

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

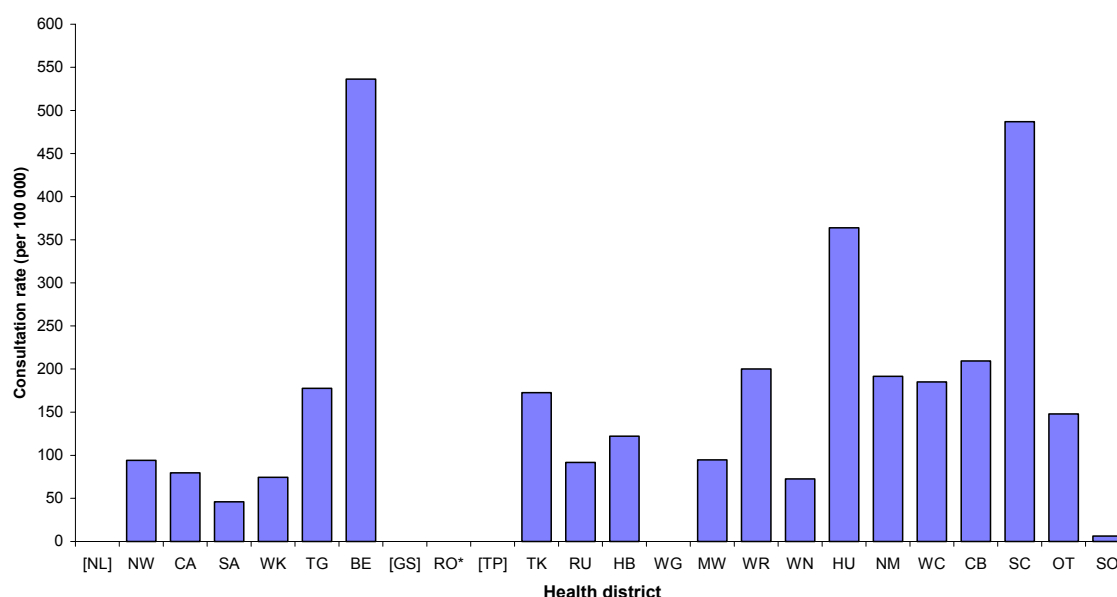
2005/27: 2 July – 8 July 2005

In the past week, a total of 374 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 73 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 129.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Eastern Bay of Plenty had the highest consultation rate (536.3 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (487.0 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 8 July 2005*



[] Health districts not participating

* Health district did not participate for the week

Seventy-one swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Ninety swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 24 influenza viruses were identified, 15 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed) and nine as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	WK	TG	BE	HB	WG	NM	WC	CB	Total
B	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	15
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	0	1	2	2	1	3	0	0	9
Total	7	1	2	2	1	3	1	7	24

In addition, 88 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Seventy-nine were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), seven as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, and two as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	NW	CA	WK	HB	HU	NM	CB	OT	SO	Total
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
B	0	1	37	2	0	1	36	1	1	79
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	7
Total	2	2	37	2	2	1	39	2	1	88

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 27, 8 July 2005. A total of 572 influenza viruses were identified, 304 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, 166 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 59 as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, 16 as B/Sichuan/379/99-like (belonging to B/Shanghai lineage), 14 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), six as A/California/7/2004-like, four as A/Wellington/1/2004-like, and three as A/Fujian/411/2002-like.

Figure 2

Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 8 July 2005

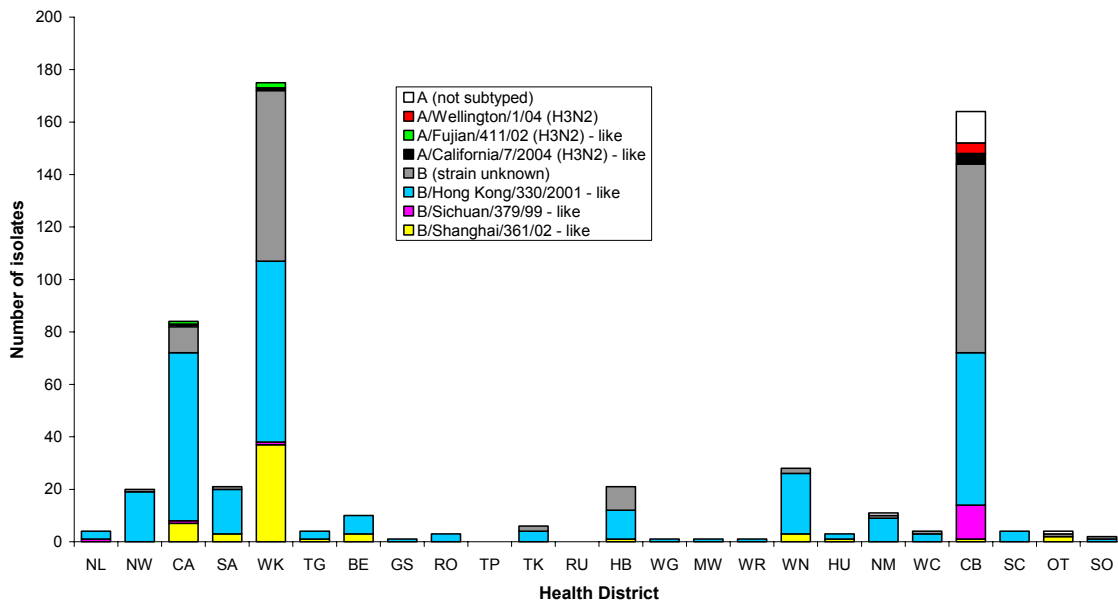


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

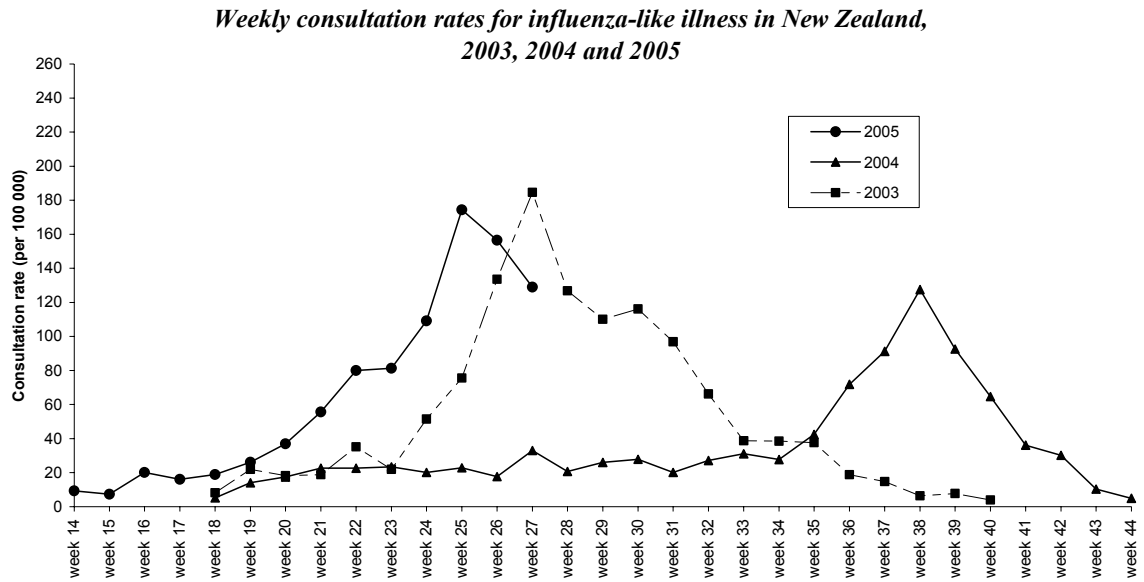
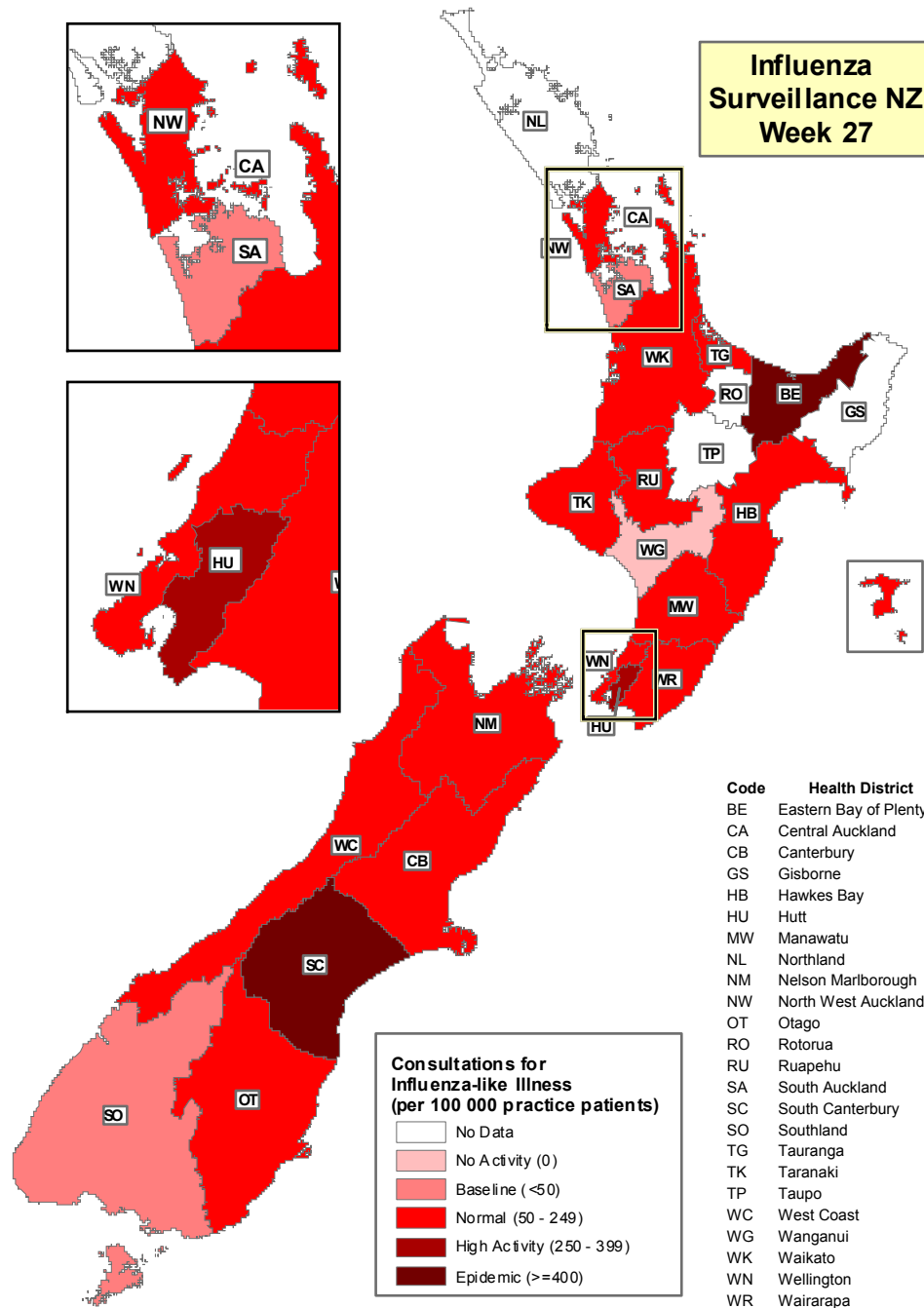


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 27, 2005.

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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