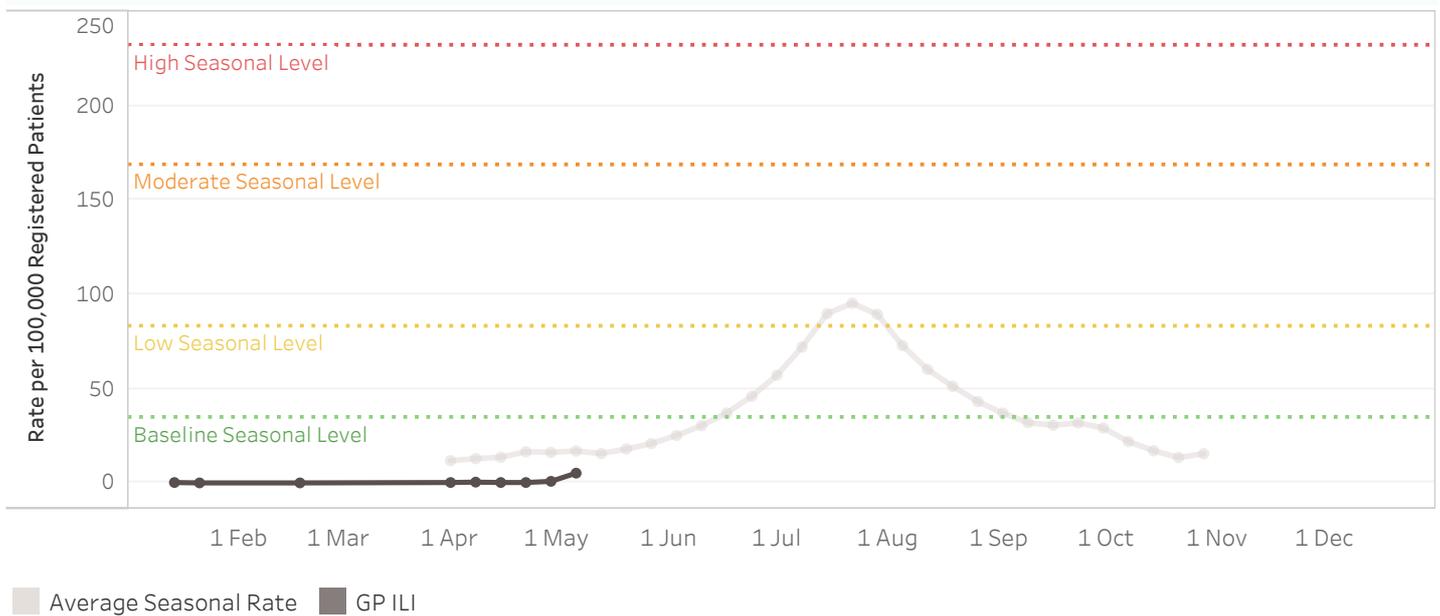


Week Ending 06 May 2018

## National Overview

So far in 2018, clinical care seeking for acute respiratory illnesses due to influenza and other respiratory viruses has been low and within historical limits. Different influenza viruses, including the virus [Flu A(H3N2)] associated with the active and severe Northern Hemisphere 2017/18 season, have been detected at very low levels in New Zealand. We expect slightly increased virus d..

## Weekly General Practice Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Rates To 06 May 18



Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is currently low. Seasonal general practice (GP) surveillance activities for the 2018 winter season started this week, therefore, more visits and viruses will start to be detected.

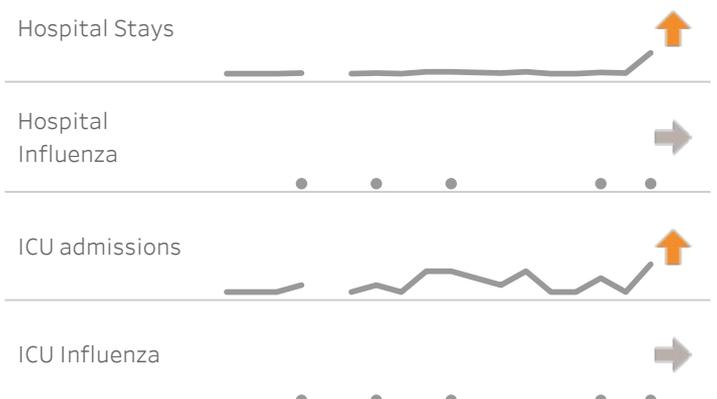
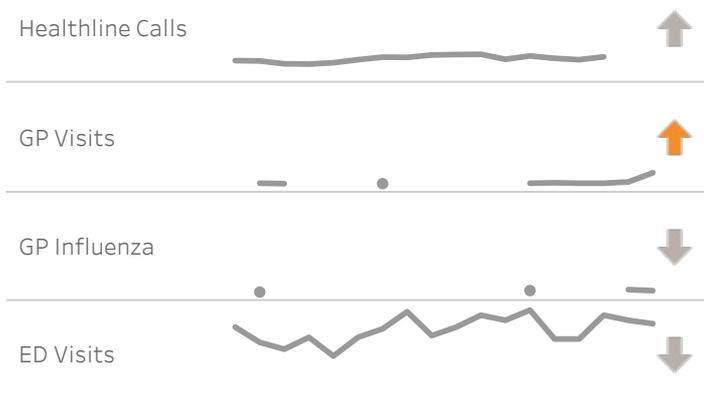
For the year to date, very few severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) hospitalisations have been recorded and none associated with influenza.

### Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity to 06 May 18

Arrow colour indicates whether the current weekly change is statistically significant.

### Acute Hospital Activity (SARI) to 06 May 18

Arrow colour indicates whether the current weekly change is statistically significant.

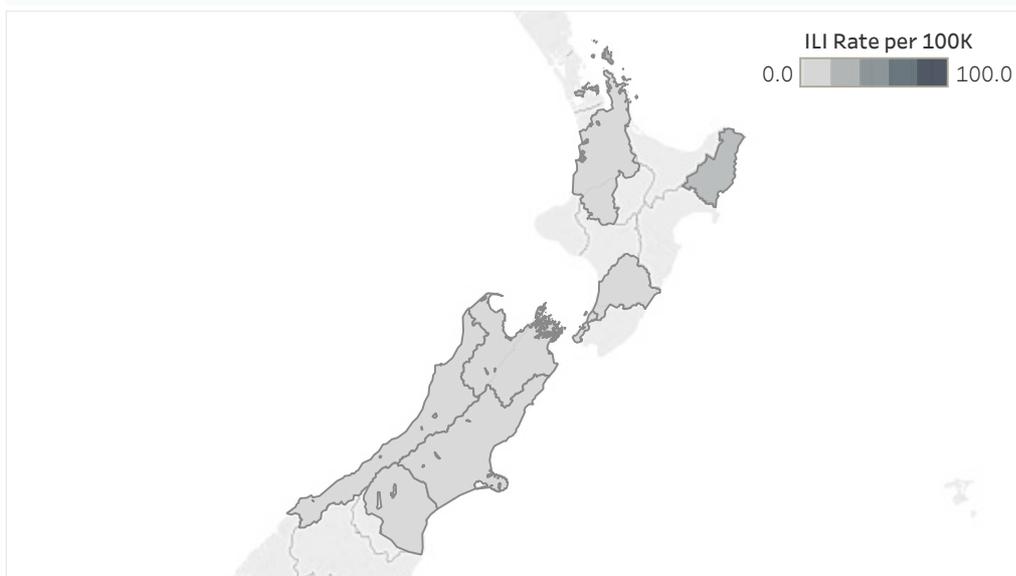


## Activity by DHB

So far both GP visits and Healthline calls for influenza-like illness are low across New Zealand. Surveillance at general practices is conducted to provide a picture of acute respiratory illness and influenza activity at the national-level.

The performance of an individual DHB is dependent on the number of practices participating and the size of patient population in participating practices for that DHB. Healthline calls for influenza-like illness for each DHB are monitored year round.

## GP Visits (ILI) Rate by DHB - Current Week



## Control Measures

The 2018 publically funded seasonal influenza vaccine contains the following four components (i.e. this is a quadrivalent vaccine):

- o A(H1N1): an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- o A(H3N2): an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus
- o B: a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (belonging to B/Yamagata lineage)
- o B: a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (belonging to B/Victoria lineage)

## Overseas acute respiratory disease surveillance

- Australia: Current low ILI activity at inter-seasonal levels. In 2017, national ILI activity was the highest since 2009 and had a prolonged peak activity compared with previous years. Most states reported high ILI activity. Indicators of severity were higher than recent years but proportionate to the increased activity. Influenza A(H3N2) predominantly circulated.<sup>1</sup>
- Europe: Current mostly low ILI activity at inter-seasonal levels. During the 2017/18 influenza season, a high proportion of influenza B was detected, predominantly Flu B/Yamagata lineage, which was not a component of the trivalent 2017/18 Northern Hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine. However, influenza type predominance varied by country. The circulating A(H3N2) was antigenically similar to the recommended 2017/18 seasonal influenza vaccine. A(H1N1)pdm09 outnumbered A(H3N2) among typed viruses. A prolonged peak of influenza activity may have contributed to the season's severity. Flu B predominated among those with severe disease, especially the 65+ age group. <sup>2</sup>
- The UK reported a moderate influenza season, although activity varied with country. Influenza B predominated, but A viruses co-circulated. High severity was noted with flu B infection and for those 65+ years. There was significant excess all-cause mortality for 65+, as seen in 2016/17 and 2014/15 UK flu seasons, which were A(H3N2) predominant years.<sup>3</sup>
- North America: Currently, decreasing influenza activity in the region. There was high ILI activity reported during the 2017/18 season, with influenza B and A viruses co-circulating.<sup>4-6</sup>
- Canada recently reported decreasing ILI activity. During the 2017/18 season, higher than expected levels of ILI activity and above average indicators of severity were reported. Influenza A (mostly H3N2) predominated and B virus co-circulated.<sup>4</sup>
- USA: Current low ILI activity at inter-seasonal levels. During the 2017/18 season, the national weekly peak ILI incidence was the highest since the 2009/10 influenza season with most states reporting high ILI activity. Illness severity was also high compared with recent seasons. Influenza A(H3N2) predominantly circulated with influenza B detections increasing later in the season.<sup>5,6</sup>
- Elsewhere: Influenza activity is reportedly low in Western and Eastern Asia, with A(H1N1)pdm09 predominating most recently. Influenza activity has decreased across Central Asia and has remained low in South East Asian.<sup>6</sup>
- Emerging diseases: In 2017, ongoing detections of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Middle East and human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) in China were reported. The detection of cases associated with exposure (to camels and birds, respectively) in these areas has continued in 2018. In February, the first reported case in the world of human avian influenza A(H7N4) infection was detected in China. None of these three viruses (MERS-CoV, A(H7N9) and A(H7N4)) are known to spread easily from person to person at present and are currently classified by the WHO as being of low risk of international spread.<sup>7,8</sup> In March, the Netherlands detected the first case of a new seasonal genetic reassortant of influenza A(H1N2) producing mild ILI in a young child. The current WHO public health risk assessment for this virus is comparable to other seasonal influenza viruses currently circulating.<sup>7</sup>

For further information on overseas acute respiratory disease activity:

1. Australia: [www.health.gov.au/flureport](http://www.health.gov.au/flureport) (accessed 8/5/18)
2. Europe: [www.flunewseurope.org/](http://www.flunewseurope.org/) (accessed 8/5/18)
3. UK: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/704664/Weekly\\_national\\_influenza\\_report\\_week\\_18\\_2018.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/704664/Weekly_national_influenza_report_week_18_2018.pdf) (accessed 8/5/18)
4. Canada: [www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/fluwatch/2017-2018/week17-april-22-28-2018/pub-eng.pdf](http://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/fluwatch/2017-2018/week17-april-22-28-2018/pub-eng.pdf) (accessed 8/5/18)
5. United States: [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/) (accessed 8/5/18)
6. WHO Global Influenza Update: [www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/) (accessed 8/5/18)
7. WHO Emergency Preparedness, response: [www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2017/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2017/en/) (accessed 8/5/18)
8. WHO Avian and other zoonotic influenza [www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/en/) (accessed 8/5/18)