, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East Coast, South Central, and South Western NHS Ambulance Trusts and The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives.
- 

## **PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team.**

Public Health England, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 5 St Philips Place, Birmingham, B3 2PW. **Tel:** 0344 225 3560 > Option 4 > Option 2.

**Web:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses>