In the past week, a total of 142 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 39.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (157.6 per 100 000), followed by Hawke’s Bay (121.5 per 100 000).

Thirty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-six swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 19 influenza viruses were isolated, nine as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), five as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, and five as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, 22 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Sixteen were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) and six as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 28, 13 July 2007. A total of 130 influenza viruses were identified, 69 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 35 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, one as A(H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed, three as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 16 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), two as B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like, and two as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like.

Figure 3 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 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 28, 2007.
Figure 4

Influenza Surveillance NZ
Week 28

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 to in New Zealand Public Health Report 2001, 8 (1): 9-12 “Influenza surveillance and immunisation in New Zealand, 1990-1999”

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