INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/39: 24-28 September 2007

In the past week, a total of 57 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 18.2 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (125.0 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (84.5 per 100 000).

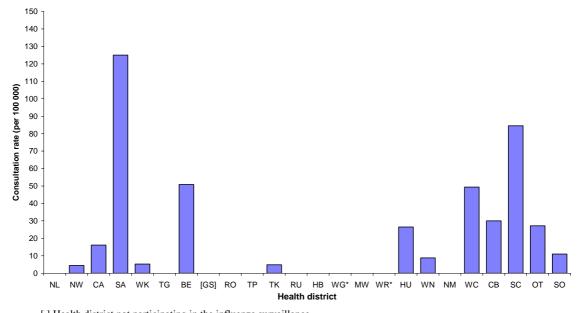


Figure 1. Weekly consulation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 28 September 2007

*Health districts not participating for the week

Sixteen swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifteen swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, six influenza viruses were isolated, three as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, two as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and one as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

^[] Health district not participating in the influenza surveillance

Table 1.

Antigenic Strain	WN	СВ	SC	ОТ	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	0	0	1	1
B (not typed)	0	2	0	0	2
B/Shanghai/361/2002 - like	1	0	1	1	3
Total	1	2	1	2	6

In addition, 10 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Six as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and four as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	SA	СВ	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	3	4
B (not typed)	2	4	6
Total	3	7	10

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 39, 28 September 2007. A total of 684 influenza viruses were identified, 369 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 143 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, two as A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) – like, one as A(H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed, 38 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 67 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 57 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and three as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 28 September 2007

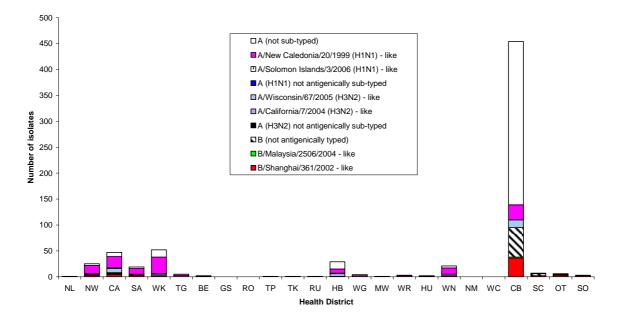


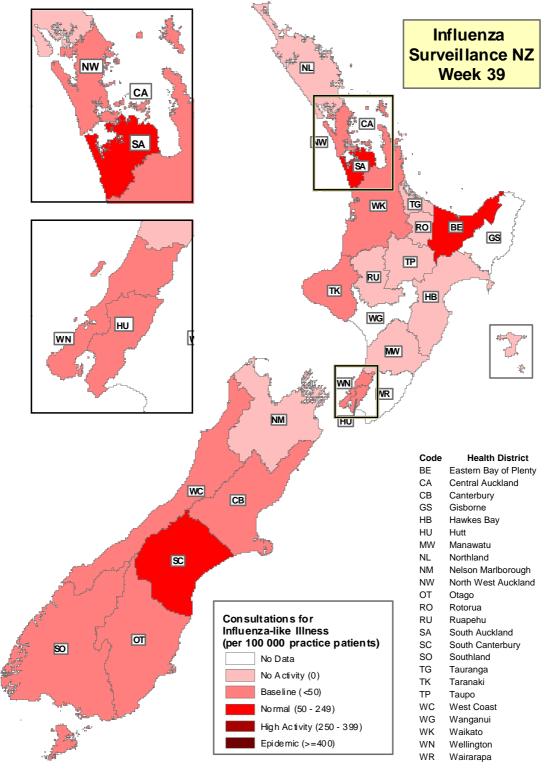
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

260 240 220 Consultation rate (per 100 000) -2007 180 - - - 2006 160 -- 📤 - · 2005 140 100 80 60 40 20 0 ‡ week 14 week 16 week 17 week 18 week 23 week 27 15 week 26 week 28 week 29 week 30 week 31 week 32 week 36 week 37 week 19 week 20 week 22 week 33 week 38 week 39 week 40 week 21 week 24 week 25 week 34 week 35 September July June May August

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2005, 2006 and 2007

Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 39, 2007.

Figure 4



The threshold used to describe the influenza-like activity can be referred in New Zealand Public Health Report 2001, 8 (1): 9-12 "Influenza surveillance and immunisation in New Zealand, 1990-1999"

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