



28 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: 16

## Summary.

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Reporting week: 19 April to 25 April 2021.

During week 16, COVID-19-like syndromic indicators decreased or remained stable. Selected acute respiratory indicators increased slightly 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 16, there were small increases in NHS 111 calls for cough, difficulty breathing and sore throat, mainly in children under 15 years (figures 4, 4a, 6, 6a, 7, & 7a). NHS 111 'potential COVID-19' calls remained stable (figure 8). All NHS 111 online assessment indicators were stable or decreasing during week 16 (figures 12-17)

[Access bulletin](#)

### GP In Hours:

During week 16, 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 increased in children aged 1-4 and 5-14 years (figures 2a & 6a)

[Access bulletin](#)

### GP Out of Hours:

During week 16 GP out of hours contacts for acute respiratory infection and difficulty breathing/wheeze/asthma remained stable and below seasonally expected levels (figures 2 & 5). Bronchitis increased slightly, mainly in the under 5 years age groups (figures 4 & 4a).

[Access bulletin](#)

### Emergency Department:

COVID-19-like emergency department attendances continued to decrease during week 16 (figure 3). Acute respiratory infection attendances increased slightly, particularly in children aged 1-4 and 5-14 years (figure 5a).

[Access bulletin](#)

### Ambulance:

During week 16, ambulance COVID-19-like calls and breathing problems were stable (figures 2, 4).

[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.

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### **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.*

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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.

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

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