In the past week, a total of 51 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 77 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 16.4 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Taupo had the highest consultation rate (43.3 per 100 000), followed by Waikato (41.2 per 100 000).

Twenty-one swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-seven swabs were received by virology laboratories. One influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) was isolated from Waikato.

Three influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) from Waikato (2) and Hawke’s Bay (1) were reported by regional virology laboratories from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is lower than at the same time last year.
Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 22, 2007.
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"