In the past week, a total of 47 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 73 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 16.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Southland had the highest consultation rate (80.0 per 100 000), followed by Tauranga (51.0 per 100 000).

Eleven swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twelve swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, three influenza B viruses were identified (2 B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like and one B/Shanghai/361/2002-like) reported from Wellington from the sentinel surveillance.

Two influenza B viruses (yet to be antigenically typed) one each from Central Auckland and Canterbury were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel surveillance).
Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far.

**Figure 2**

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2003, 2004 and 2005*

![Weekly consultation rates chart](chart.png)
Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 17, 2005.

Figure 3

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”

Compiled by: Liza Lopez
Population and Environmental Health
ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
PO Box 50 348
PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0647
fax: 04 914-0770
email: liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz