



20 April 2021.

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

Contact: ReSST

Year: 2021 Week: 15

Summary.

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Reporting week: 12 April to 18 April 2021.

During week 15, COVID-19-like syndromic indicators decreased or remained stable. Selected acute respiratory indicators remained elevated in young children.

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:

During week 15, NHS 111 respiratory calls (including cold/flu, cough and difficulty breathing) decreased or remained stable overall. Eye problems calls increased in week 15 in line with seasonal expectations (figure 11). NHS 111 'potential COVID-19' calls remained stable (figure 8). All NHS 111 online assessment indicators were stable or decreasing during week 15 (figures 12-17).

[Access bulletin](#)

GP In Hours:

During week 15, COVID-19 consultations remained stable (figure 1). Influenza-like illness also remained stable and was below expected levels for this time of year (figure 3). Consultations for upper and lower respiratory tract infections decreased in children aged <5 years (figures 2a & 6a).

[Access bulletin](#)

GP Out of Hours:

During week 15, GP out of hours contacts for acute respiratory infection and difficulty breathing/wheeze/asthma decreased and remained below seasonally expected levels (figures 2 & 5).

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Emergency Department:

COVID-19-like emergency department attendances continued to decrease during week 15 (figure 3). Acute respiratory infection and bronchiolitis attendances remained elevated in infants under 1 year during week 15 (figure 5a). Asthma increased in the over 65 years age group in week 15 (figure 9a). Gastroenteritis increased in the 1-4 years for week 15 (figure 11a).

[Access bulletin](#)

Ambulance:

Ambulance COVID-19-like and breathing problems calls decreased during week 15 (figures 2 & 3).

[Access bulletin](#)

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- 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.
- TPP, ResearchOne and participating SystmOne 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.

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