

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

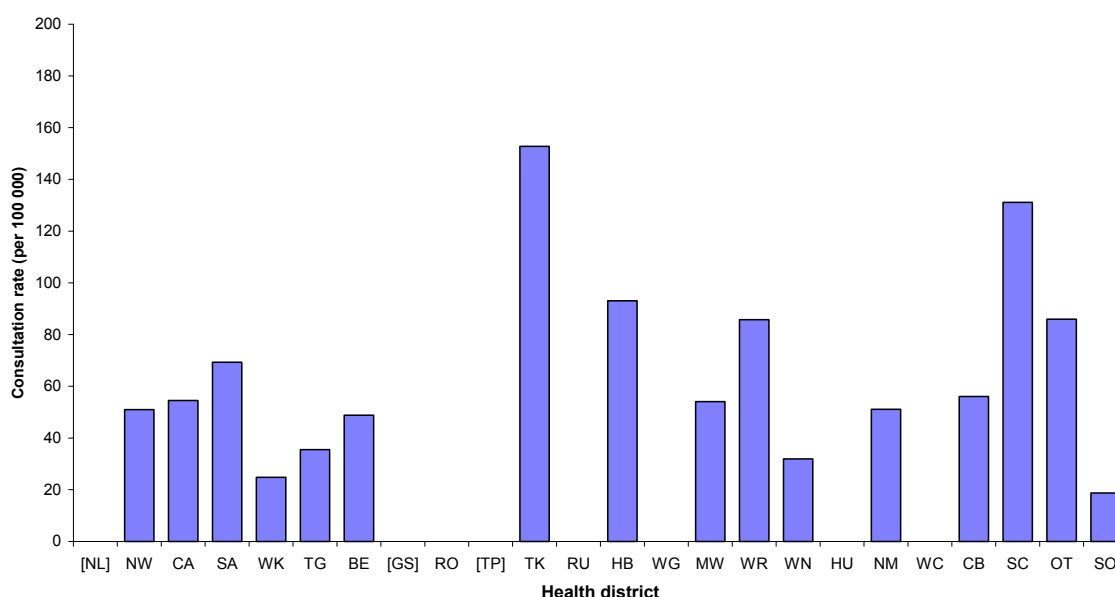
2005/29: 16 July – 22 July 2005

In the past week, a total of 179 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 58.9 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Taranaki had the highest consultation rate (152.7 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (131.1 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 22 July 2005*



[] Health districts not participating

Thirty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-five swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 21 influenza viruses were identified, eight as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, five as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, five as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and three as A/California/7/2004-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	CA	SA	WK	TG	TK	WR	WN	HU	CB	Total
A/California/7/2004-like	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
B	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	8
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	5
Total	1	1	8	1	1	1	4	2	2	21

In addition, 46 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Twenty-one were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 18 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, five as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, and one B/Sichuan/379/1999-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	CA	WK	CB	OT	Total
A	0	0	5	0	5
B	0	13	7	1	21
B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like	2	4	12	0	18
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	0	1	0	0	1
B/Sichuan/379/1999-like	0	0	1	0	1
Total	2	18	25	1	46

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 29, 22 July 2005. A total of 717 influenza viruses were identified, 452 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, 122 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 85 as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, 20 as B/Sichuan/379/1999-like (belonging to B/Shanghai lineage), 16 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 15 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 22 July 2005

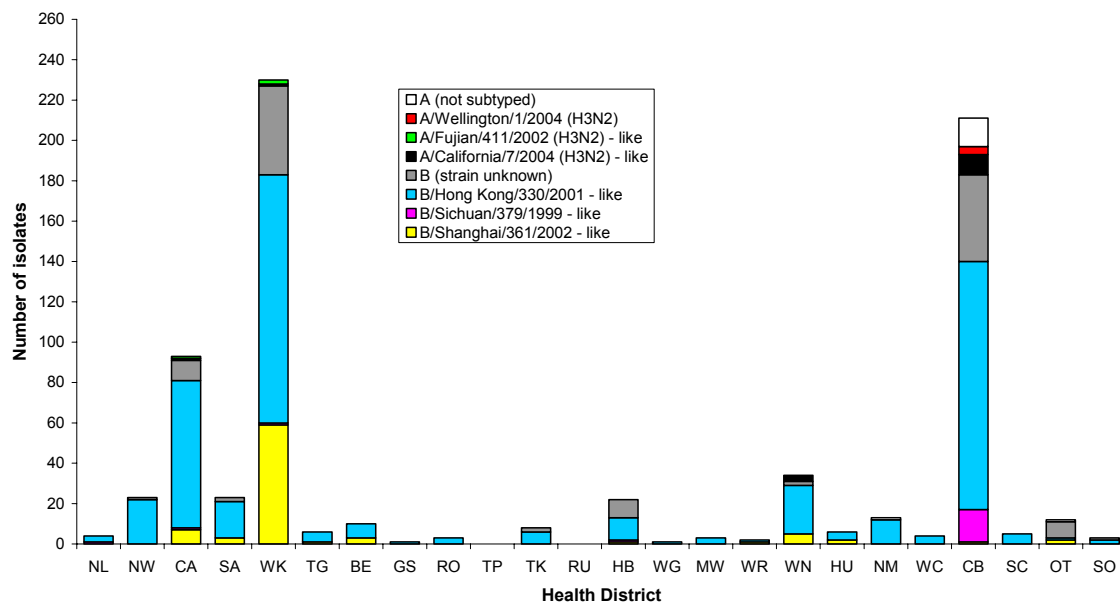


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

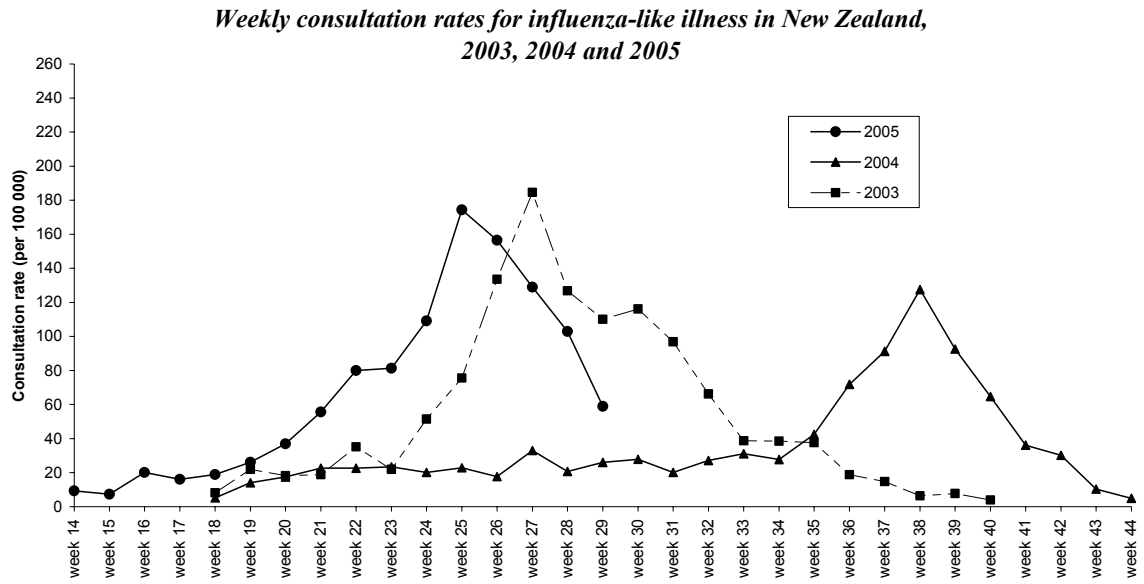
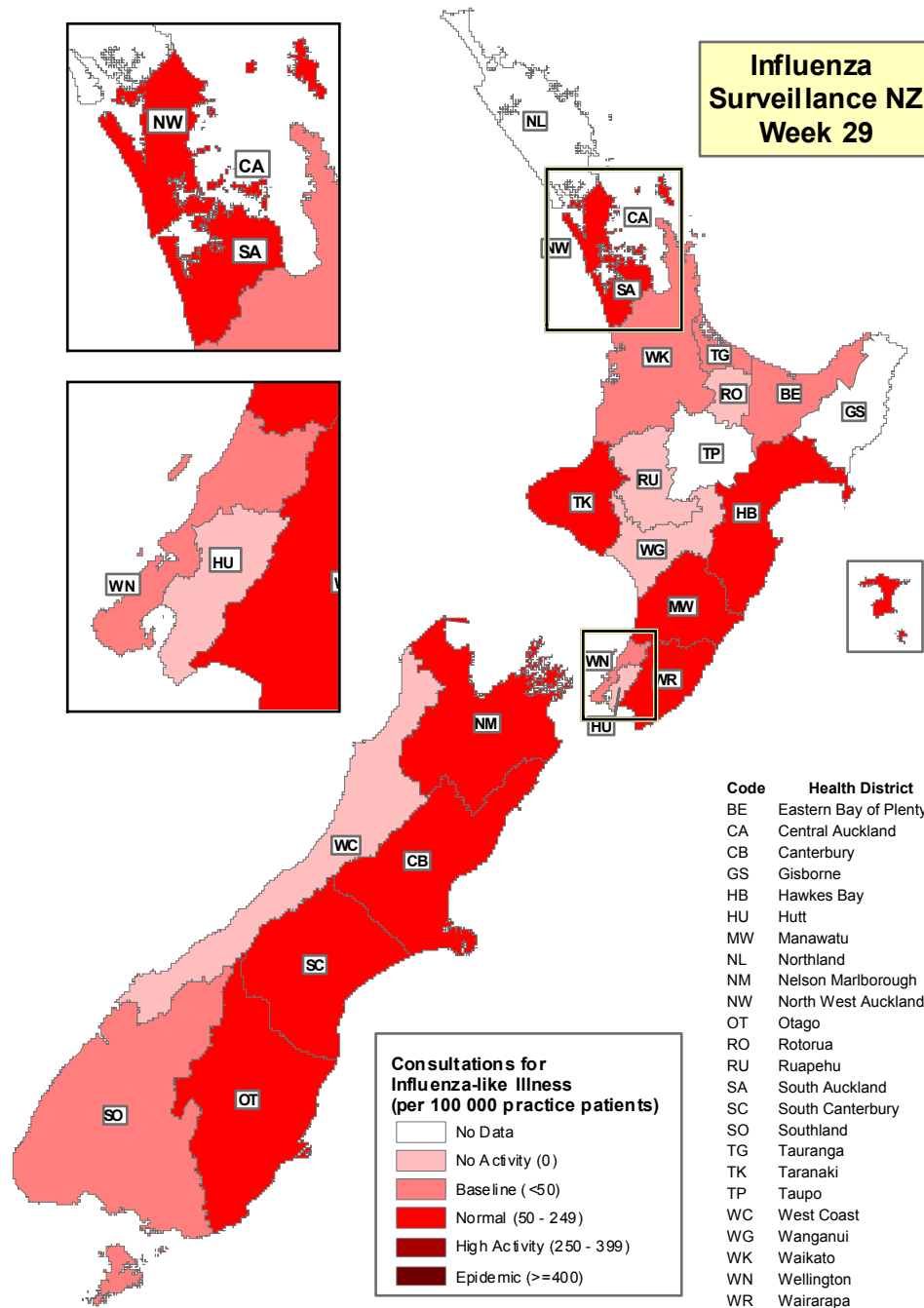


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 29, 2005.

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”

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