In the past week, a total of 118 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 83 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 33.1 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 (195.0 per 100,000), followed by South Canterbury (121.8 per 100,000).

Thirty-five swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. One Influenza A virus (yet to be subtyped) was reported from North West Auckland for the sentinel surveillance.

Two influenza A isolates (yet to be subtyped) were reported from Central Auckland and Waikato 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 2
Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 27, 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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Influenza Surveillance NZ
Week 27

Consultations for Influenza-like Illness
(per 100 000 practice patients)

- No Data
- No Activity (0)
- Baseline (<50)
- Normal (50 - 249)
- High Activity (250 - 399)
- Epidemic (>=400)