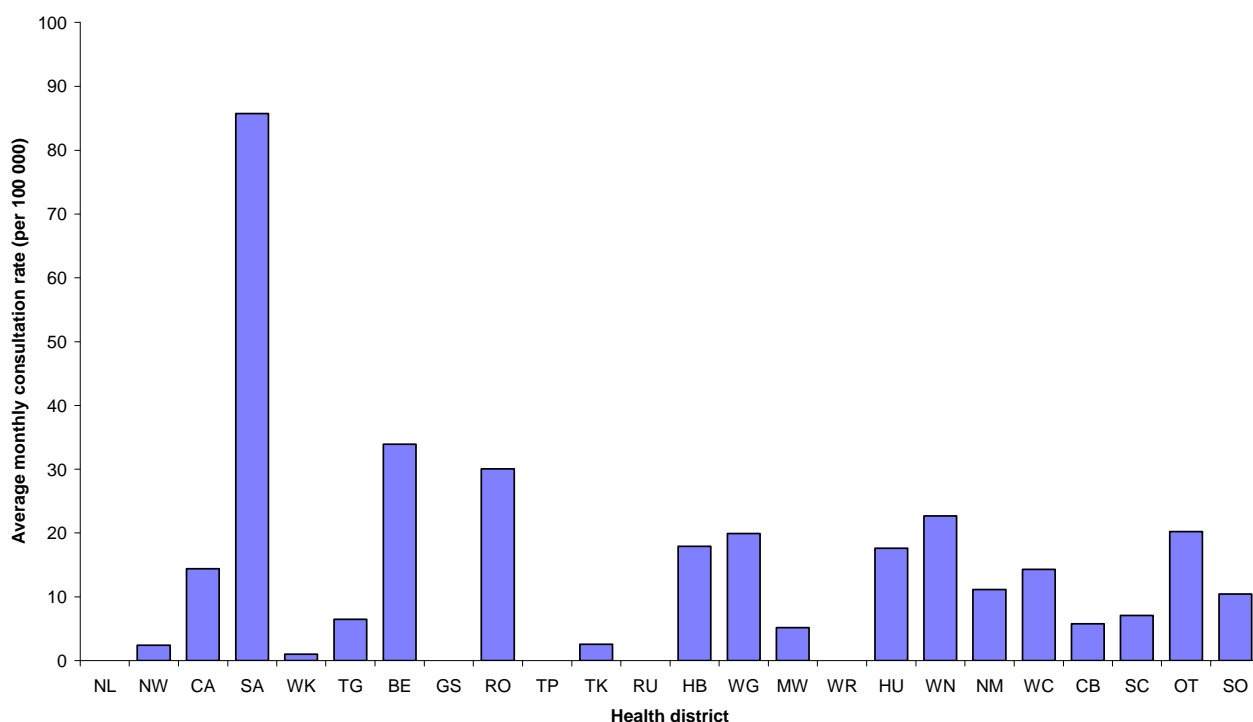


INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 2009

During November (weeks 44- 48), 504 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices (on average) in all of the 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for November was 26.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during November. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (85.7 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (33.9 per 100 000), and Rotorua (30.1 per 100 000).

Figure 1: Average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district, November 2009



A total of 113 swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, two influenza viruses were identified as Pandemic (H1N1) 09 from Central Auckland and Wellington.

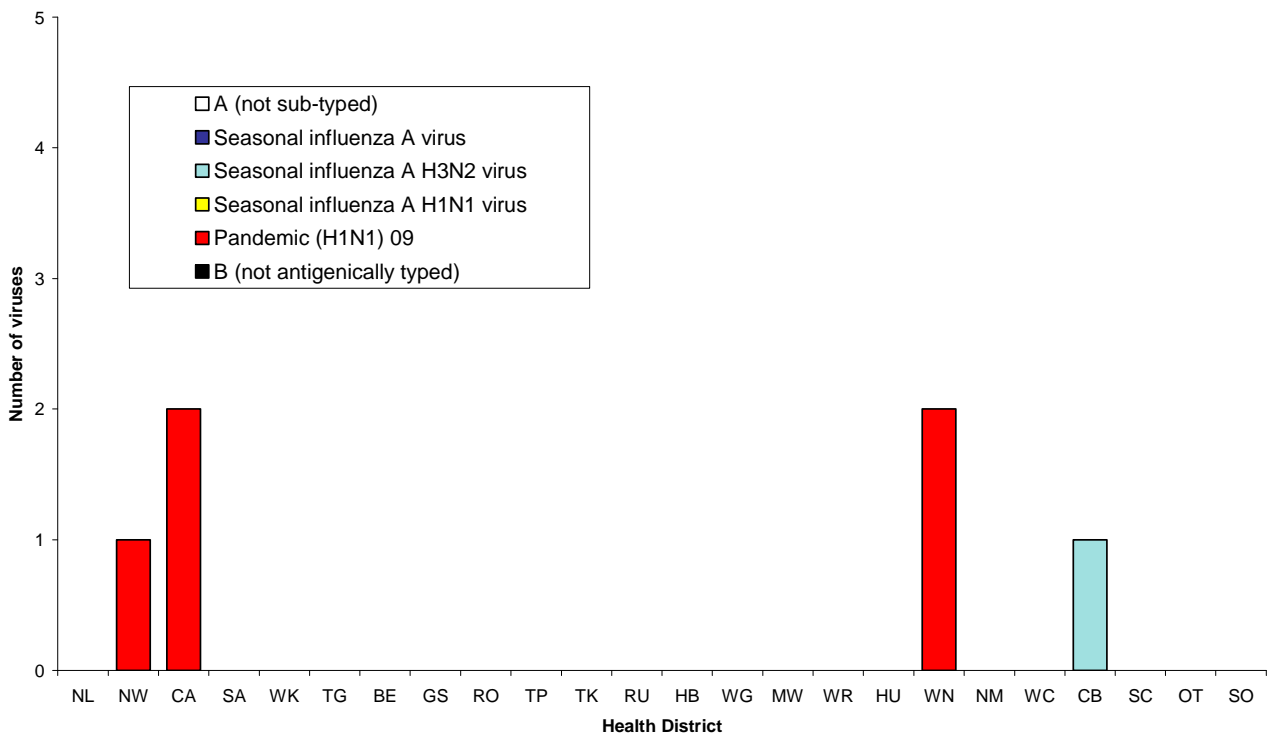
In addition, four influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance: Pandemic (H1N1) 09 (3) and seasonal A (H3N2) (1). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance in November by Health District

| Antigenic Strain | NW | CA | WN | CB | Total |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pandemic (H1N1) 09 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Seasonal A (H3N2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for November 2009¹. A total of six viruses were identified. The predominant strain was pandemic (H1N1) 09 (5) and seasonal A (H3N2) (1).

Figure 2: Cumulative influenza viruses from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance by health district, November 2009



¹ Data based on date specimen taken rather than week reported.

Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 48, November 2009 and rates in 2008 and 2007. As seen in the previous years, the rates of influenza-like illness have decreased gradually between week 34 and week 40. However, ILI consultations from the GP sentinel surveillance program are still being reported after week 40 in response to the influenza pandemic this year.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2007, 2008 and 2009

