



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Science Evidence Advice

Weekly Surveillance Report

25 November 2025



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Science Evidence Advice: Weekly Surveillance Report

A. Top Line Summary (as at week 46 2025, up to 16 November 2025)

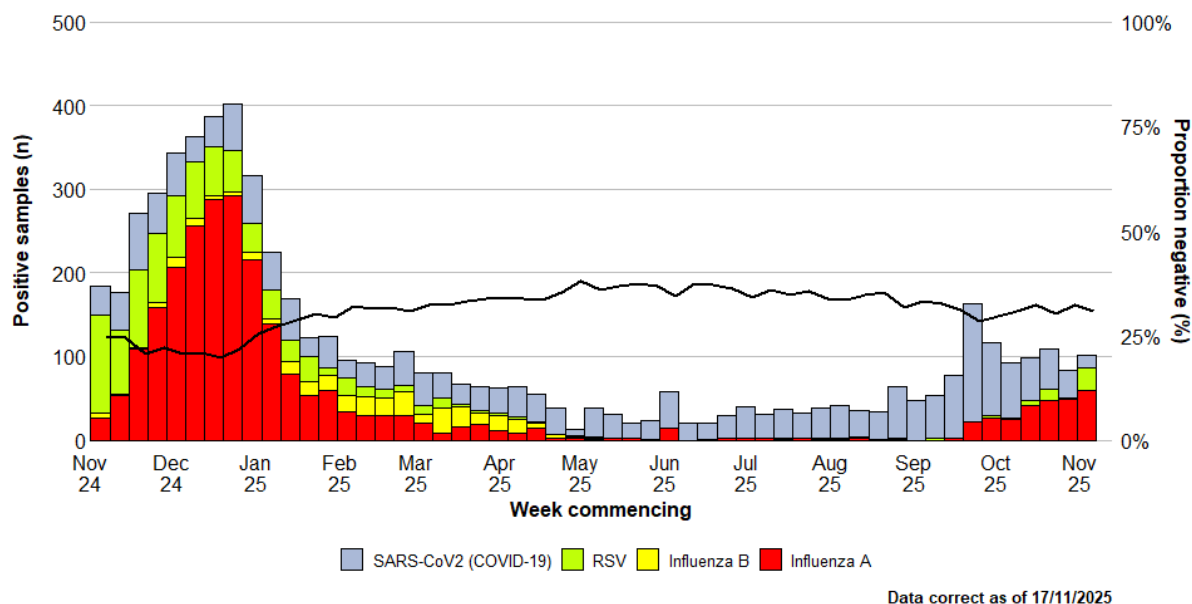
- Overall, COVID-19 confirmed case admissions to hospital **decreased**.
- COVID-19 cases who are inpatients have **decreased**.
- RSV activity in children under 5 years has **increased**.
- Influenza in-patient cases have **increased**, and admissions have **increased** in the latest week.
- Norovirus confirmed cases have **decreased** in the most recent week (week 46).
- Whooping Cough notifications have **decreased** in the most recent reporting week (week 45).
- Scarlet Fever notifications **increased** in the most recent week (week 46).

B. Acute Respiratory Infections Situation Update

B.1. COVID-19 Situation Update

- At a national level, the weekly number of confirmed cases of community-acquired admissions to hospital **decreased** and the number of cases who were inpatients **decreased** in week 46 2025 (to 16 November 2025).
- As of 16 November 2025 (week 46), the number of confirmed cases of community acquired COVID-19 admitted to hospital **decreased** to 28 (33 in the previous week) and there were 163 in-patient cases of confirmed COVID-19, two of whom were in critical care compared to 215 and two in the previous week.
- Confirmed cases of positive tests decreased to 3.1 % in hospital and non-sentinel GP practices in the most recent week (week 46). Consultations with Sentinel GPs and sentinel community Pharmacies for COVID-19 decreased in the most recent week.
- In the last six weeks, Omicron XFG.3 is the most frequently detected variant in Wales currently, accounting for **27.9%** of sequenced cases.

Figure 1: Samples from hospital patients submitted for RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV2 testing only, by week of sample collection, week 46, 2024 to week 46, 2025 (source: PHW).



COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza Short Term Projections

The Science Evidence Advice (SEA) team at Welsh Government have produced short-term projections (STPs) for COVID-19, RSV and Influenza which can be produced nationally and at the Local Health Board level. RSV is also produced by age groups nationally. STPs project 2 weeks forward using current data from the previous 8 weeks, and do not explicitly factor in properties of the infectious disease, policy changes, changes in testing, changes in behaviour, emergence of new variants or rapid changes in vaccinations.

COVID-19, RSV and Influenza STPs use admissions data from PHW until **15 November 2025** to create short term projections for COVID-19 two weeks forward (**to 29 November 2025**). The black or brown dots represent the actual data points while the white line is the central estimate from the most recent projection. The colour shadings represent the 95% confidence interval of the projections.

Please note: The STPs are produced nationally and at the provider health board level, not at resident health board level. Powys health board is not included in the analysis due to low numbers.

The STPs for Wales show that COVID-19 admissions are projected to decrease over the next two week period (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Short Term Projections for COVID-19 hospital admissions in Wales (data to 15 November 2025, projection to 29 November)

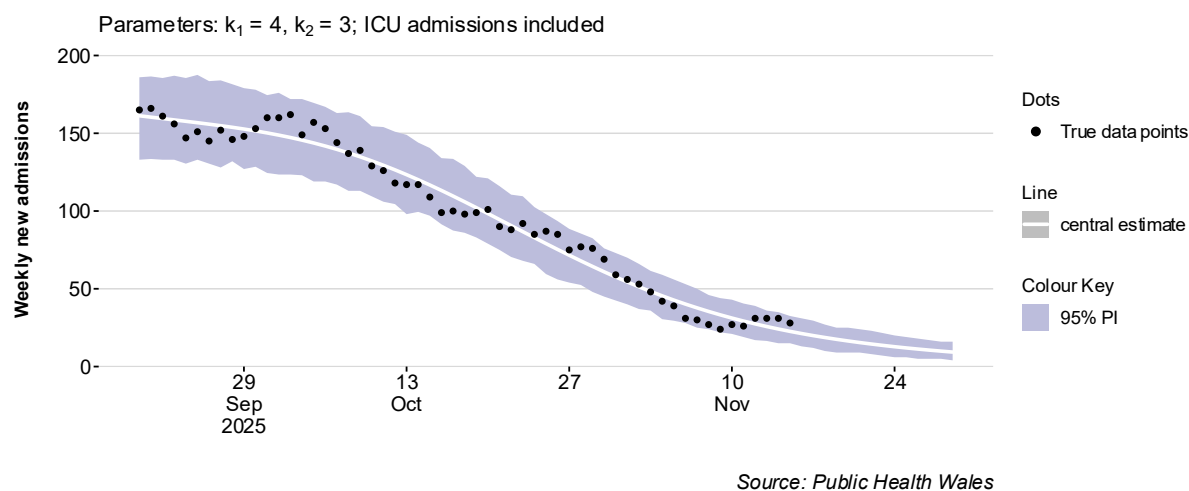
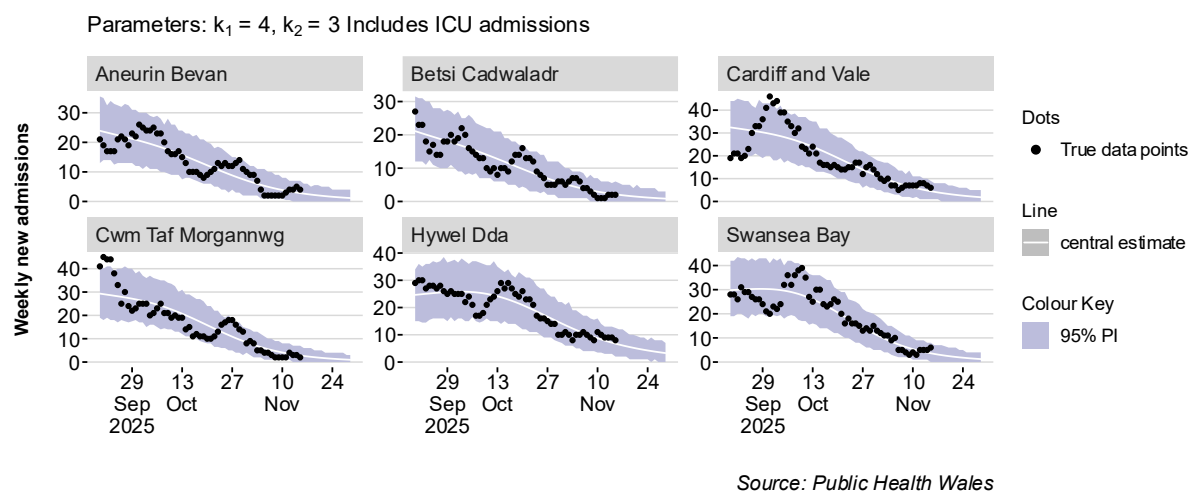


Figure 3 shows that COVID-19 admissions are projected to decrease in all health boards in Wales over the next two weeks (to 29 November 2025).

Figure 3: Short Term Projections for COVID-19 hospital admissions in Wales Health Boards (data to 15 November 2025, projections to 29 November)



The STPs for Wales show that RSV admissions are projected to increase over the next two-week period (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Short Term Projections for RSV hospital admissions in Wales (data to 15 November 2025, projection to 29 November)

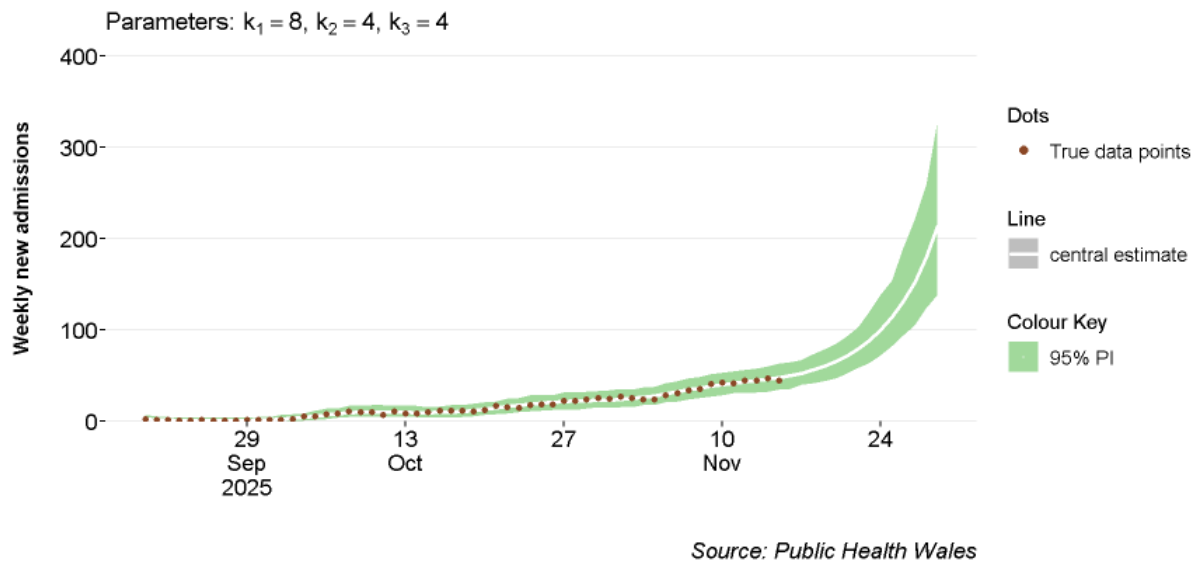


Figure 5 shows that RSV admissions for all age groups except 75 plus years are projected to increase over the next two weeks (to 29 November 2025).

Figure 5: Short Term Projections for RSV hospital admissions in Wales by age groups (data to 15 November 2025, projections to 29 November 2025)

RSV admissions for all age groups, except the 75+ years group are projected to increase over the next two weeks.

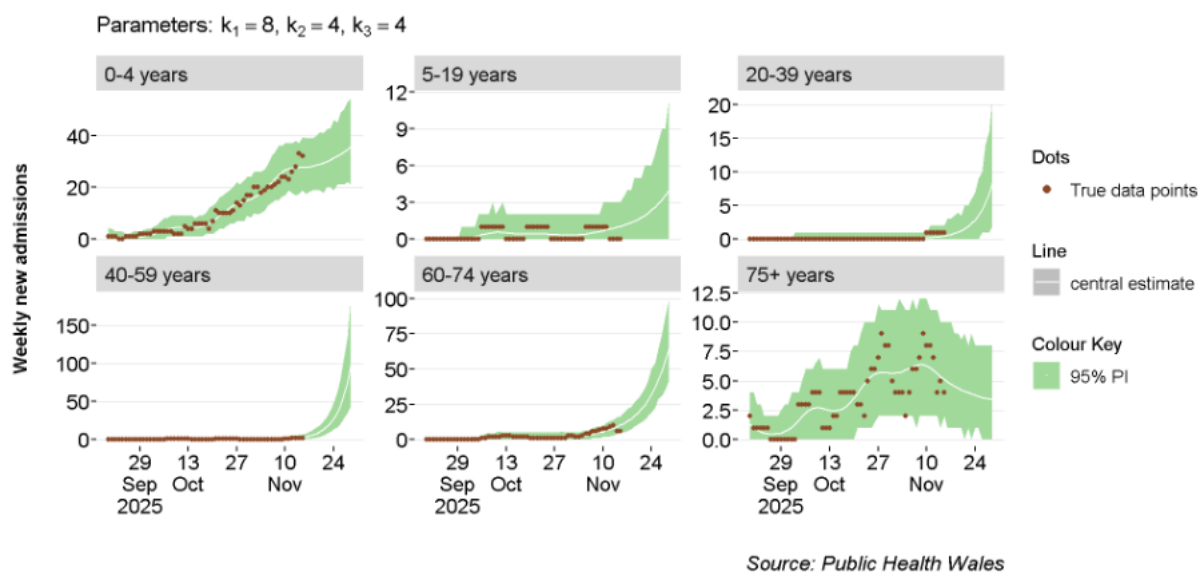
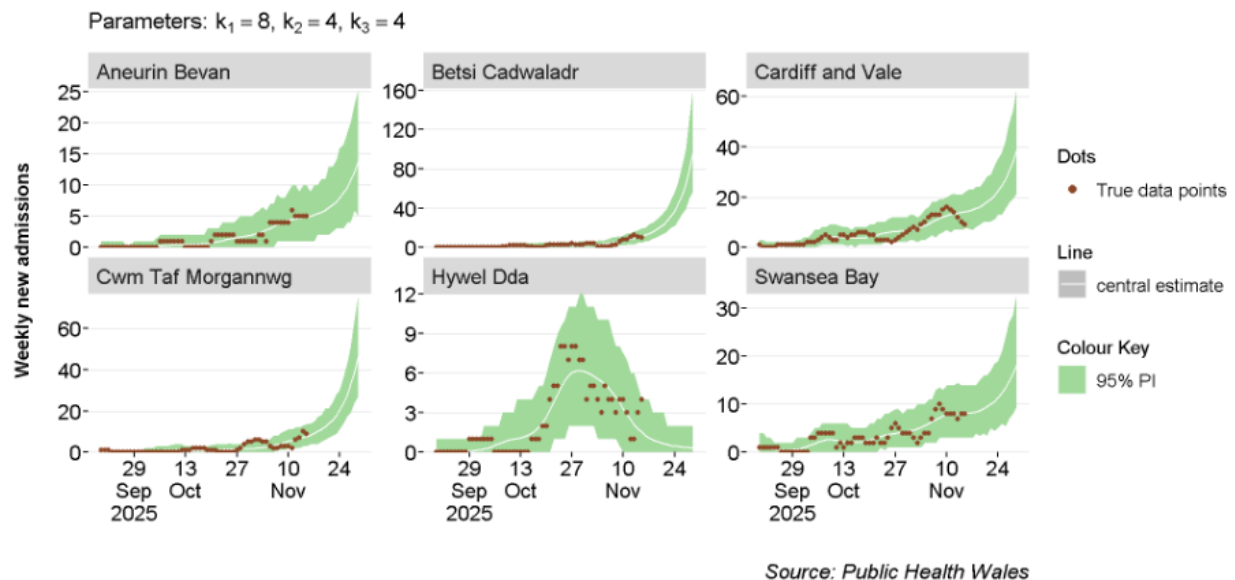


Figure 6 shows that RSV admissions for Aneurin Bevan, Betsi Cadwaladr, Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf Morgannwg and Swansea Bay health boards are projected to increase over the next two weeks (to 29 November 2025).

Figure 6: Short Term Projections for RSV hospital admissions in Wales Local Health Boards (data to 15 November 2025, projections to 29 November 2025)



The STPs for Wales show that Influenza admissions are projected to decrease over the next two-week period (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Short Term Projections for Influenza hospital admissions in Wales (data to 15 November 2025, projection to 29 November)

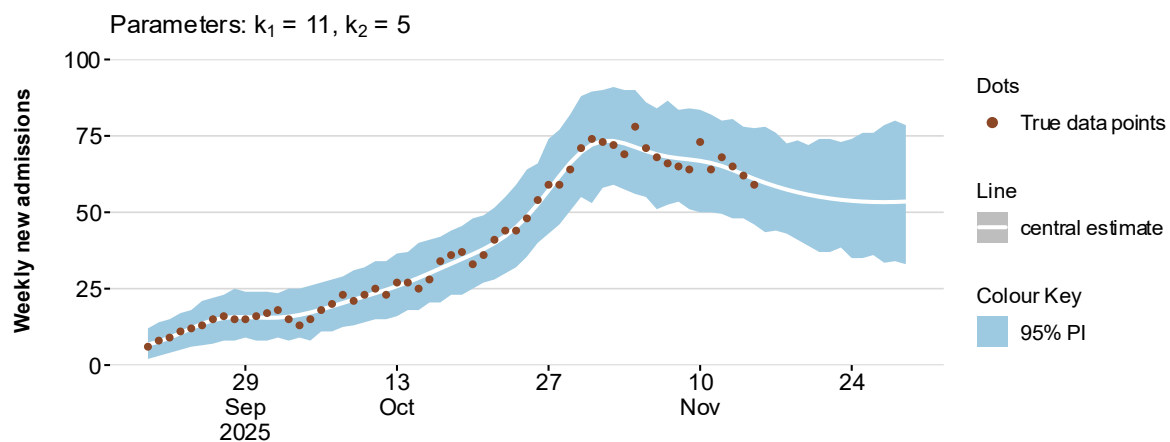
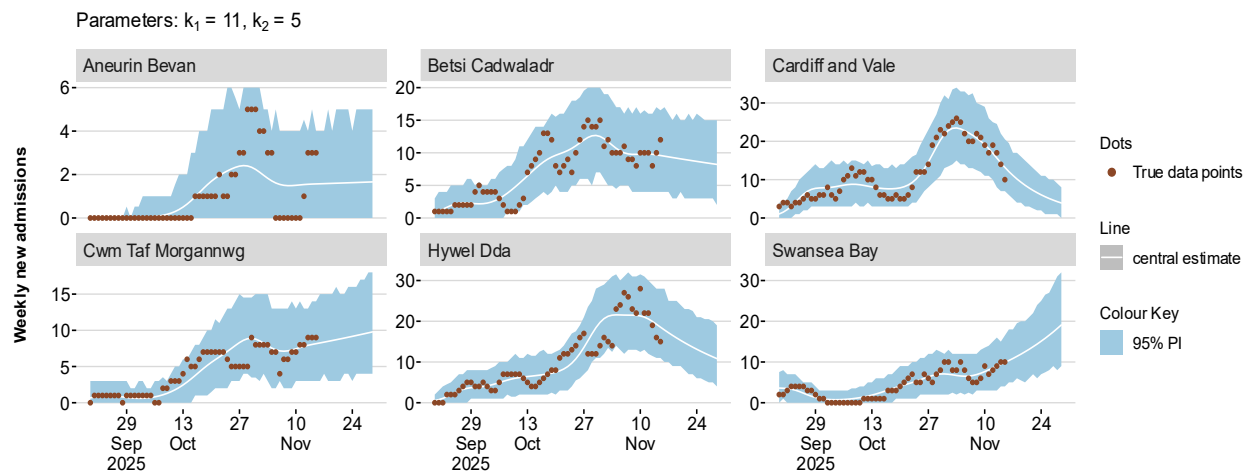


Figure 8 shows that Influenza admissions are projected to decrease in three health boards in Wales (Betsi Cadwaladr, Cardiff and Vale and Hywel Dda) and increase in Cwm Taf Morgannwg and Swansea Bay health boards over the next two weeks (to 29 November 2025).

Figure 8: Short Term Projections for Influenza hospital admissions in Wales Local Health Boards (data to 15 November 2025, projections to 29 November 2025)

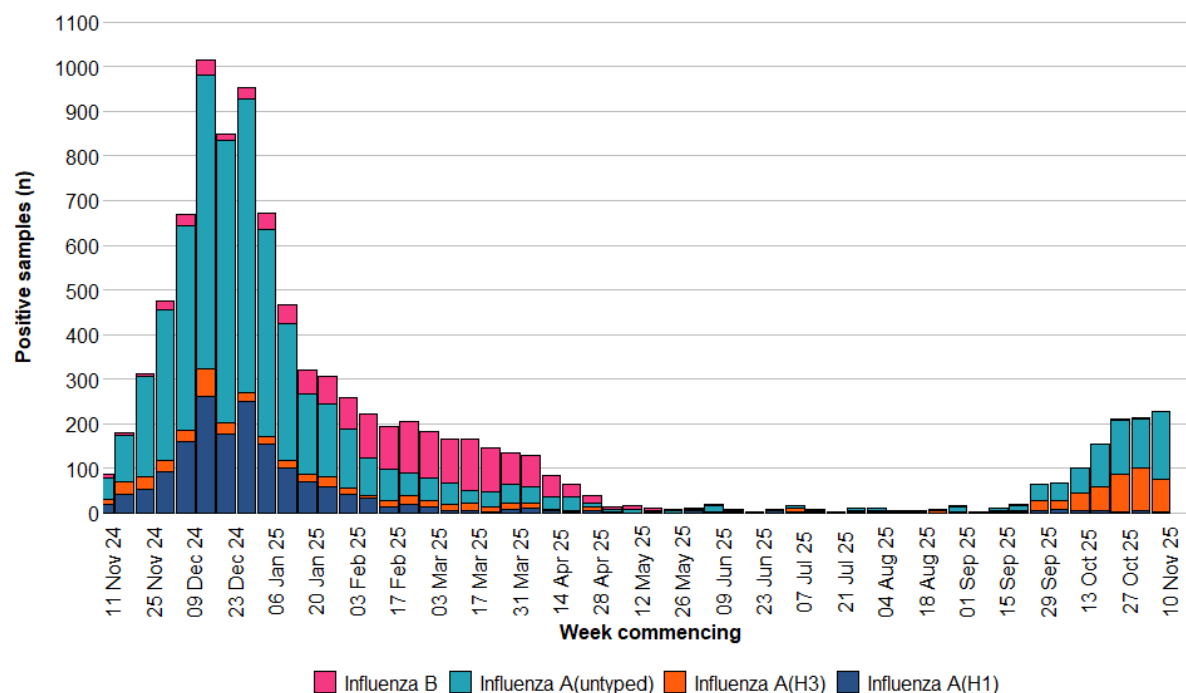


Source: Public Health Wales

B.2. Influenza Situation Update

- Evidence from surveillance suggests that influenza continues to circulate in the community in Wales. There have been confirmed cases in symptomatic patients attending sentinel GPs in all regions of Wales.
- Confirmed cases of community acquired influenza admitted to hospital **increased to 65** in the current week (compared to **62** in the previous week). Test positivity increased to **12%**.
- There were **79** in-patient cases of confirmed influenza, **two** of whom were in critical care, compared to **76** and **four** in the previous week.
- In week 46 2025, there were 73 confirmed cases of influenza A(H3), 3 cases of influenza A(H1N1), 152 influenza A untyped and zero influenza B. (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Influenza subtypes based on samples submitted for virological testing by Sentinel GPs and community pharmacies, hospital patients, and non-Sentinel GPs, by week of sample collection, week 46, 2024 to week 46, 2025 (source: PHW)



Data correct as of 17/11/2025

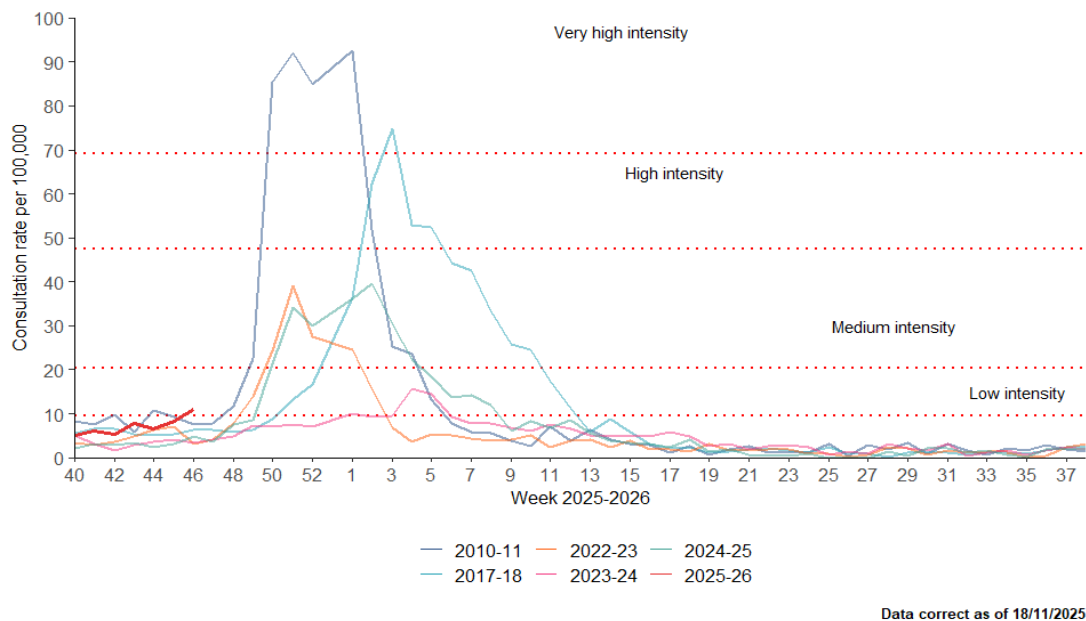
The sentinel GP consultation rate for influenza like illness (ILI) is now above the baseline threshold and currently at low intensity and the three-week trend is increasing.

There were **11.0** ILI consultations per 100,000 practice population in the most recent week, an increase compared to the previous week (8.3 consultations per 100,000).

In the most recent week, using all available data from general practices, there were 14.7 ARI consultations per 100,000 practice population, a decrease from 20.9 in the previous week. The highest rates were found in people aged under 1 year (977.6) followed by people aged 1 to 4 years (712) and people aged 5 to 14 years (164.7).

Surveillance indicators for acute respiratory infections in GP consultation data in Wales are broadly increasing in people aged under 5 years.

Figure 10: Clinical consultation rate for ILI per 100,000 practice population in Welsh sentinel practices (source: PHW)

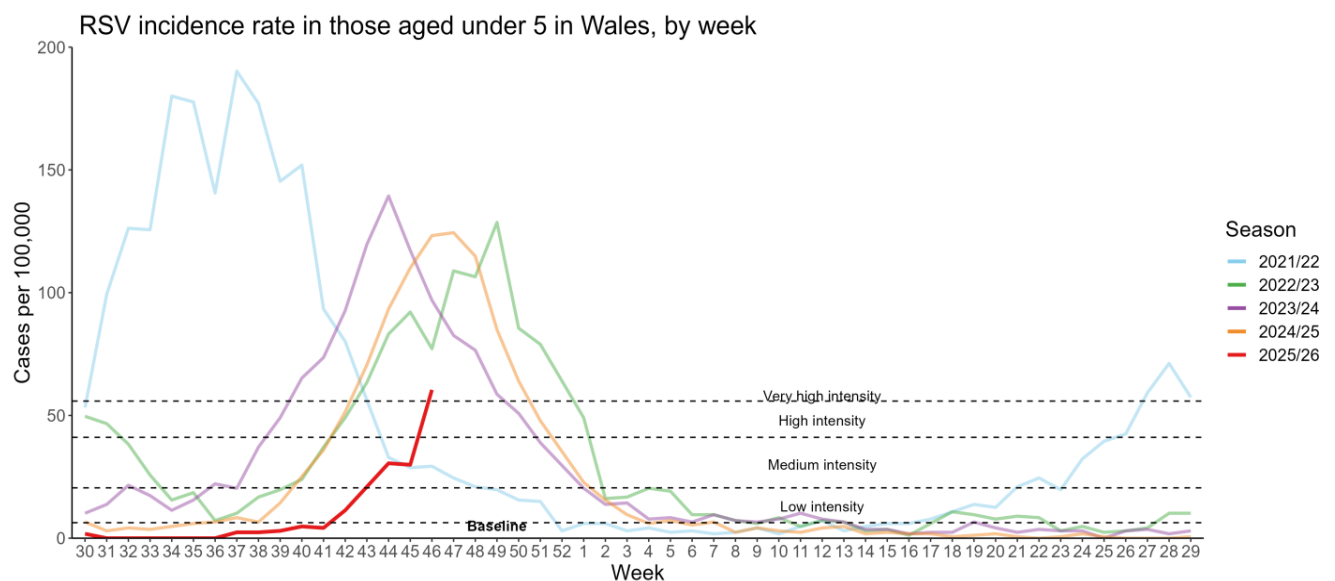


B.3. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) update

The number of confirmed cases of community acquired RSV admitted to hospital increased to 63 in week 46.

Incidence per 100,000 population in children aged up to 5 years **increased to 60.4** in the most recent week (**30.5** in the previous week). During week 46 there were 48 in-patient cases of confirmed RSV, and two in critical care.

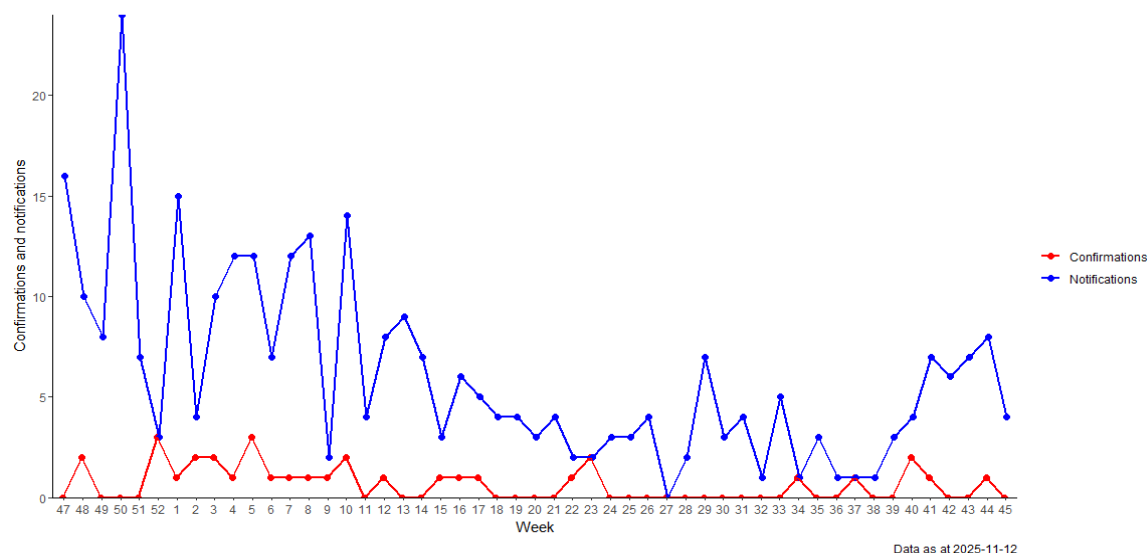
Figure 11: RSV Incidence Rate per 100,000 population under 5 years, week 30 2020 to week 46 2025 (source: PHW)



B.4. Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Figure 12 below shows that whooping cough notifications up to the end of week 45 (latest data available) **decreased**. Lab confirmations continue to be at very low levels (Whooping cough is now reported on every two weeks).

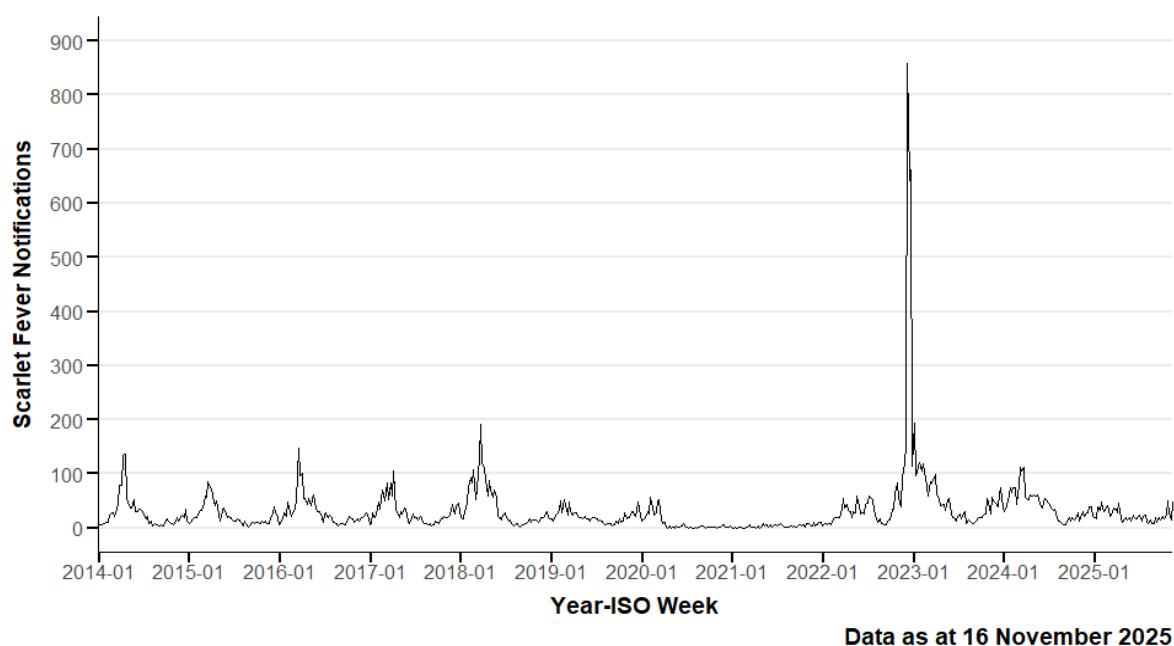
Figure 12: Weekly notifications and confirmations of Pertussis/Whooping Cough in Wales (source: [PHW](#))



B.5. iGAS and Scarlet Fever

The number of iGAS notifications are currently low, remaining at seasonally expected levels. Scarlet Fever notifications have **increased** in the most recent week (week 46) as shown in the figure below.

Figure 13: Rolling 3 Week Average Scarlet Fever Notifications, 2014-2025, Wales (source: [PHW](#))



B.6. Additional indicators

- The number of ambulance calls recorded referring to syndromic indicators increased from 1,830 in the previous week to 1,899 in the latest reporting week.
- During week 46, 2025, 2 ARI outbreaks were reported to the Public Health Wales Health Protection Team. Of these, one was Influenza, one was Influenza-Like Illness, and both were in Residential Homes.
- Thus far this season, According to European Mortality Monitoring (EuroMoMo) methods, no excess has been reported in the weekly number of deaths from all causes in Wales.

C. Science Evidence Advice Winter Modelling

The Science Evidence Advice (SEA) team in Welsh Government have published modelled scenarios for COVID-19, RSV and Influenza for [Winter 2025-26](#).

This uses analysis of historical data to estimate what we may see in winter 2025/26 in terms of hospital admissions and hospital bed occupancy in Wales, contributing to winter planning for NHS Wales.

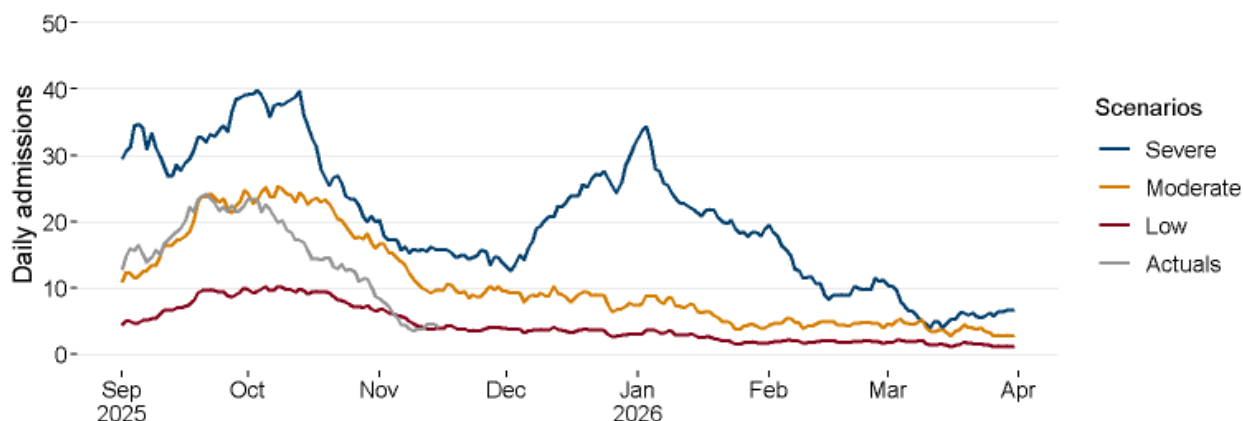
The charts that follow (Figures 14-16) show estimates of hospital admissions occurring so far in winter 2025/26 using actual data and these are compared to our 2025/26 winter modelling scenarios. (See the technical notes at the end of section **C. Science Evidence Advice Winter Modelling** for details on how the 'actuals' were estimated).

Note that modelling is an estimate of what may happen, not a prediction of what will happen.

COVID-19

COVID-19 admissions are decreasing and are currently tracking closely with the Low scenario.

Figure 14: Daily COVID-19 Winter 2025-26 admissions scenarios, modelling to 31 March 2026 (actuals data until 15 November 2025)



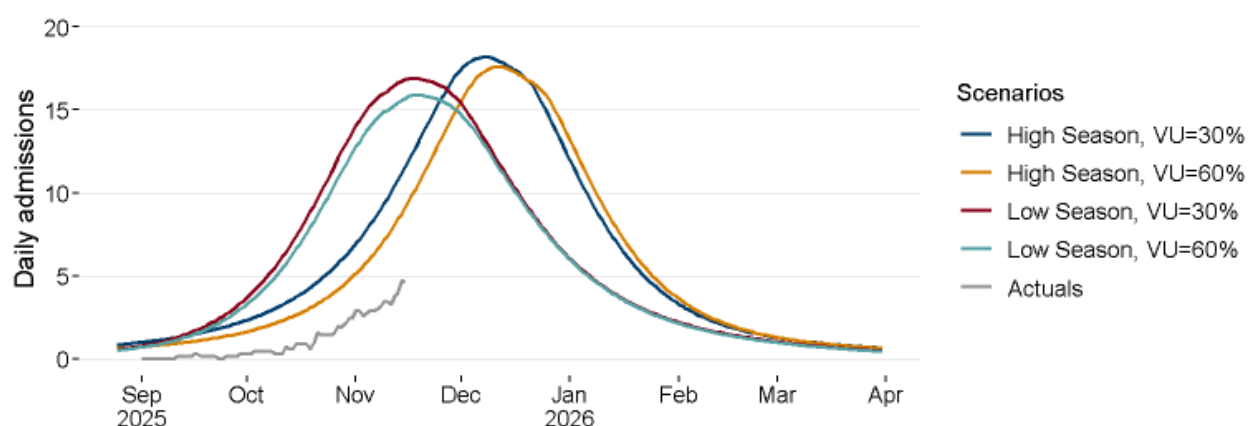
Source: historical data to 31 March 2025 provided by DHCW, projected scenarios from 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026 from SEA, actuals data until 15 November 2025 from PHW.

Notes: Scenarios repeat previous year's data from Digital Health and Care Wales. Includes ICD-10 codes U071, U072, U099, U109.

RSV

RSV admissions (ages 0-4 years) actuals are increasing but are currently tracking below all Scenarios.

Figure 15: Daily RSV Winter 2025-26 paediatric (ages 0-4) admissions scenarios, modelling to 31 March 2026 (actuals data until 15 November 2025)

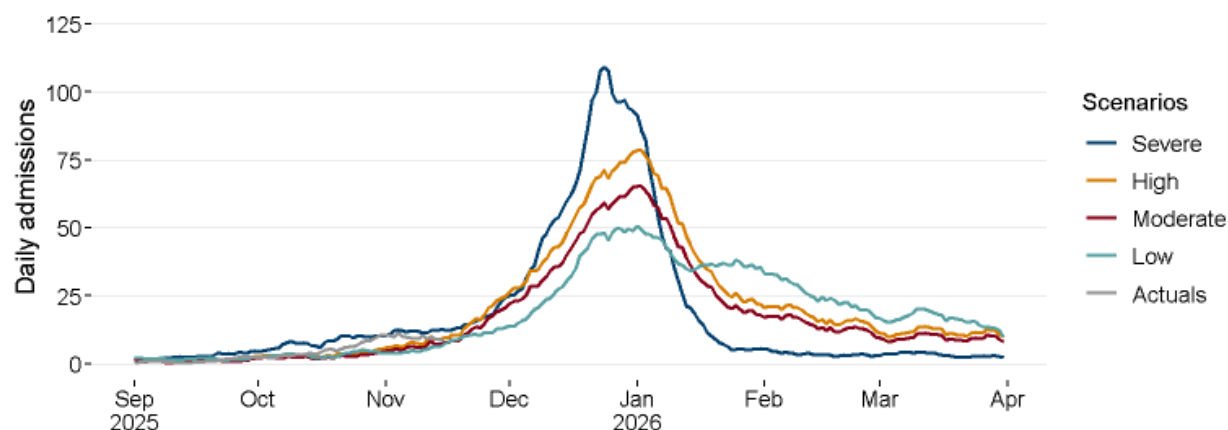


Source: historical data to 31 March 2025 provided by DHCW, projected scenarios from 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026 from SEA, actuals data until 15 November 2025 from PHW.

Influenza

Actual Influenza (flu) admissions are increasing and are currently tracking closely with the High Scenario.

Figure 16: Daily flu Winter 2025-26 admissions scenarios, modelling to 31 March 2026 (actuals data until 15 November 2025)



Source: historical data to 31 March 2025 provided by DHCW, projected scenarios from 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026 from SEA, actuals data until 15 November 2025 from PHW.

Technical Notes

The winter modelling used hospital admissions data from the Patient Episode Data for Wales (PEDW) dataset provided by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW). However, due to a lag in clinical coding and receiving PEDW data from DHCW, the ICNET admissions data provided by Public Health Wales (PHW) were used for the actuals. The data sources differ for a few reasons: the flu and RSV data from PHW includes lab-confirmed results only and includes inpatients only. The PEDW data from DHCW is based on [International Classification of Diseases version 10](#) (ICD-10) codes.

Modelling scenario details:

- COVID-19:** Data includes ICD-10 codes U071, U072, U099, U109. Two scenarios repeat recent year's data from Digital Health and Care Wales, and one is calculated by applying a statistical technique.

Names of COVID-19 scenarios and the statistical model applied

Scenario name	Technique
Severe	Repeat of 2023/2024 data
Moderate	Repeat of 2024/2025 data
Low	SARIMA

- **RSV:** Data includes ICD-10 codes J121, J205, J210, B974.

Names of RSV scenarios, model assumptions

Scenario name	Reference Season	Vaccine uptake (VU)
High season, VU= 30%	2022/23 winter	30%
High season, VU= 60%	2022/23 winter	60%
Low season, VU= 30%	2023/24 winter	30%
Low season, VU= 60%	2023/24 winter	60%

- **Flu:** Data includes ICD-10 codes J09X, J100 to J102, J110, J108, J111, J112, J118.

Names of influenza scenarios and the statistical models applied

Scenario name	Technique
Severe	Repeat of 2022/23 data
High	Repeat of 2024/25 data
Moderate	SARIMA
Low	ETS

D. Communicable Disease Situation Update (non-respiratory)

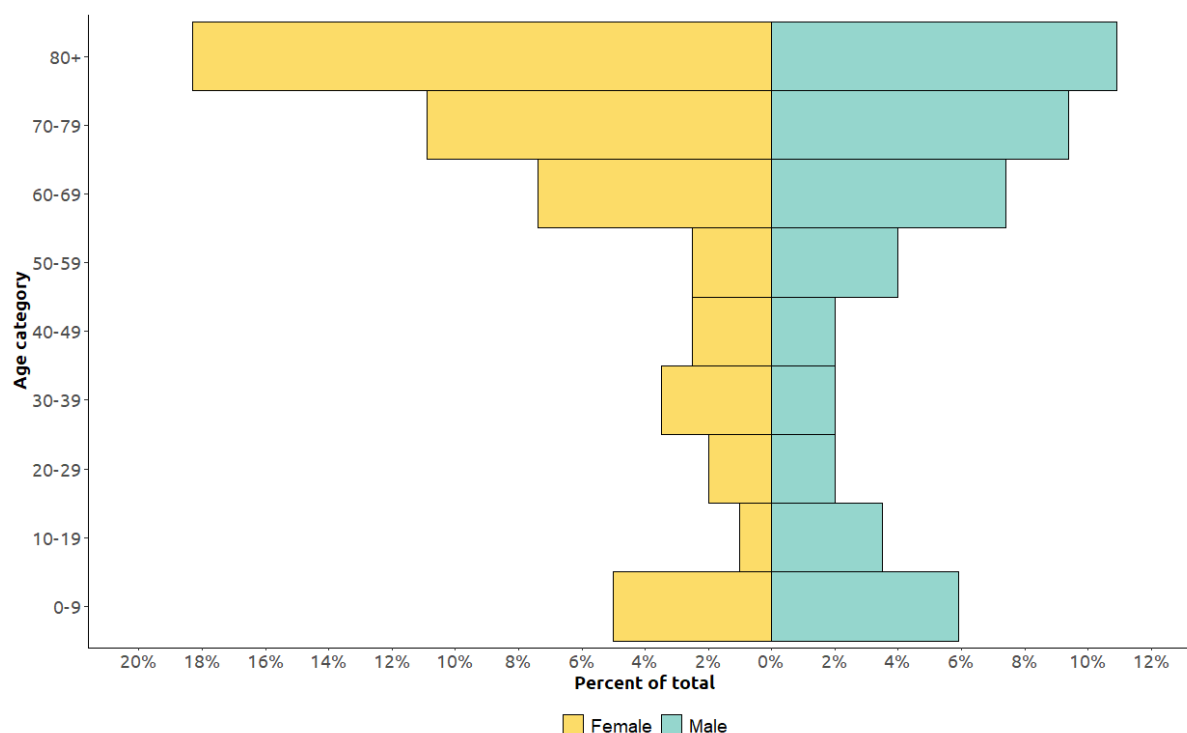
D.1. Norovirus

In the current reporting week (week 46 2025), a total of **32** Norovirus cases were reported in Welsh residents. This is a **decrease (-11.1%)** in reported cases compared to the previous reporting week (week 45 2025), when **36** Norovirus cases were reported.

In the last 12 week period (25/08/2025 to 16/11/2025) a total of **202** Norovirus cases were reported in Welsh residents. This is a decrease **(-32.0%)** in reported cases compared to the same 12-week period in the previous year (25/08/2024 to 16/11/2024) when **297** Norovirus cases were reported.

In the last 12 weeks (25/08/2025 to 16/11/2025) **107 (53.0%)** Norovirus cases were female and **95 (47.0%)** cases were male. The age groups with the most cases were the 80+ years (59 cases) and 70-79 years (**41** cases) age groups.

Figure 17: Age and sex distribution of confirmed Norovirus cases in the last 12 weeks (25/08/2025 to 16/11/2025)



Notes: This data from PHW only includes locally-confirmed PCR positive cases of Norovirus in Wales within the 12 week period up until the end of the current reporting week, week 46 2025 (25/08/2025 to 16/11/2025).

Under-ascertainment is a recognised challenge in norovirus surveillance with sampling, testing and reporting known to vary by health board. In addition, only a small proportion of community cases are confirmed microbiologically.

E. UK and International Surveillance Update

E.1. Updates on Avian Influenza in the UK (up to 24 November 2025)

24 November 2025 – further update

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed at [a large commercial poultry premises near Dalton-in-Furness, Westmorland and Furness, Cumbria \(AIV 2025/111\)](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone have been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

24 November 2025

Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance within the zone around the [premises near Bedale, Thirsk and Malton, Yorkshire \(AIV 2025/68\)](#) the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed it becomes part of the surveillance zone.

23 November 2025

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed:

- [in a second large commercial poultry premises near Swaffham, Breckland, Norfolk \(AIV 2025/109\)](#)
- [in commercial poultry premises near Gainsborough, West Lindsey, Lincolnshire \(AIV 2025/110\)](#)

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

The protection zones have ended and the area that formed them becomes part of the surveillance zone around:

- [a premises near Penrith, Westmoreland and Furness, Cumbria \(AIV 2025/65\)](#)
- [a second premises near Penrith, Westmoreland and Furness, Cumbria \(AIV 2025/69\)](#)

This is following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance.

21 November 2025

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry near [Claydon, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk \(AIV 2025/108\)](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zone around a [premises near Wybunbury, Cheshire East, Cheshire \(AIV 2025/64\)](#), the protection zone has ended and the area that formed it becomes part of the surveillance zone.

19 November 2025

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in [commercial poultry near Drifffield, Bridlington and The Wolds, East Riding of Yorkshire](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

18 November 2025

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in a fourth [large commercial poultry unit near Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales \(AIV 2025/105\)](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in a small backyard flock of poultry [near Lawshall, Babergh, Suffolk \(AIV 2025/106\)](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All birds on the premises will be humanely culled.

16 November 2025

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in a [large commercial poultry unit near Thorne, Doncaster, South Yorkshire \(AIV 2025/104\)](#).

A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone has been declared around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

E.2. [All-Wales Bluetongue \(BTV-3\) Restricted Zone](#) (30 October 2025)

There has been no further update regarding the All-Wales Restricted Zone (RZ) for Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) since the 30th of October 2025.

E.3. [Mpox clade Ib and clade IIb, UK](#) (13 November)

There has been no further update regarding UK cases of Mpox clade Ib and clade IIb since the 13th of November 2025.

E.4. [Seasonal surveillance of dengue](#) (21 November)

Since the beginning of 2025 and as of 19 November 2025, three countries in Europe have reported cases of dengue: France (29), Italy (four) and Portugal (two).

This week, no new cases of dengue have been reported to ECDC, and all clusters are currently inactive.

This week, ECDC is concluding its weekly reports for the 2025 season.

E.5. [Seasonal surveillance of West Nile virus infection in the EU/EEA](#) (21 November)

Since the beginning of 2025, and as of 19 November 2025, 14 countries in Europe have reported human cases of West Nile virus infection: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Spain, and Türkiye

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

E.6. [Chikungunya virus disease](#) (21 November)

Since the beginning of 2025 and as of 19 November 2025, two countries in Europe have reported cases of chikungunya virus disease: France (780) and Italy (385).

In the past week, France reported four locally acquired cases of chikungunya virus disease. Italy has reported one new case. In the previous week, zero cases were reported by France and 10 new cases were reported by Italy.

E.7. [Ebola virus disease - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2025](#) (21 November)

As of 20 November 2025, no new Ebola virus disease cases have been reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). All patients have been discharged and there are no contacts under active monitoring.

The 42-day countdown for declaring the outbreak over was initiated on 19 October, following the discharge of the last patient being treated.

Since the start of the outbreak, and as of 13 November, 64 cases (53 confirmed and 11 probable) of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in Kasai Province, DRC, including 45 deaths (34 confirmed and 11 probable; case fatality rate (CFR) among all cases: 70.3%).

The current risk for people from the EU/EEA living in or travelling to Kasai province in DRC is estimated to be low, due to the current low likelihood of exposure. For people living in the EU/EEA the risk is very low, as the likelihood of introduction and secondary transmission within the EU/EEA is very low.

E.8. [Rift Valley fever in Senegal and Mauritania – 2025](#) (21 November)

As of 20 November, 482 human cases (including 31 deaths) of Rift Valley fever (RVF) have been reported in Senegal.

Since 27 September 2025, and as of 9 November, 52 human cases (including 14 deaths) of RVF have been reported in Mauritania.

On 5 November, media quoting health officials reported one human case of RVF in The Gambia, close to the border with Senegal.

All three countries have reported outbreaks among livestock.

To date, no human-to-human transmission of RVF has been documented.

E.9. [Detection of wild poliovirus type 1 \(WPV1\) in a wastewater sample in Germany](#) (14 November)

There has been no further update regarding detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in a wastewater sample in Germany since the 14th of November.

E.10. [Influenza A\(H5N1\) – Multi-country \(World\) – Monitoring human cases](#) (21 November)

On 16 November 2025, a fatal human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection was reported in an adult man from Chroy Changvar District in the autonomous municipality of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The infection was laboratory-confirmed on 15 November 2025, and the patient passed away the same day.

Since 2003, and as of 17 November 2025, a total of 993 confirmed human cases of A(H5N1) have been reported worldwide, including 476 deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 48%). Of these, 90 cases were reported from Cambodia, including 52 deaths (CFR: 58%).

ECDC's risk assessment for A(H5N1) remains unchanged, overall, the risk related to zoonotic influenza for the general population in the EU/EEA is considered low.

E.11. [Influenza A\(H5N5\) – Multi-country \(World\) – Monitoring human cases](#) (21 November)

The first human case of avian influenza A(H5N5) has been confirmed in Washington State, USA.

The case, an older adult with underlying conditions, was hospitalised in early November 2025. The likely source of exposure is mixed backyard poultry that had contact with wild birds.

The US CDC assesses the risk of avian influenza A(H5) to the general public as low.

HPAI A(H5N5) has recently been circulating in wild birds in northern Europe, with occasional detections and outbreaks in wild mammals and domestic poultry.

The virus was identified as belonging to clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype A6/EA-2021-I, which has been detected in birds and mammals in North America. No markers associated with mammalian adaptations of significance were observed.

E.12. [Marburg virus disease \(MVD\) - Ethiopia - 2025](#) (21 November)

A Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak was confirmed on 14 November 2025 by the MoH of Ethiopia after a suspected event in Jinka city on 12 November 2025 was reported.

As of 20 November 2025, six confirmed cases of MVD have been reported in Ethiopia. There have been a total of six deaths, three of which have been among laboratory confirmed cases and three among suspected cases.

As of 17 November, there were 129 contacts reported as under monitoring, according to the Ministry of Health.

This is the first MVD outbreak ever reported in Ethiopia. The likelihood of exposure to MVD for EU/EEA citizens visiting or living in Ethiopia is assessed as low, with uncertainties connected to the limited epidemiological information available.

The impact, assessed at population level is low since the number of MVD cases in EU/EEA citizens in Ethiopia is expected to be very small. Therefore, the overall risk for EU/EEA citizens visiting or living in Ethiopia is low.

The overall risk for the EU/EEA is assessed as low.