In the past week, a total of 117 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 32.2 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 (137.2 per 100 000), followed by Tauranga (109.0 per 100 000).

Figure 1

**Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district**

*week ending 28 May 2006*

Thirty-six swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-two swabs were received by virology laboratories. One influenza A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like virus has been identified from Wellington.

One influenza A virus (yet to be sub-typed) from North West Auckland was reported in the past week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2004 and 2005 seasons, and 2006 so far.
Figure 2


Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 21, 2006.
Consultations for Influenza-like Illness (per 100 000 practice patients)

- No Data
- No Activity (0)
- Baseline (<50)
- Normal (50 - 249)
- High Activity (250 - 399)
- Epidemic (≥400)

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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