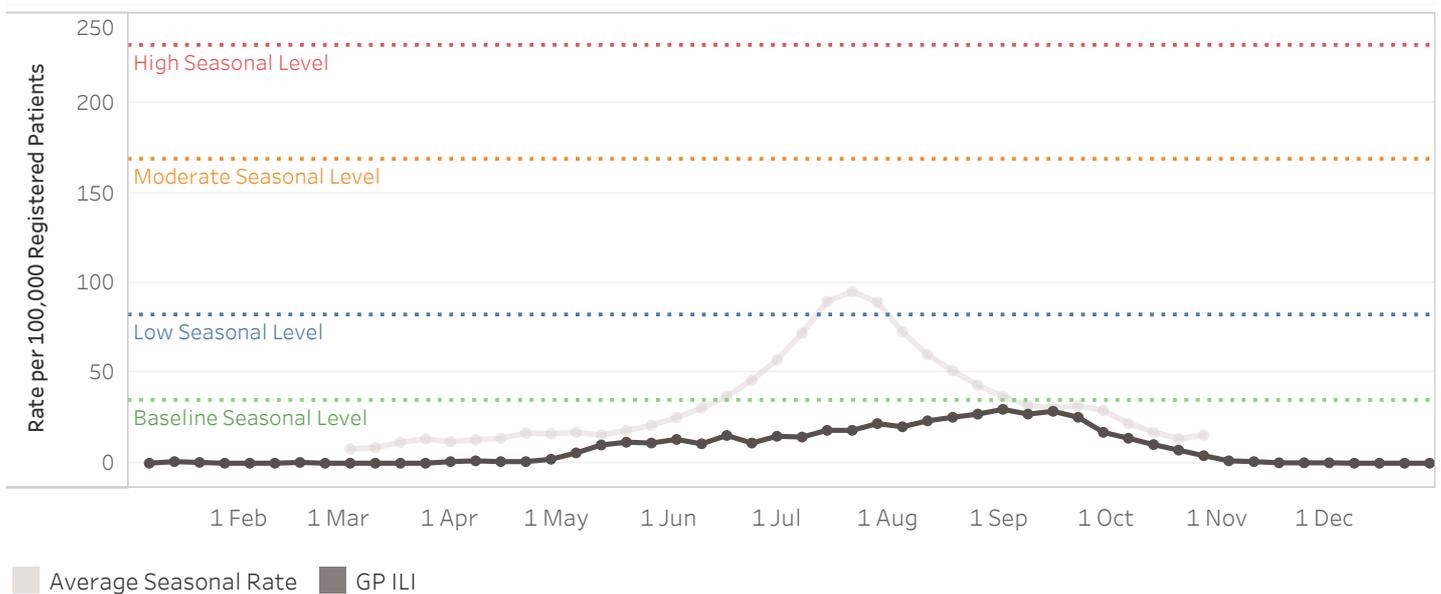


## Month of December 2018

### National Overview

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels in New Zealand. This intelligence report will be updated monthly until May 2019 unless the out of season surveillance in sentinel GPs and ICUs identifies concerns.

### Weekly General Practice Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Rates To 30 Dec 18

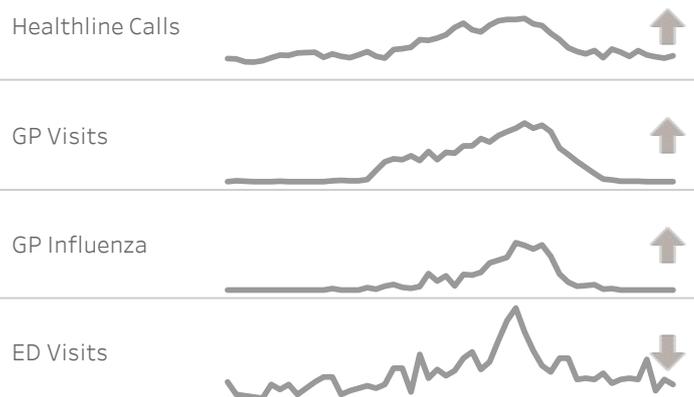


As expected for this time of year, indicators of community Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity have remained low over the last month. ILI related calls to HealthLine have continued at low levels in December.

Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) admissions to sentinel hospitals in Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs have remained low over the past month.

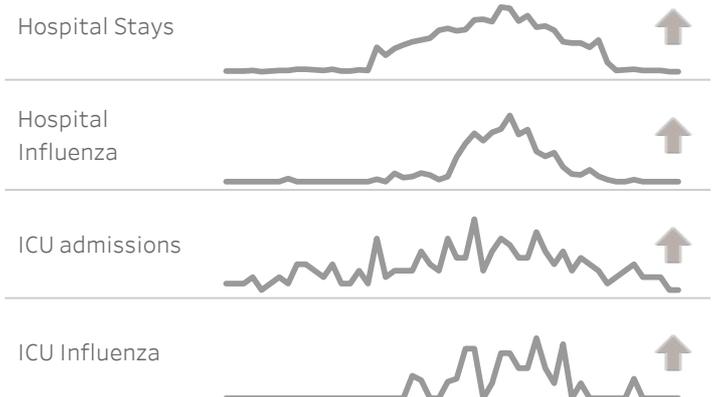
### Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity to 30 Dec 18

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



### Acute Hospital Activity (SARI) to 30 Dec 18

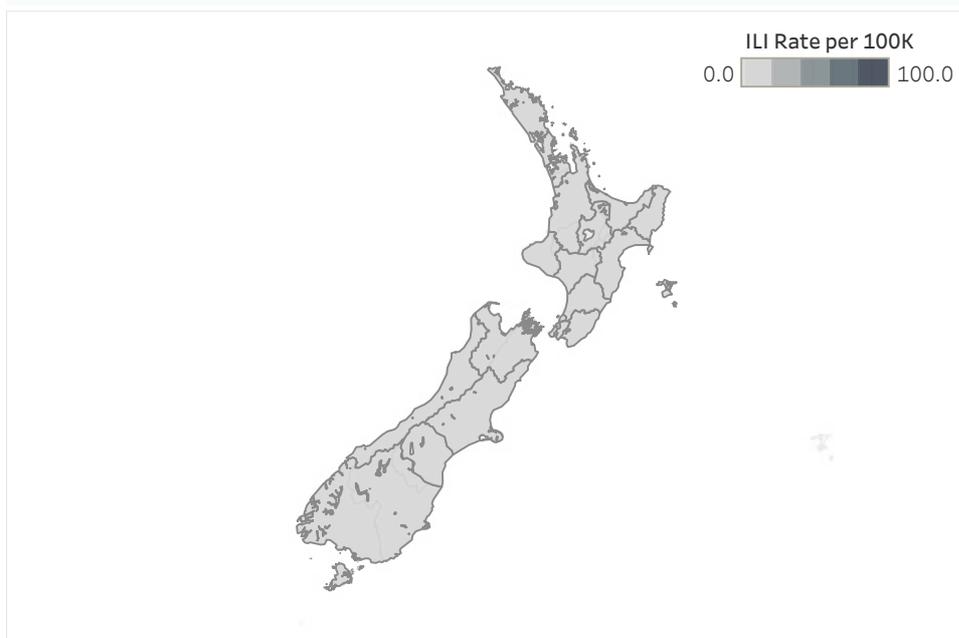
Arrow colour indicates whether the current weekly change is statistically significant.



## Activity by DHB

As expected for this time of year, across all District Health Boards, rates of GP visits for ILI have remained low over the month. Interpretation of DHB-level GP ILI rates should be done with caution, because rates for an individual DHB are dependent on the number and size of participating practices in the DHB. Some DHBs have sparse ILI GP surveillance coverage. Cumulative rates for Healthline ILI calls in 2018 do not vary greatly across DHBs.

## 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

In the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, influenza activity has continued to increase, although overall activity remains low (based on data reported to 09 December 2018).<sup>1</sup> Where detected, Flu A(H1N1)pdm09 predominates. Increased influenza detections have also been reported in some Southern and South-East Asian countries.<sup>1</sup>

In the temperate zones of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity has returned to inter-seasonal levels.<sup>1-3</sup>

Other viral illnesses:

The US CDC continues to investigate an increase in Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) associated with enterovirus infection. In 2018, there were 193 confirmed cases in 39 states (to 4 January 2019). AFM may commence with acute respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms and has previously been associated with enterovirus D68 infections.<sup>4</sup>

In 2018, cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have continued to be reported in the Middle East. Sporadic cases have been reported elsewhere (linked to known exposure to camels in the Middle East).<sup>5</sup>

In 2018, sporadic cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9), A(H5N6), A(H7N4) and A(H9N2) have been reported associated with exposure to birds in China.<sup>6</sup> A case of mild illness associated with human infection with avian influenza A(H7N2) was also reported in the USA associated with contact with infected cats (this is only the second known transmission of this virus from cats to humans).<sup>6</sup>

MERS-CoV and the avian influenza viruses are not known to spread easily from person-to-person at present and are classified by the WHO as being of low risk of international spread.<sup>5,6</sup>

Further information on overseas acute respiratory disease activity:

1. WHO Global Flu Update (data to 09 December 2018):  
[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 08/01/19)
2. Australia: [www.health.gov.au/flureport](http://www.health.gov.au/flureport) (accessed 08/01/19)
3. Pacific: [www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/](http://www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/) (accessed 08/01/19)
4. CDC USA: [www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/afm-surveillance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/afm-surveillance.html) (accessed 08/01/19)
5. WHO Emergency Preparedness, response: [www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2018/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2018/en/) (accessed 08/01/19)
6. WHO Avian and other zoonotic influenza: [www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/en/) (accessed 08/01/19)