In the past week, a total of 19 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 66 general practices in 19 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 7.3 per 100,000 patient population.

The graph compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Tauranga had the highest consultation rate (76.6 per 100,000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (48.8 per 100,000).

Nine swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Eight swabs from sentinel surveillance have been received by the ESR virology laboratory. The influenza virus is yet to be identified from these swabs.

One influenza A (yet to be subtyped) from Central Auckland and two (one each from Waikato and Canterbury) influenza B (yet to be subtyped), were reported for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance this week.

The cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) so far this year is 15. Of these, four were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), three were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) - like, one as A/Wellington/1/2004 (H3N2) – like, two as influenza B/Sichuan/379/99 – like and five as Influenza B (yet to be sub-typed).

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