



ISSN 2324-4097

Community and Hospital Surveillance

ILI, SARI ICU, Influenza and Respiratory Pathogens

2018 Influenza Season, February 2018

SUMMARY

During February, influenza activity was low among consultation-seeking patients nationwide. Influenza activity was also low among those hospitalised ICU patients in Auckland and Counties Manukau District Health Boards.

- **Influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) surveillance**

ILI surveillance: One patient with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 DHBs. The monthly ILI incidence was 0.2 per 100 000 patient population (Figure 1).

ICU surveillance: Since the 1 January 2018, there were 17 cases admitted to ICU.

ILI counts and rates by DHB by week are available in the Appendix.

The surveillance for community-based influenza-like illness (ILI) and hospital-based severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) provides evidence to inform public health and clinical practice to reduce the impact of influenza virus infection and other important respiratory pathogens. This monthly report summarises data obtained from the ILI and SARI surveillance platforms. The report includes incidence and demographic characteristics for community ILI cases as well as hospital SARI ICU admissions for the past month as well as the cumulative period since 1 January 2018.

Note: Data in this report are provisional and may change as more cases are assessed and information is updated. Data were extracted on 13 March 2018.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS and SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

During February, one patient with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 DHBs. The monthly ILI incidence was 0.2 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1. Weekly resident ILI and influenza incidence since 1 January 2018

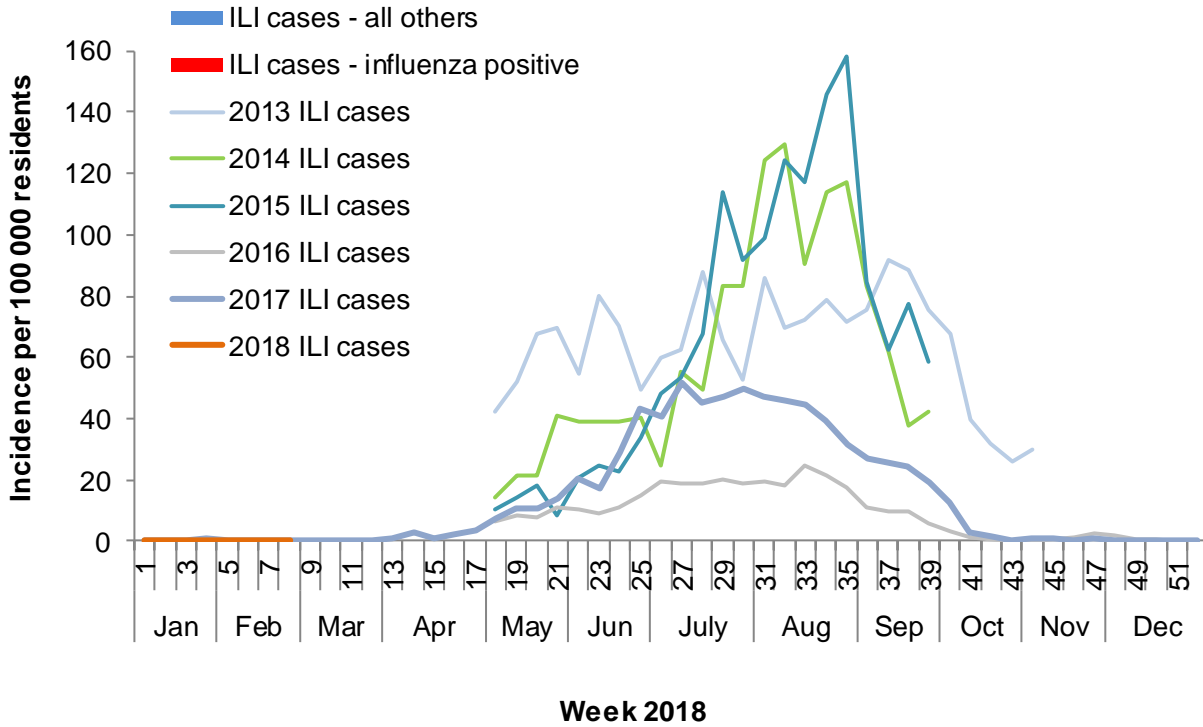


Figure 2. Weekly ILI incidence by age group since 1 January 2018

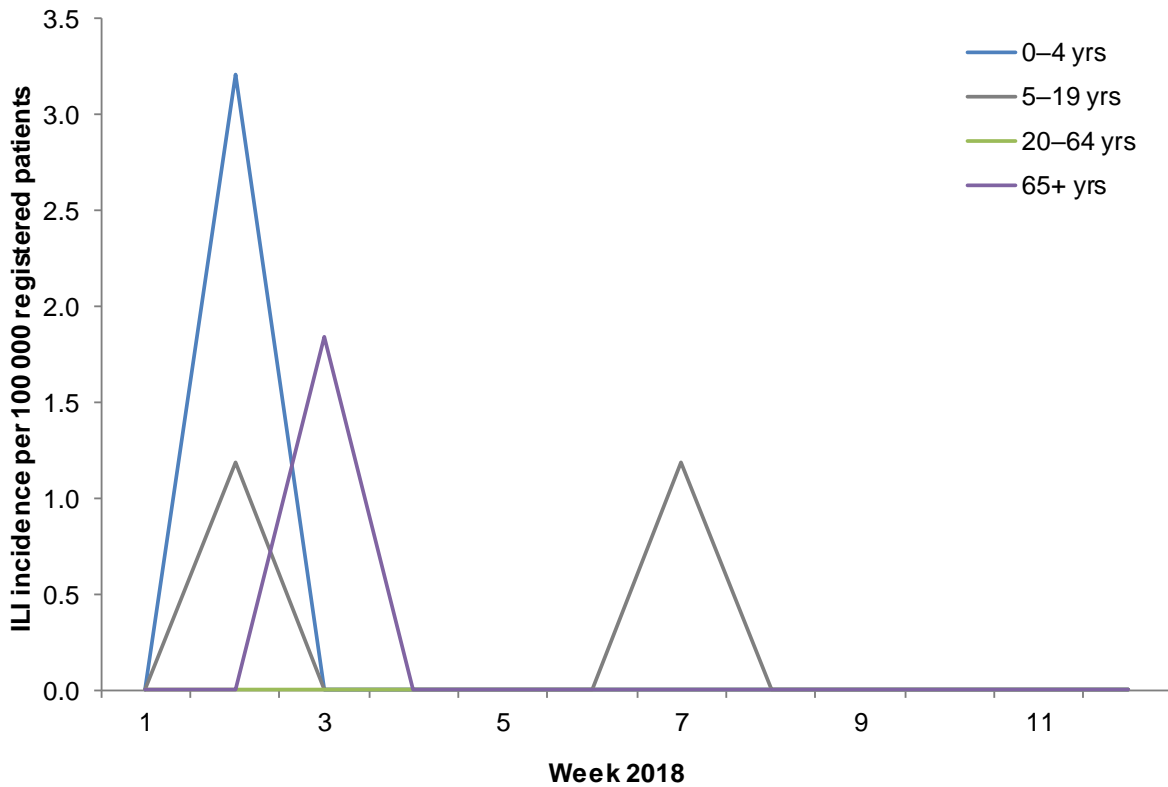


Figure 3. Weekly ILI incidence by ethnicity since 1 January 2018

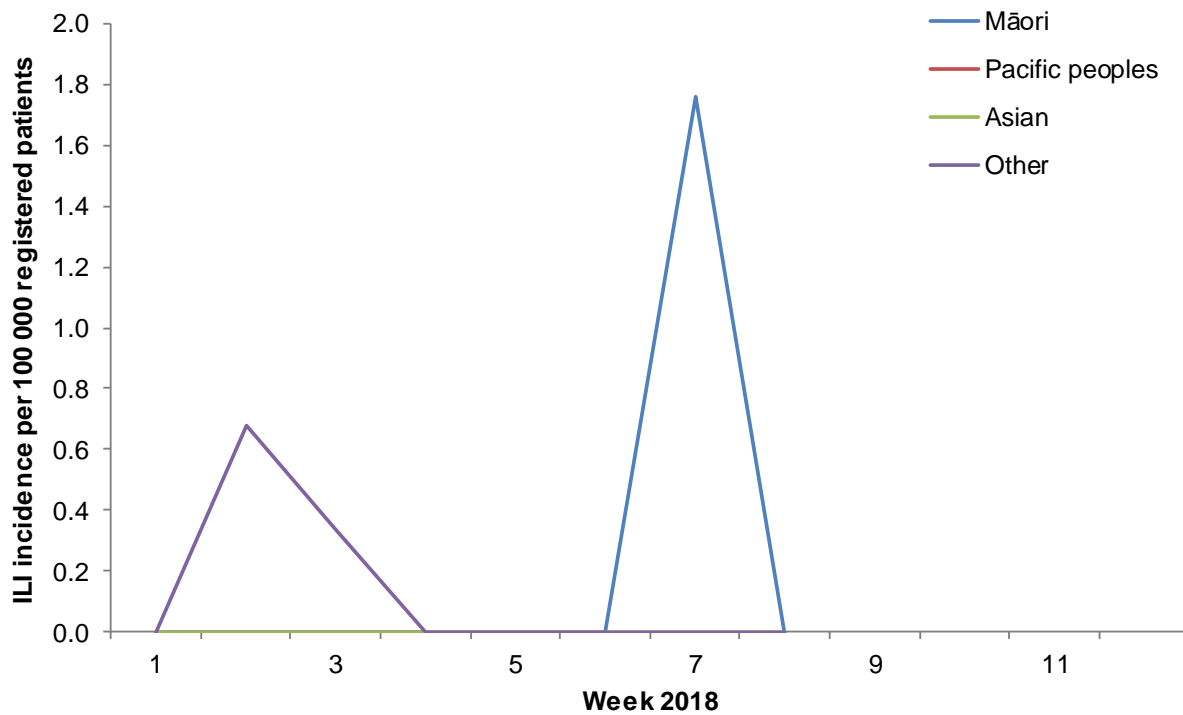
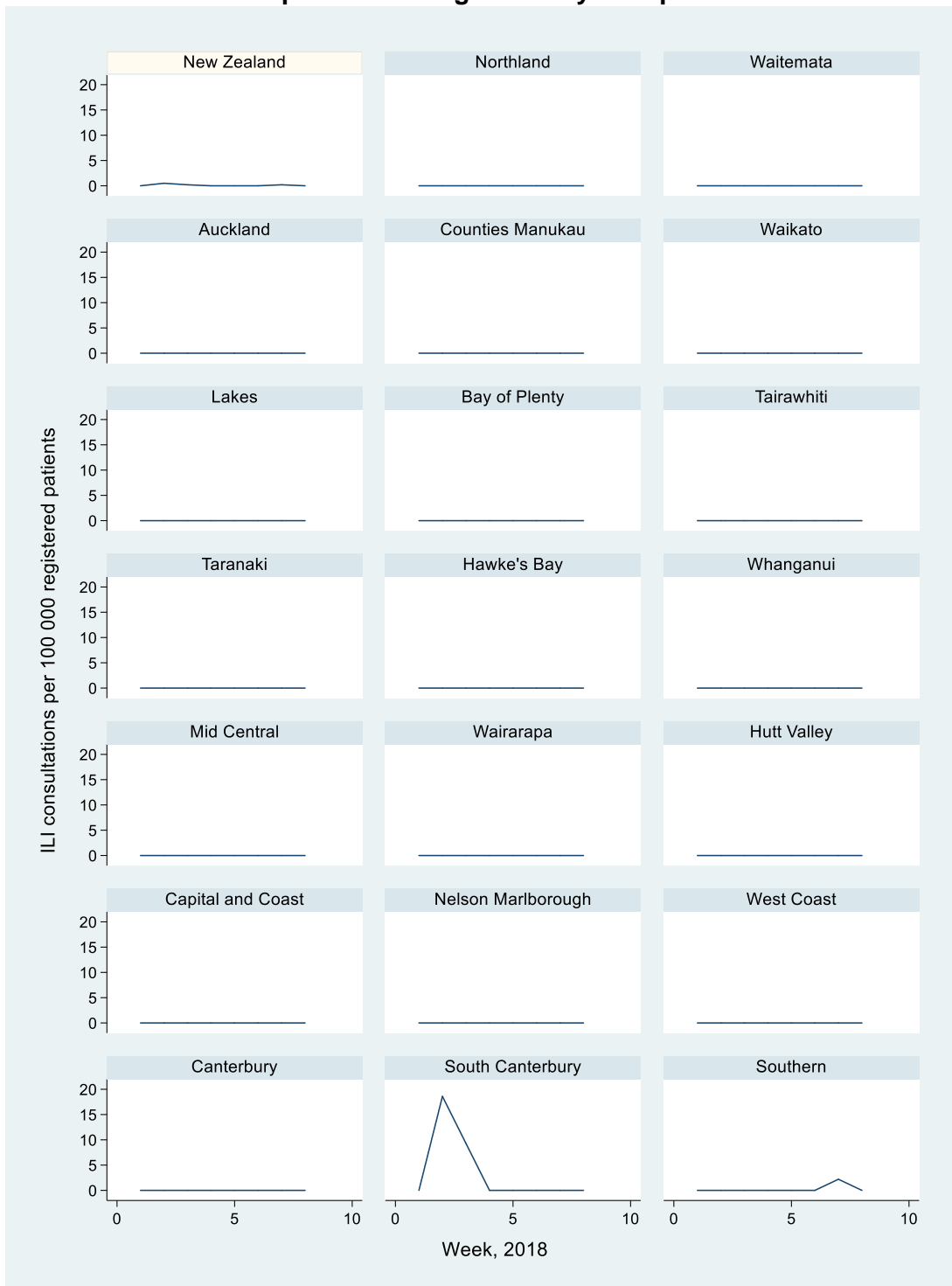


Figure 4 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB since 1 January 2018.

Figure 4. Rate of ILI consultations per 100 000 registered by DHB per week since 1 January 2018



*Results that have some uncertainty, with less than 5% of the DHB population covered (see Notes on Interpretation).
 Note: Outliers have been omitted from this graph.

ILI consultation rates for any particular DHB should be treated with caution as they may not be representative of the real situation for a particular community or setting, especially if the surveillance system has a small number of participating General Practices in the DHB, or the GP enrolled patient population is small, the calculated ILI rates are subject to greater fluctuation.

Since 1 January 2018, a total of four ILI cases were identified (Table 1). This gives an ILI cumulative incidence of 1.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of ILI and influenza cases, since 1 January 2018

Characteristics	ILI cases among sentinel practices	
	ILI cases	ILI incidence (per 100 000)
Overall	4	1.0
Age group (years)		
<1	0	0.0
1–4	1	4.1
5–19	2	2.4
20–34	0	0.0
35–49	0	0.0
50–64	0	0.0
65–79	1	2.4
>80	0	0.0
Unknown	0	
Ethnicity		
Māori	1	1.8
Pacific peoples	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
European and Other	3	1.0
Unknown	0	0.0
Sex		
Female	1	0.5
Male	3	1.5
Unknown	0	

Intensive Care Unit admissions among hospitalised patients

During February there were seven cases admitted to ICU. Eight specimens were tested from seven ICU cases; none were positive for influenza viruses (Table 2).

Table 2. ICU influenza viruses since 1 January 2018

<i>Influenza viruses</i>	ICU	
	All weeks	February
No. of specimens tested	8	2
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Influenza A	0	0
A (not subtyped)	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	0	0
A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)	0	0
A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09 - like	0	0
A(H3N2)	0	0
A(H3N2) by PCR	0	0
A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2) - like	0	0
Influenza B	0	0
B (lineage not determined)	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	0	0
B/Phuket/3073/2013 - like	0	0
B/Victoria lineage	0	0
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	0	0
B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like	0	0
Influenza and non-influenza co-detection (% +ve)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

¹Number of specimens positive for at least one of the listed viruses.

Note. A specimen may be positive for more than one virus; a patient may have more than one specimen tested.

Table 3. ICU non-influenza viruses since 1 January 2018

<i>Non-influenza respiratory viruses</i>	ICU	
	All weeks	February
No. of specimens tested	4	2
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	1	1
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	0	0
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	0	0
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	0	0
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	0	0
Rhinovirus (RV)	1	1
Adenovirus (AdV)	0	0
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	0	0
Enterovirus	1	1
Single virus detection (% of positives)	0	0
Multiple virus detection (% of positives)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)

¹Number of specimens positive for at least one of the listed viruses.

Note. A specimen may be positive for more than one virus; a patient may have more than one specimen tested.

APPENDIX

Table 4. Influenza-like illness count by DHB by week 1–8, 2018

DHB	Week							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Auckland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital and Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Counties Manukau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawke's Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hutt Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MidCentral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Canterbury	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taranaki	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waikato	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wairarapa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waitemata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0

Table 5. Influenza-like illness rate by DHB by weeks 1–8, 2018

DHB	Rate per 100 000							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Auckland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bay of Plenty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canterbury	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital and Coast	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Counties Manukau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hawke's Bay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hutt Valley	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lakes*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MidCentral*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nelson Marlborough	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South Canterbury	0.0	18.6	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0
Tairāwhiti	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Taranaki	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waikato*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wairarapa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waitemata*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
West Coast	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Whanganui*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0



Recent global experience with pandemic influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 highlights the importance of monitoring severe and mild respiratory disease to support pandemic preparedness as well as seasonal influenza prevention and control. Two active, prospective, population-based surveillance systems were used to monitor influenza and other respiratory pathogens: 1) among those registered patients seeking consultations with influenza-like illness (ILI) at sentinel general practices nation-wide; 2) among those hospitalized patients with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in Auckland and Counties Manukau District Health Boards (ADHB and CMDHB).

The aims of ILI and SARI surveillance are: 1) to measure the burden of severe and moderate disease caused by influenza and other respiratory pathogens; 2) to monitor trends in severe and moderate disease caused by influenza and other respiratory pathogens; 3) to identify high risk groups that should be prioritized for prevention and treatment; 4) to monitor antigenic, genetic and antiviral characteristics of influenza viruses associated with severe and mild disease. 5) to provide a study base to estimate the effectiveness of influenza vaccine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Health. SARI surveillance was established and funded by the US CDC, and continues to operate through funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

DESCRIPTION OF ILI ACTIVITY THRESHOLDS

The values for the different intensity levels for 2018 are listed in the table below. This is based on New Zealand’s consultation rates from 2000–2015 (excluding the pandemic year, 2009) and WHO’s interim guidance severity assessment

Below seasonal level (baseline, per 100,000)	Seasonal level (per 100,000)			Above seasonal level (per 100,000)
	low	moderate	high	
<35.1	35.1-82.5	82.5-168.9	168.9-231.8	>231.8

- The baseline threshold indicates the level of influenza activity that signals the start and end of the annual influenza season and it is based on the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) (*Vega et al. Influenza and other respiratory viruses 2013;7(4):546-558*).
- Seasonal levels (low, moderate and high) are estimated as the upper limits of the 40%, 90% and 97.5% one-sided confidence intervals of the geometric mean of 30 highest epidemic weekly rates using the MEM method. As many other countries use this method, it allows the NZ data to be interpreted not just at the country level but also comparable with other countries.
- The average seasonal curve indicates the usual seasonal activity that may occur during a typical year using the method described in “*Global epidemiological surveillance standards for influenza*” (http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/WHO_Epidemiological_Influenza_Surveillance_Standards_2014.pdf).

NOTES ON INTERPRETATION

- SARI case definition: “An acute respiratory illness with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, AND cough, AND onset within the past 10 days, AND requiring inpatient hospitalisation (defined as a patient who is admitted under a medical team and to a hospital ward or assessment unit)”. A non-SARI case is a hospitalised respiratory patient who does not meet the SARI case definition.
- ILI case definition: “An acute respiratory illness with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, AND cough, AND onset within the past 10 days, AND requiring GP consultation”.
- ILI sentinel general practices: a total of 74 sentinel general practices have agreed to participate in community ILI surveillance. These practices have ~400 000 registered patients, covering roughly 9% of the NZ population.
- SARI sentinel hospitals serving a population of 906 000 people: Auckland City Hospital and the associated Starship Children’s Hospital (ADHB), and Middlemore Hospital and the associated Kidz First Children’s Hospital (CMDHB).
- The real-time PCR assay for influenza virus uses CDC’s protocol (http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh_docs/pdf8/k080570.pdf);
- The real-time PCR assay for non-influenza respiratory viruses (respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus types 1-3, human metapneumovirus, rhinovirus and adenovirus) uses CDC’s protocol. Note: The rhinovirus PCR detects mostly rhinovirus with slight cross-reactivity against enterovirus.
- The surveillance week is Monday to Sunday inclusive, and data are extracted on the subsequent Tuesday. Results from previous weeks will be revised as data are updated (laboratory test results in particular may be delayed).
- ILI consultation rates for any particular DHB should be treated with caution. If the surveillance system has a small number of participating General Practices in the DHB, or the GP enrolled patient population is small, the calculated ILI rates are subject to greater fluctuation.

This weekly report is compiled by ESR. For more information please contact:

Tim Wood: T:+64 4 529 0611; E: Tim.Wood@esr.cri.nz

Liza Lopez: T:+64 4 914 0647; E: Liza.Lopez@esr.cri.nz

Sue Huang: T:+64 4 529 0606; E: Sue.Huang@esr.cri.nz