In the past week, a total of 71 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 83 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 20.2 per 100,000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Eastern Bay of Plenty had the highest consultation rate (97.5 per 100,000), followed by Otago (93.9 per 100,000).

Twenty-three swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-one swabs were received by virology laboratories. One Influenza A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like virus was reported from the Hutt for the sentinel surveillance.

A further one Influenza A isolate (yet to be subtyped) from Central Auckland was reported for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.
Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2002 and 2003 seasons, and 2004 so far. The current rate of influenza is lower than at the same time last year.
Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 24, 2004.

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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