

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

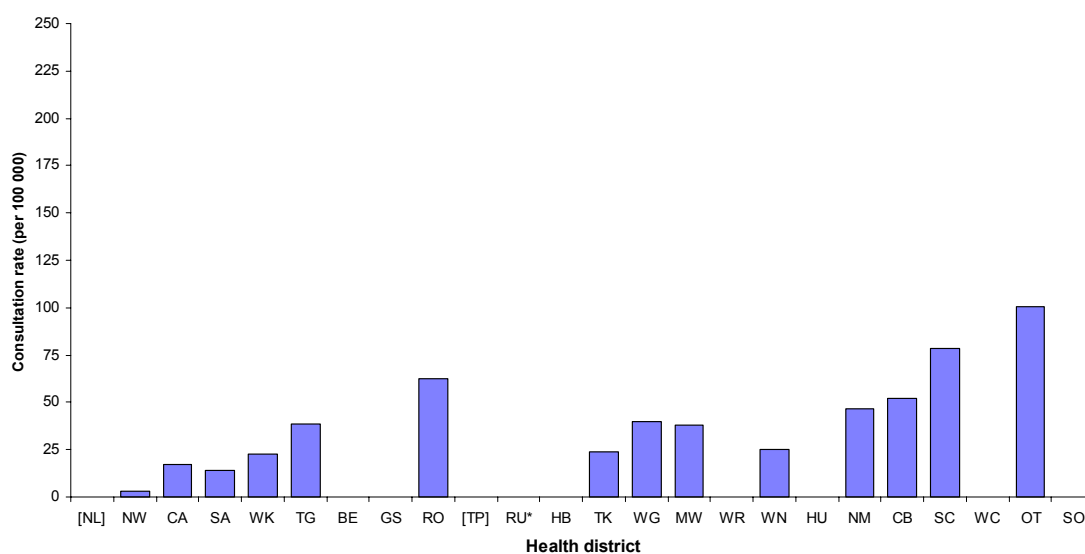
2004/42: 29 September - 15 October 2004

In the past week, a total of 103 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 30.2 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 (100.6 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (78.2 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 15 October 2004*



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

Twenty-three swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Nineteen swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 16 influenza viruses were identified, eight as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, five as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), two as B/Sichuan/379/99, and one as influenza B (not typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	NW	CA	WK	TG	WN	NM	CB	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	5
A/Fujian/411/02	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	8
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
B/Sichuan/379/99	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Total	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	16

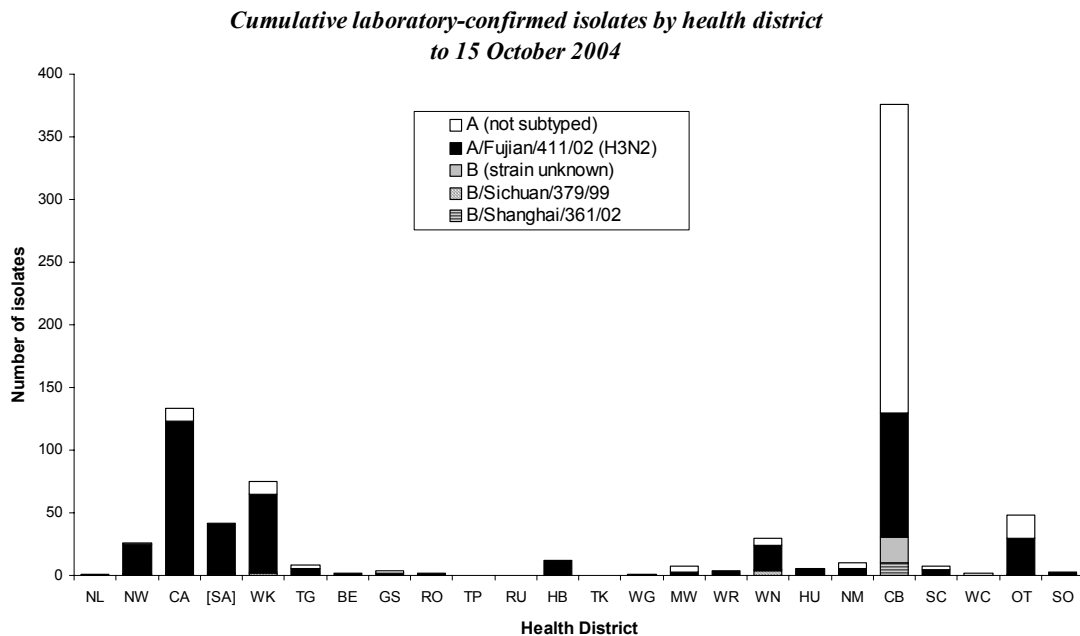
In addition, 21 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 15 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), four as influenza B (not typed), and two influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	CA	SA	WK	TG	WN	CB	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	2	0	3	1	0	6	3	15
A/Fujian/411/02	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
B (not typed)	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
Total	4	1	3	1	1	8	3	21

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 42, 15 October 2004. A total of 799 isolates were identified. Of these, 447 subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 308 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 25 as influenza B (not typed), 10 as B/Shanghai/361/02, and nine as B/Sichuan/379/99.

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.

Figure 3

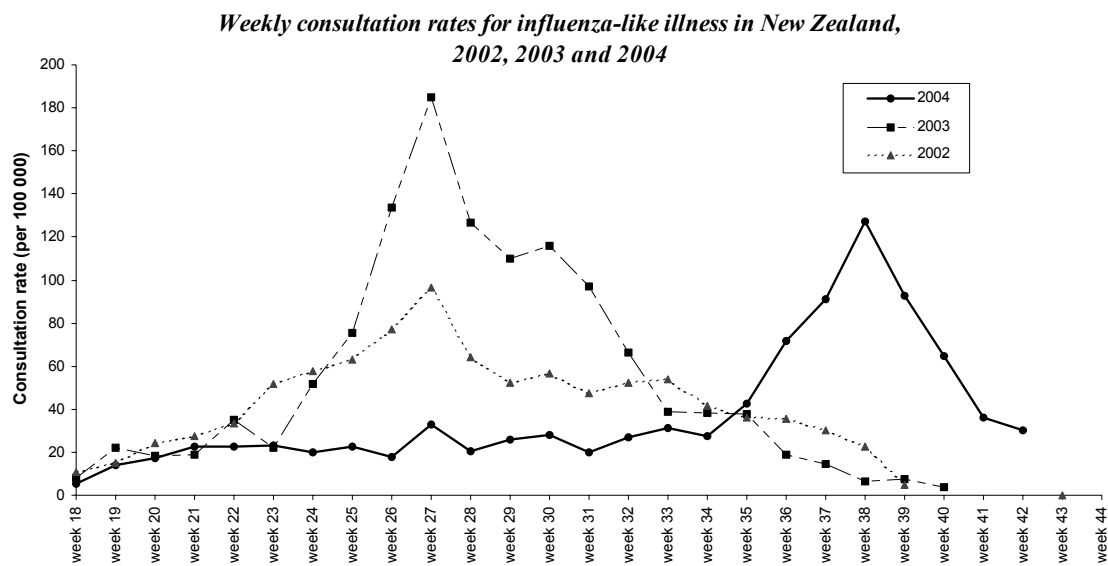
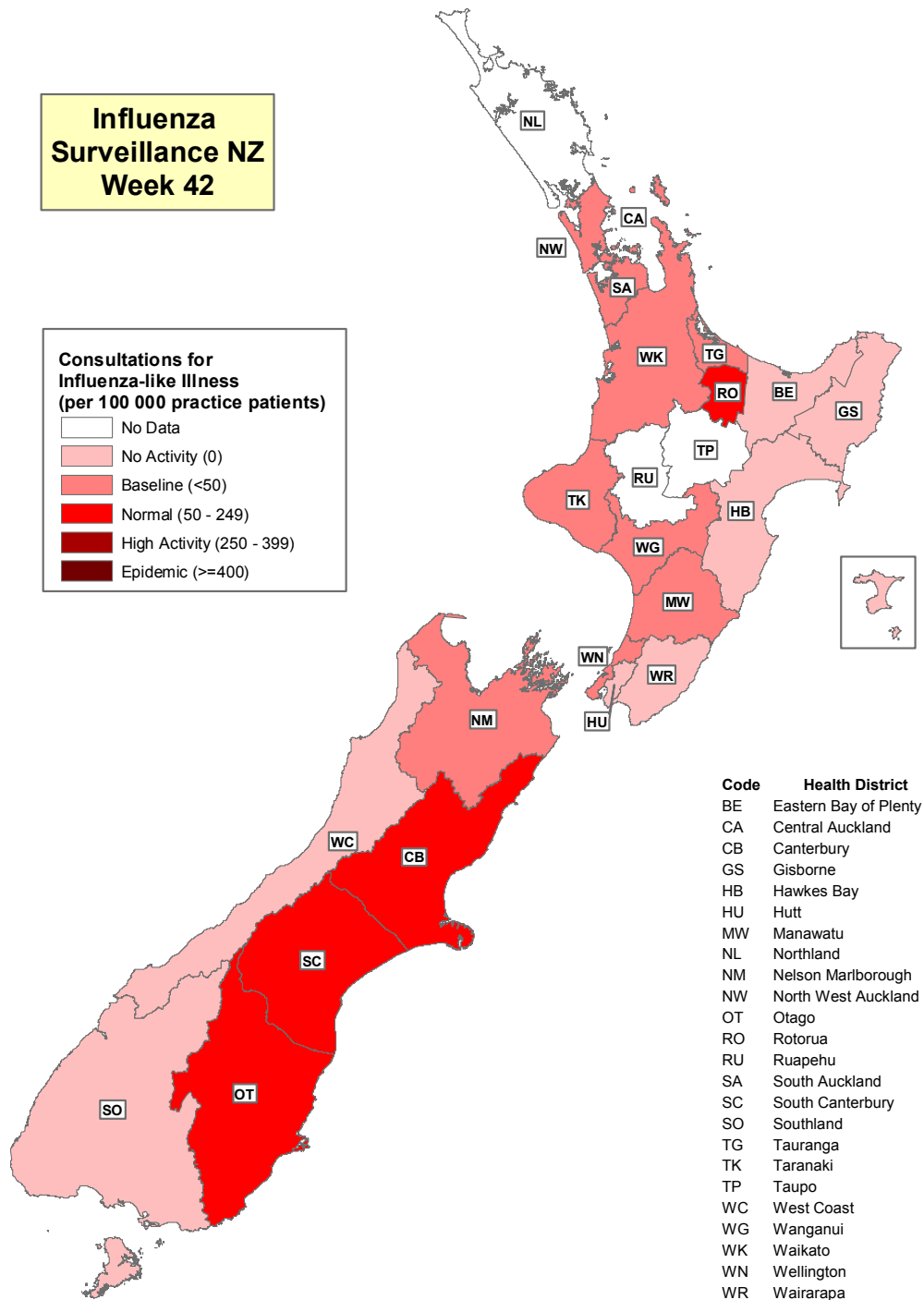


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 42, 2004.

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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