

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

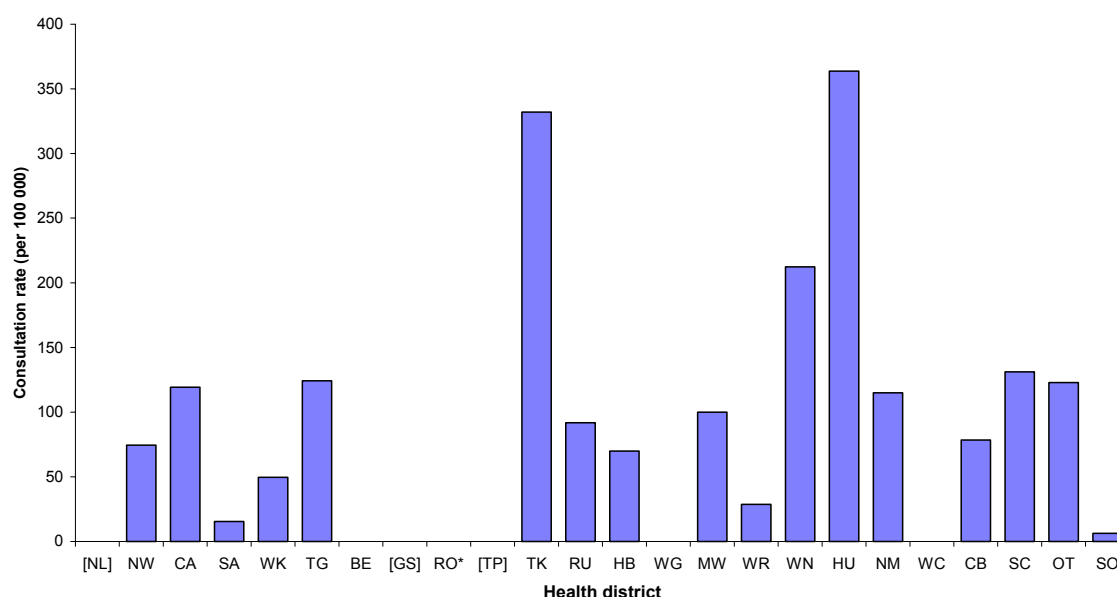
2005/28: 9 July – 15 July 2005

In the past week, a total of 301 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 74 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 103.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Hutt had the highest consultation rate (363.6 per 100 000), followed by Taranaki (332.1 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 15 July 2005*



[ ] Health districts not participating

\* Health district did not participate for the week

Forty-six swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Sixty-six swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 29 influenza viruses were identified, 16 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, 12 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and one as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	NW	CA	WK	TG	TK	MW	WN	HU	NM	CB	OT	SO	Total
B	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	12
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	16
B/Shanghai/361/2002 - like	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3	2	7	1	1	2	2	1	2	4	3	1	29

In addition, 49 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Forty-one were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), five as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, two as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and one as A/California/7/2004-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	CA	SA	WK	HB	CB	SC	OT	Total
A	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) - like	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
B	1	1	22	1	12	0	4	41
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Total	4	1	22	1	16	1	4	49

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 28, 15 July 2005. A total of 650 influenza viruses were identified, 382 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, 150 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 69 as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, 19 as B/Sichuan/379/99-like (belonging to B/Shanghai lineage), 12 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 11 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 15 July 2005*

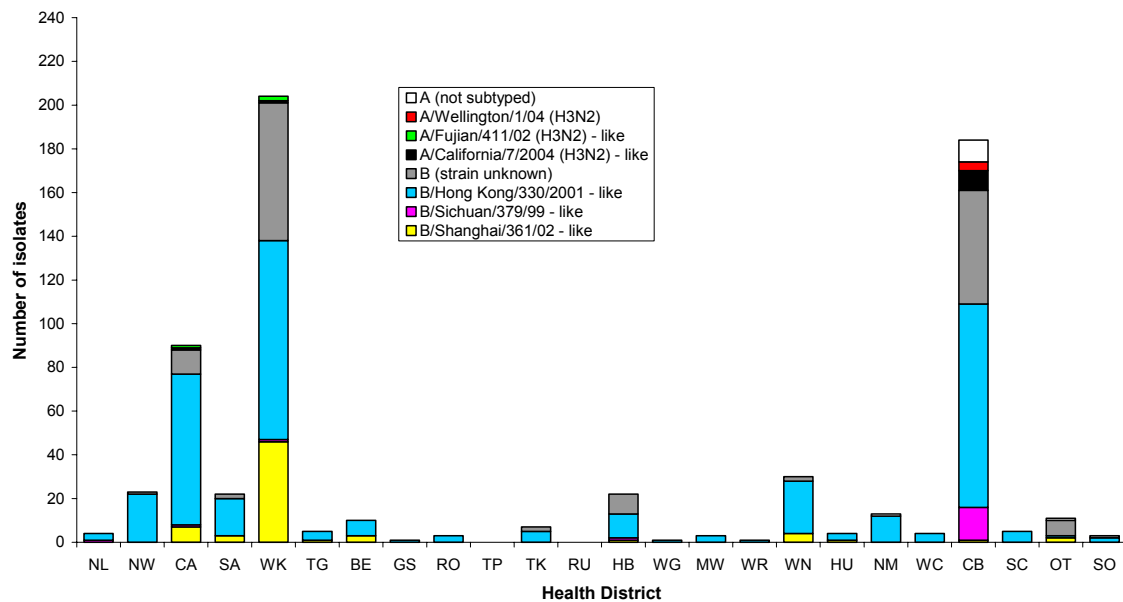


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

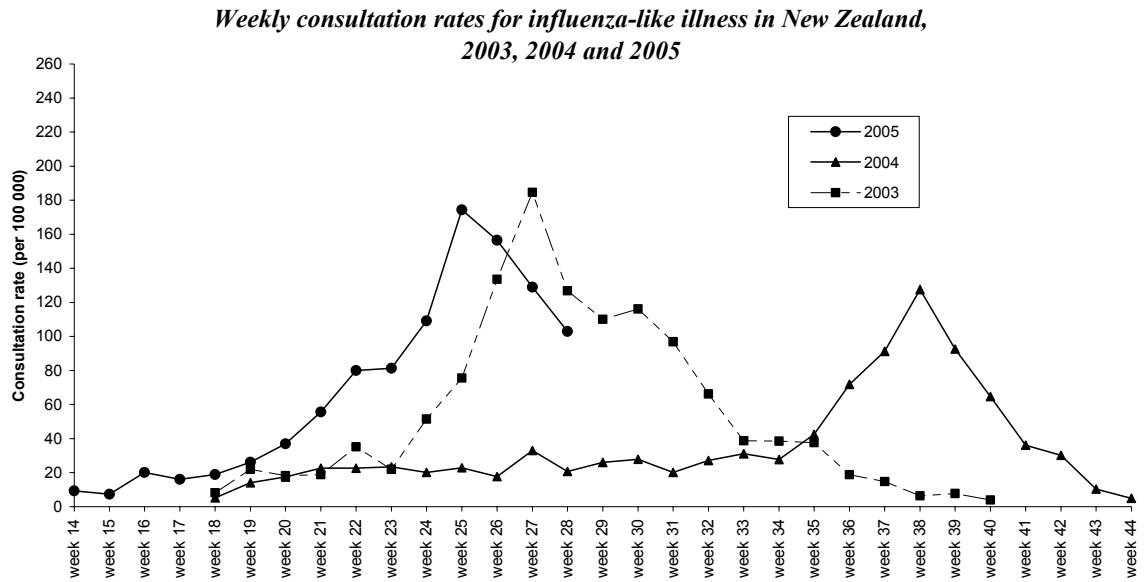
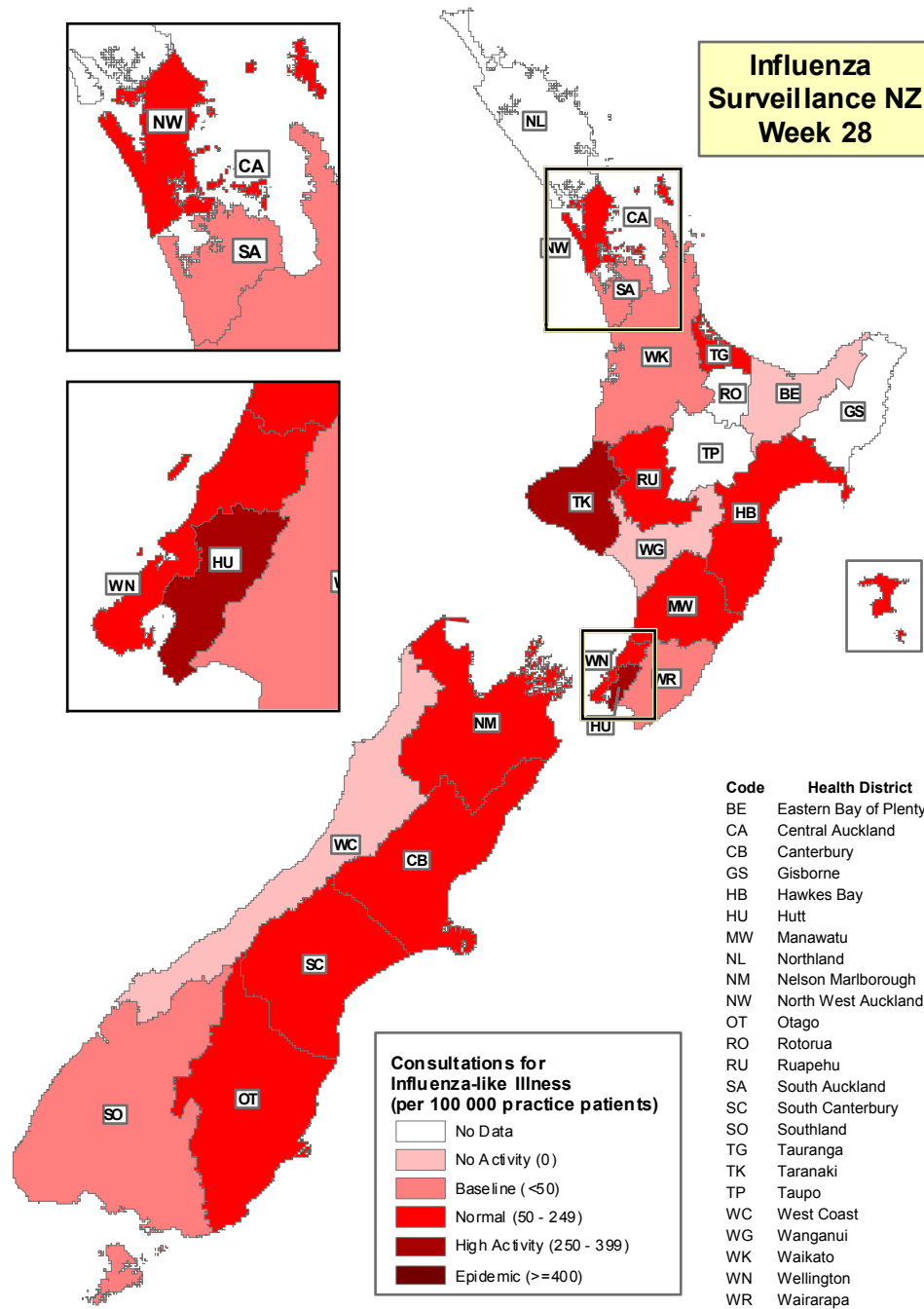


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 28, 2005.

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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