

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

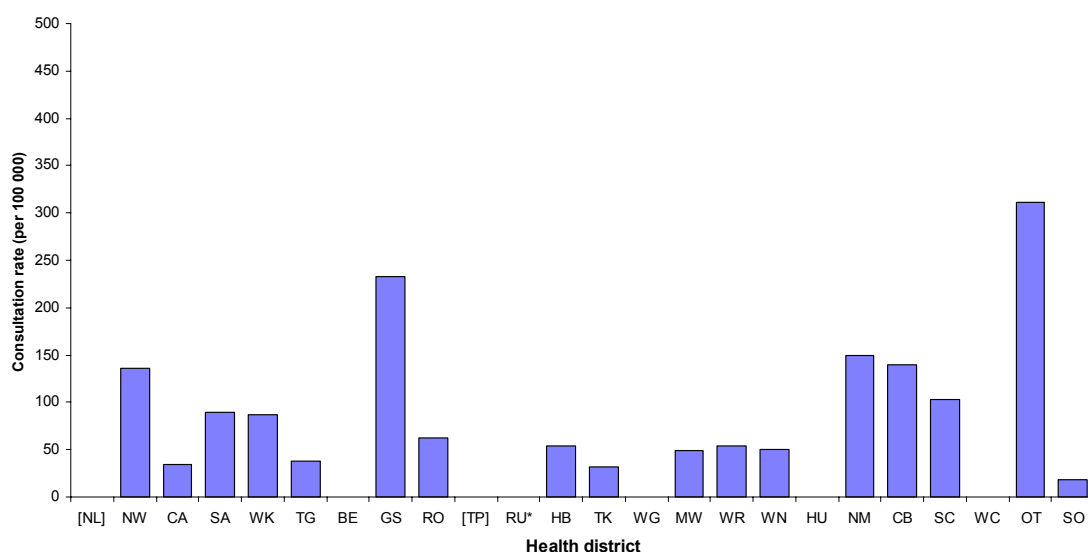
2004/39: 14 September - 26 September 2004

In the past week, a total of 304 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 77 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 91.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Otago had the highest consultation rate (311.8 per 100 000), followed by Gisborne (233.3 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 24 September 2004*



[] Health Districts not participating
* Health District did not participate for the week

Sixty-seven swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Sixty-six swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 27 influenza viruses were identified, 16 as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, 10 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	WK	TG	BE	HB	WN	HU	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	10
A/Fujian/411/02	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	3	3	16
B/Sichuan/379/99	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	7	3	3	27

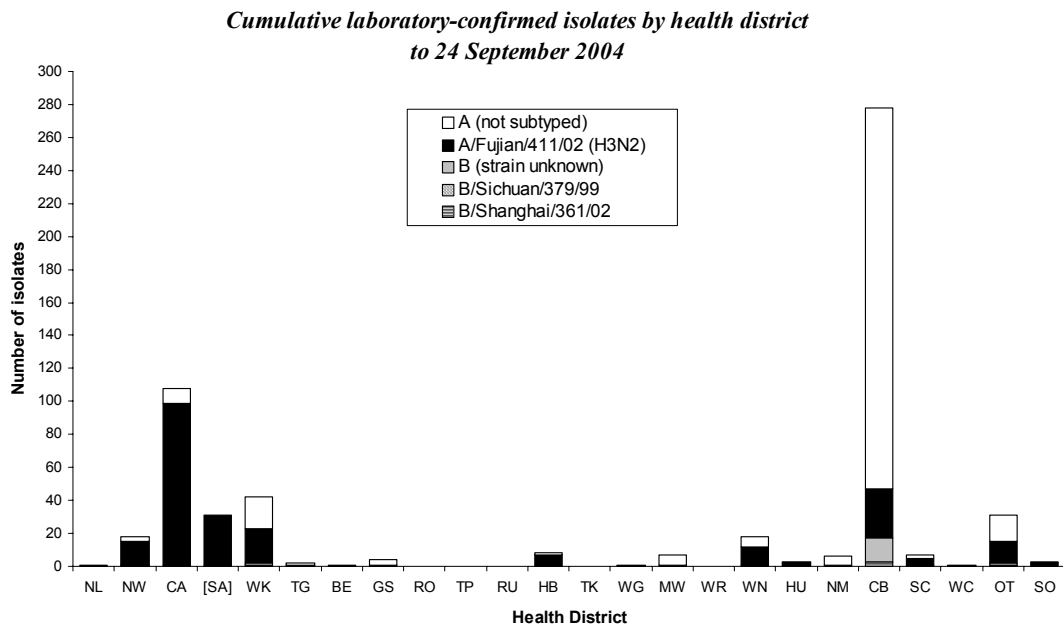
In addition, 86 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 68 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 10 influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, and eight as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	CA	SA	WK	GS	MW	WN	NM	CB	SC	WC	OT	SO	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	0	10	1	3	1	2	46	1	1	2	1	68
A/Fujian/411/02	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
B (not typed)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Total	7	3	11	1	3	1	2	53	1	1	2	1	86

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 39, September 2004. A total of 570 isolates were identified. Of these, 306 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 238 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 18 as influenza B (not typed), five as B/Sichuan/379/99, and three as B/Shanghai/361/02.

Figure 2



[] 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

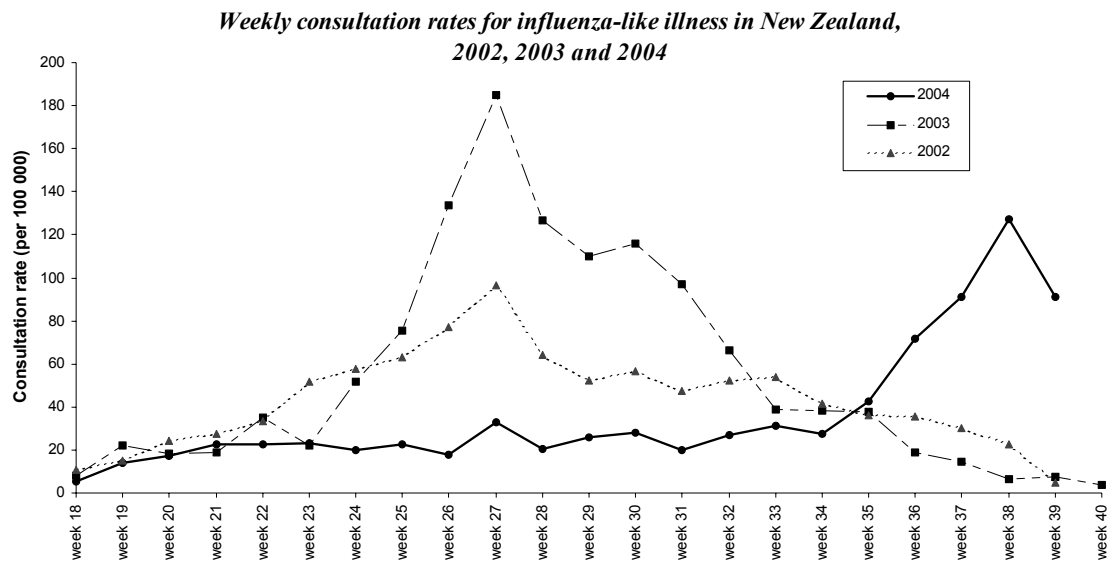
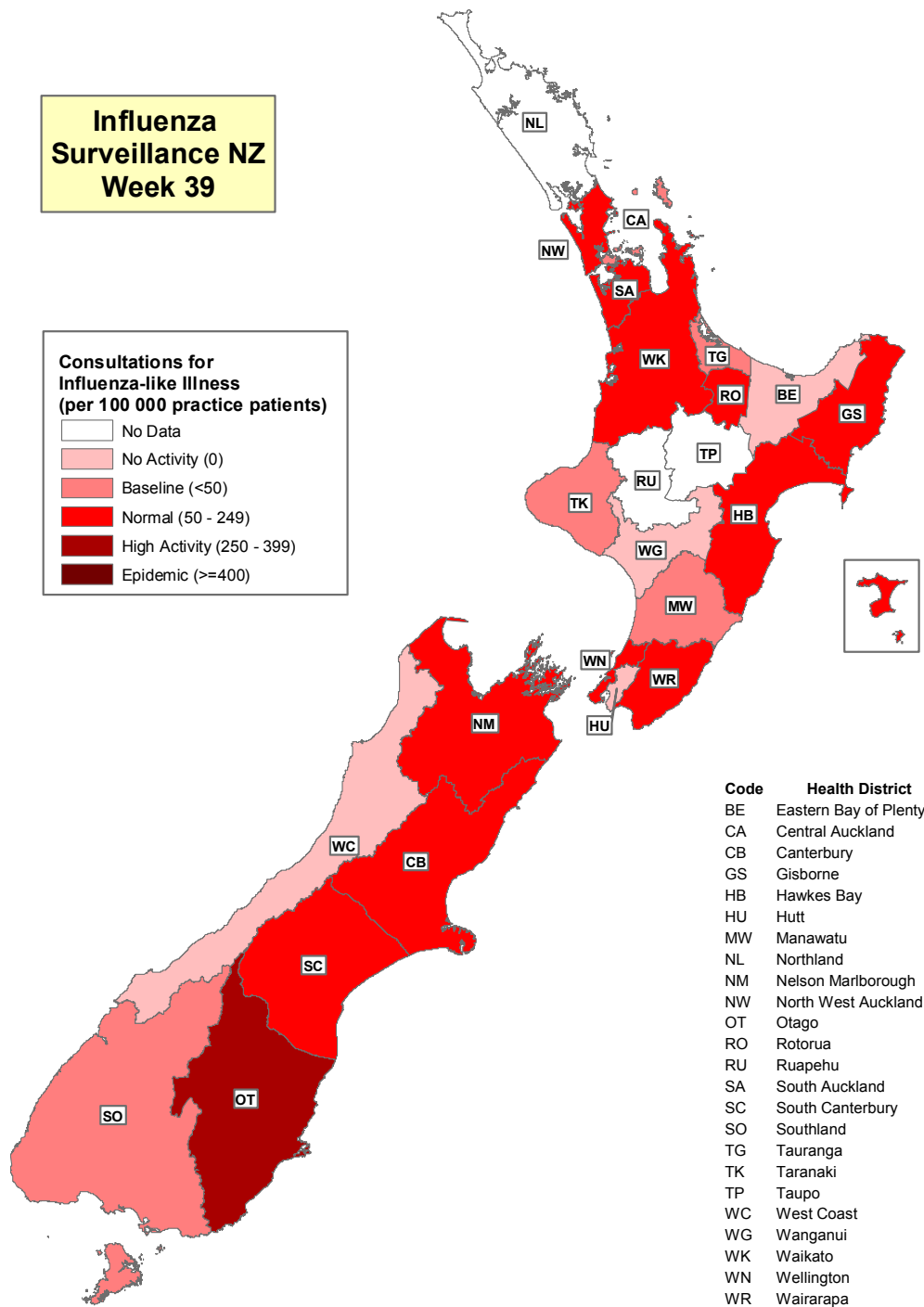


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 39, 2004.

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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