

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

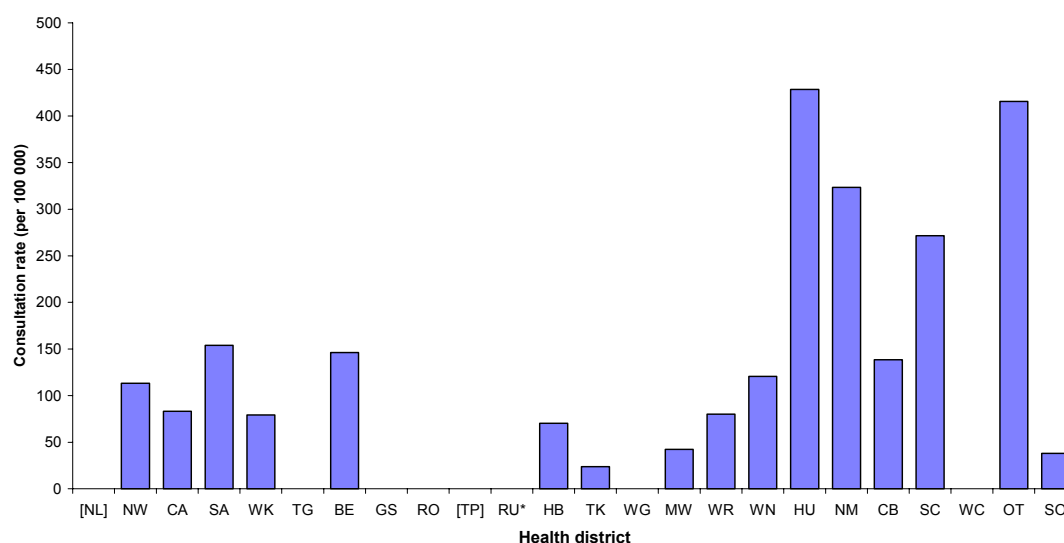
2004/38: 13 September - 19 September 2004

In the past week, a total of 439 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 127.5 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Hutt had the highest consultation rate (428.6 per 100 000), followed by Otago (415.7 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 17 September 2004*



[] Health Districts not participating

* Health District did not participate for the week

Seventy-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Seventy-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 37 influenza viruses were identified, 21 as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, 15 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), and one as B/Sichuan/379/99-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

| | NW | CA | SA | HB | GS | WN | CB | OT | Total |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| A (not subtyped) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| A/Fujian/411/02 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| B/Sichuan/379/99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 37 |

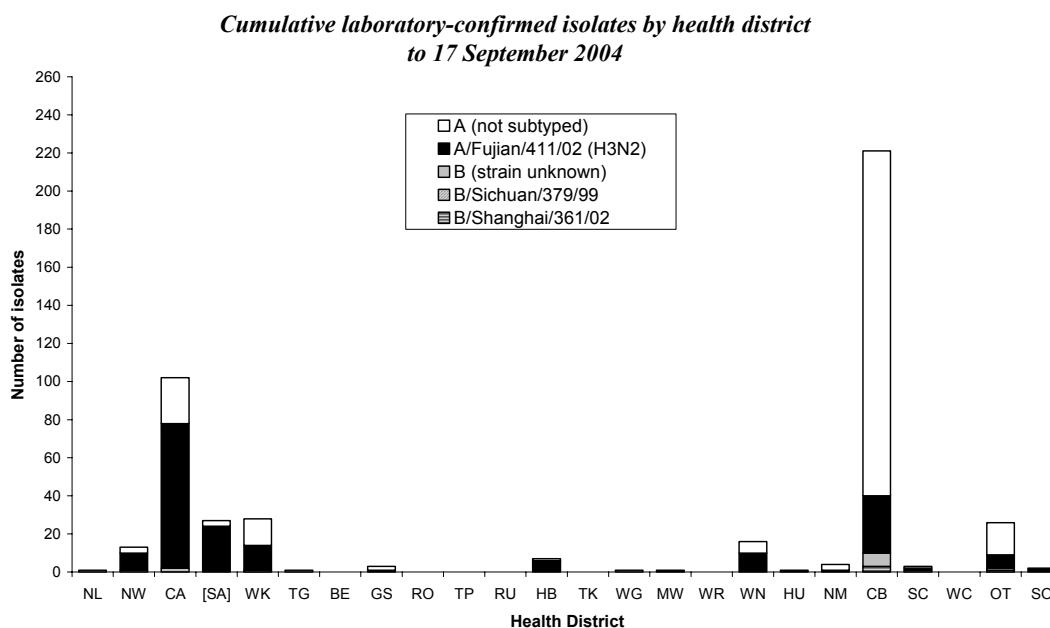
In addition, 112 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 95 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 12 influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, and five as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

| | NL | CA | SA | WK | WN | CB | OT | SC | Total |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| A (not subtyped) | 1 | 13 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 63 | 6 | 1 | 95 |
| A/Fujian/411/02 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| B (not typed) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 1 | 21 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 72 | 6 | 1 | 112 |

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 38, September 2004. A total of 457 isolates were identified. Of these, 258 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 182 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 12 as influenza B (not typed), three as B/Shanghai/361/02-like, and two as B/Sichuan/379/99.

Figure 2



[] The two A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) viruses reported from South Auckland were specimens taken in March.

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

Figure 3

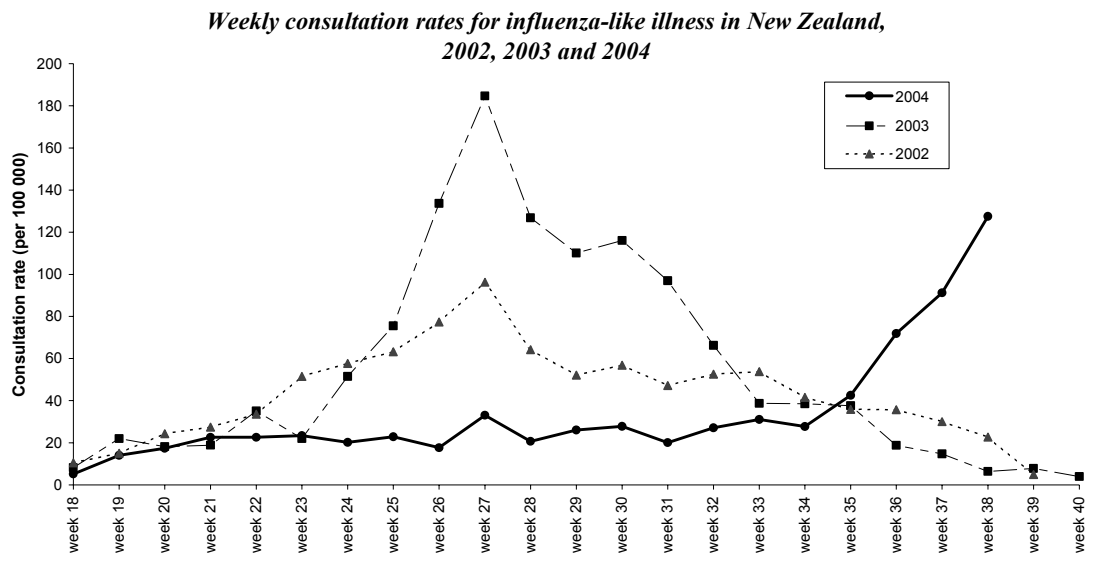
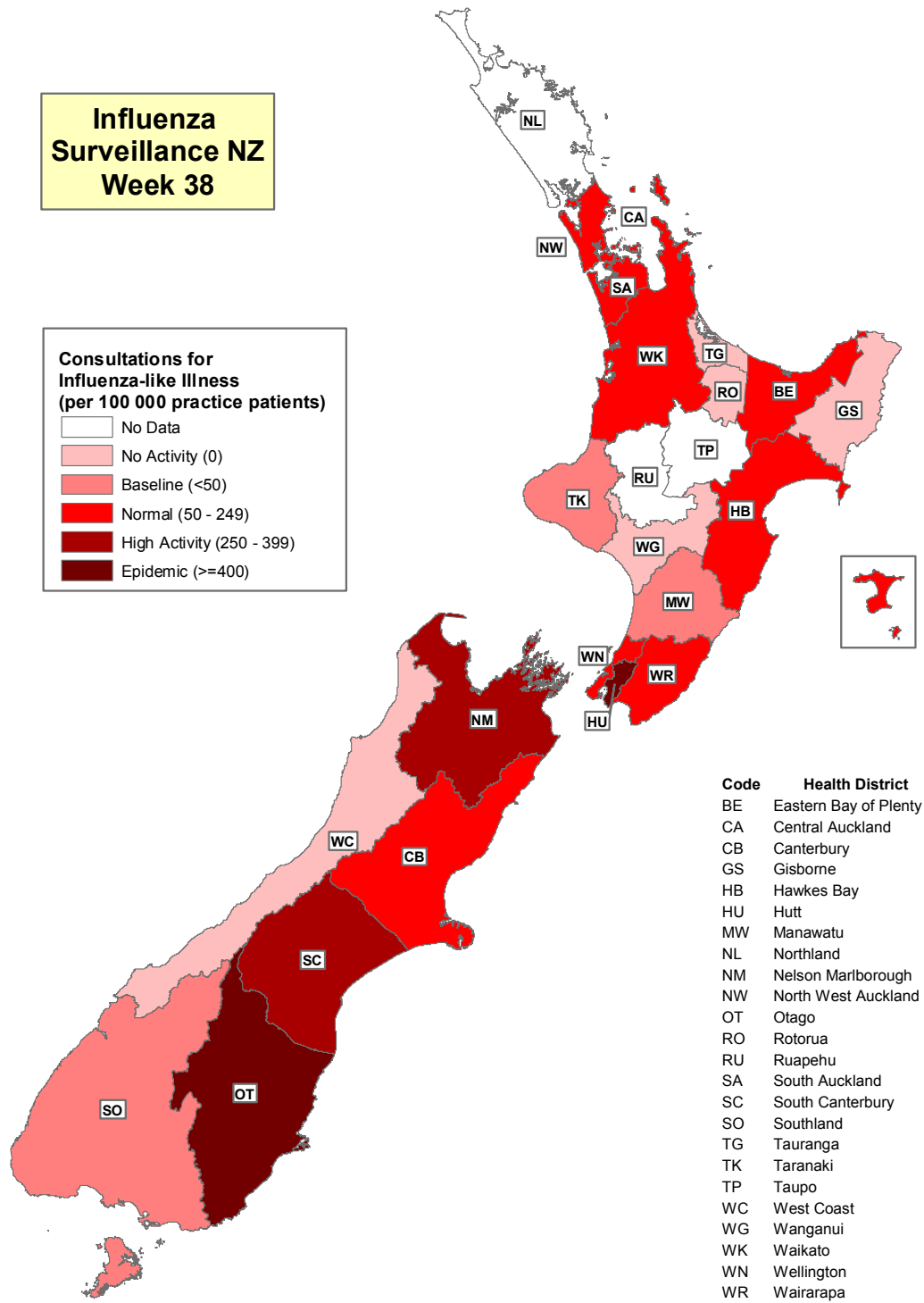


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 38, 2004.

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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