

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

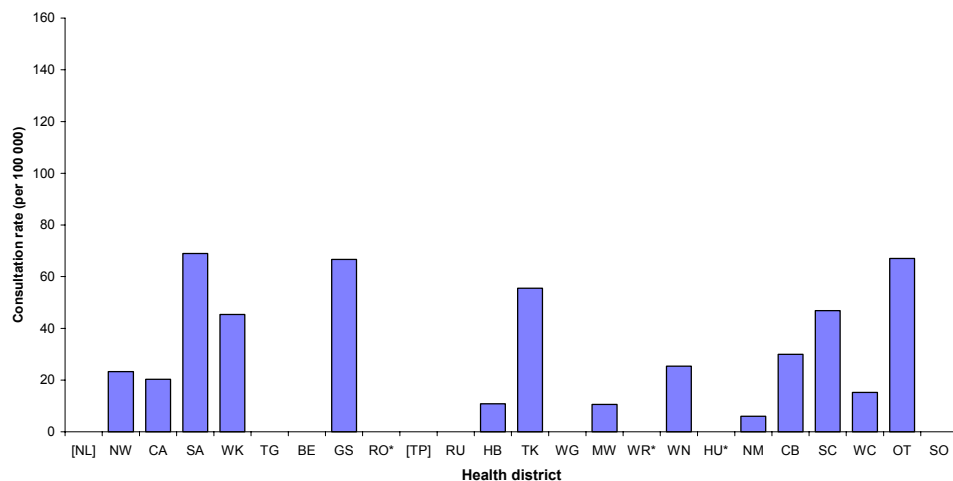
2004/34: 16 August – 22 August 2004

In the past week, a total of 93 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 27.5 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (69.0 per 100 000), followed by Otago (67.1 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 20 August 2004*



[ ] Health Districts not participating

\* Health Districts did not participate for the week

Twenty-eight swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-six swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, six influenza viruses were identified, five as influenza A (yet to be subtyped) and one as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	NW	CA	SA	OT	Total
A	0	2	1	2	5
B	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

In addition, nine influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, eight were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped) and one as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	CA	SA	TP	CB	Total
A	3	1	1	3	8
B	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 34, July 2004. A total of 46 isolates were identified. Of these, 36 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), five were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2), two as B/Shanghai/361/02-like, and three as influenza B (not typed).

Figure 2

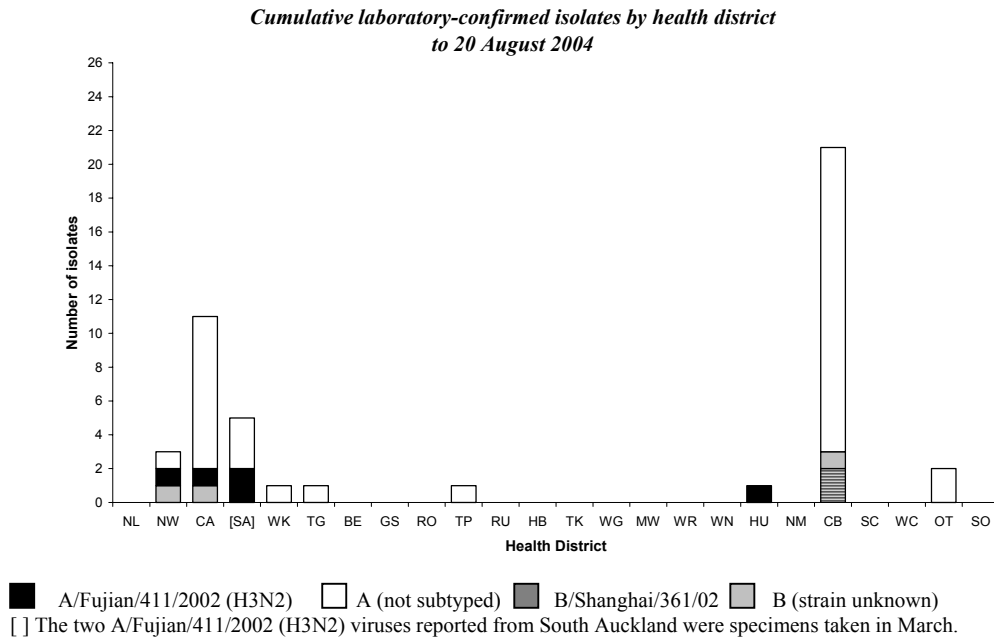


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2002 and 2003 seasons, and 2004 so far. The current rate of influenza is lower than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

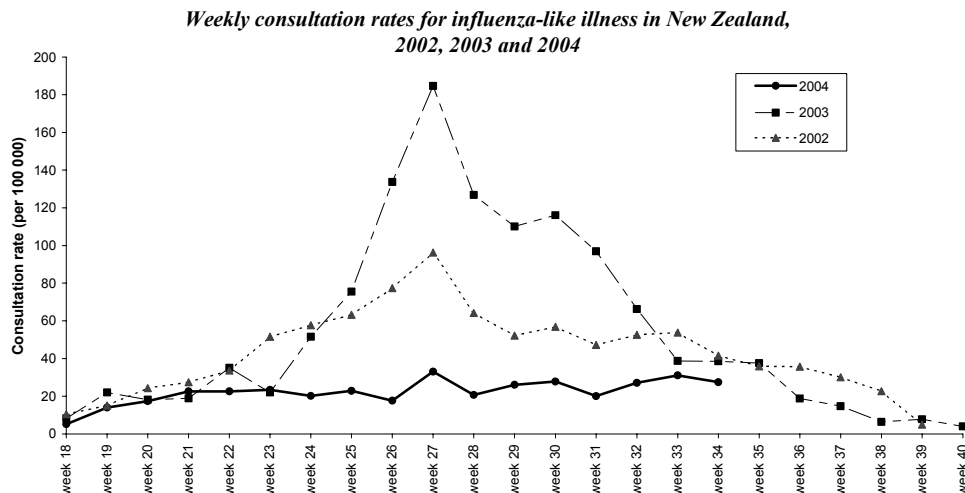
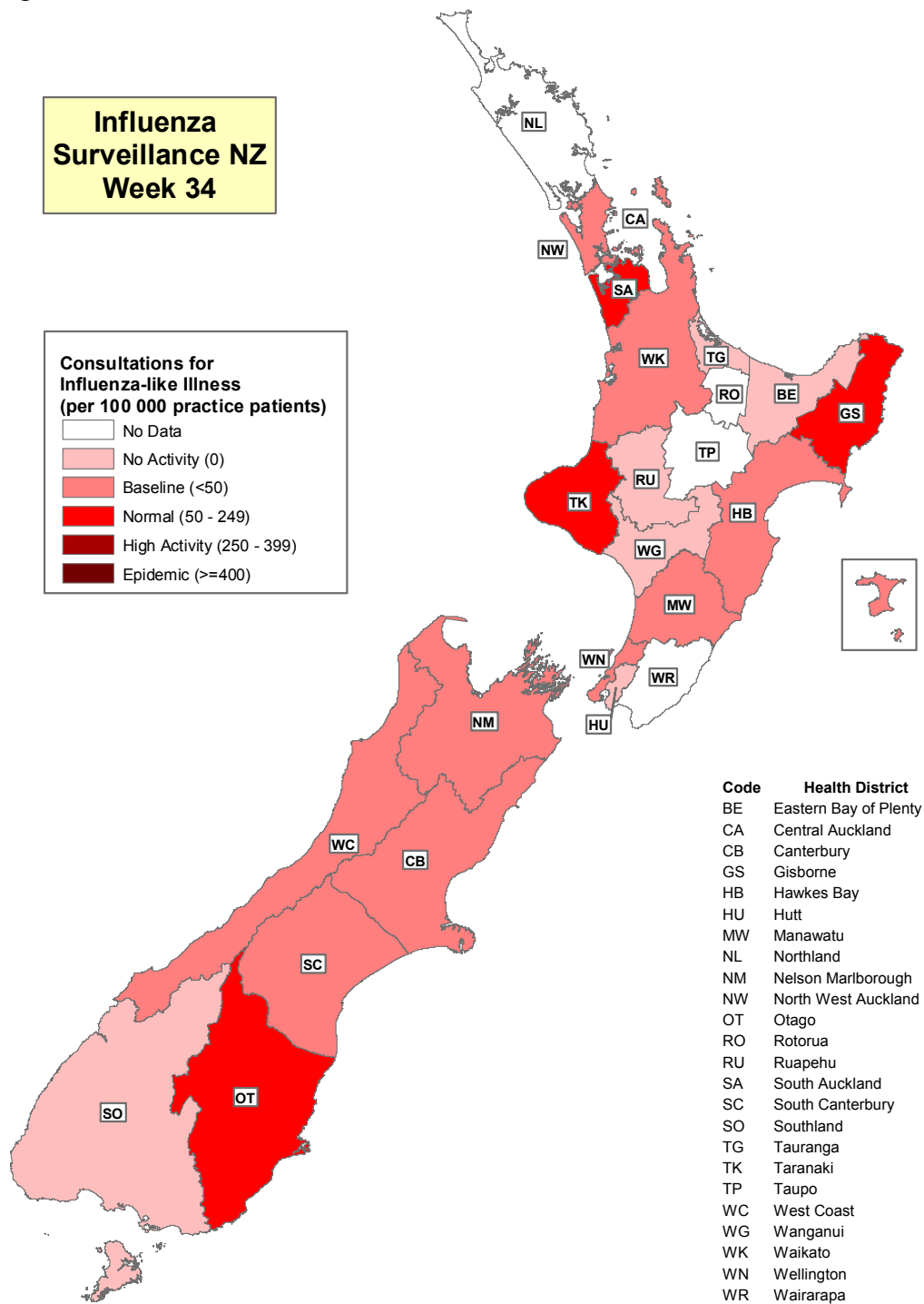


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 34, 2004.

Figure 4



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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