

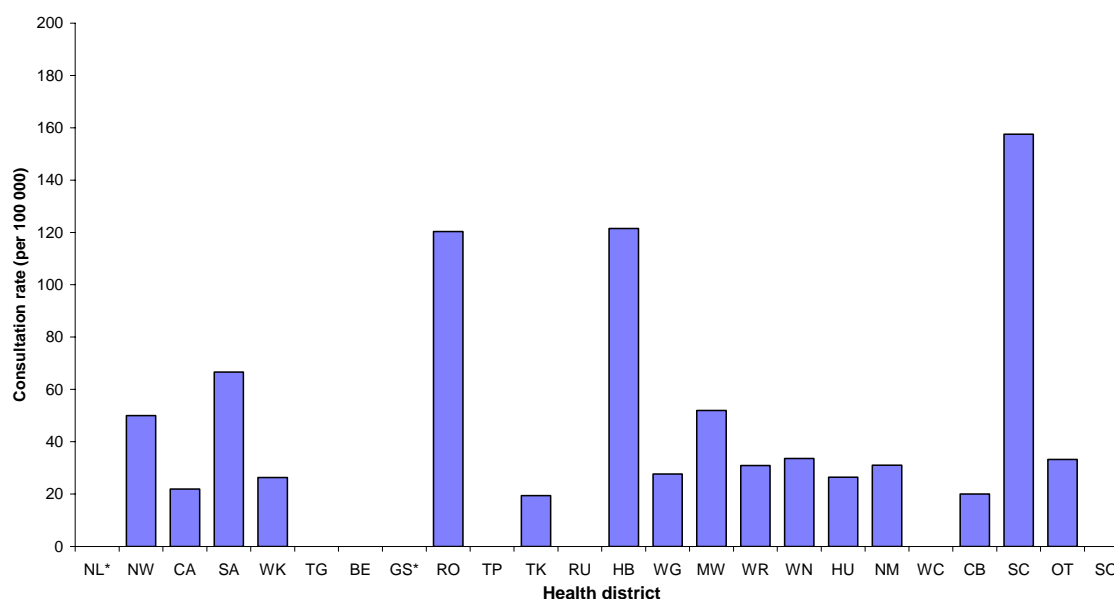
INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/28: 9-13 July 2007

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).

Figure 1. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 13 July 2007



*Health districts not participating in the influenza surveillance

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.

Antigenic Strain	CA	SA	WK	HB	WN	CB	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	3	1	2	0	0	3	0	9
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	5
B (not antigenically typed)	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Total	3	1	2	2	3	7	1	19

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.

Antigenic Strain	NW	CA	SA	WK	HB	WN	CB	Total
A (not sub-typed)	3	2	1	2	4	1	3	16
B (not antigenically typed)	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Total	6	2	1	2	4	1	6	22

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 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 13 July 2007

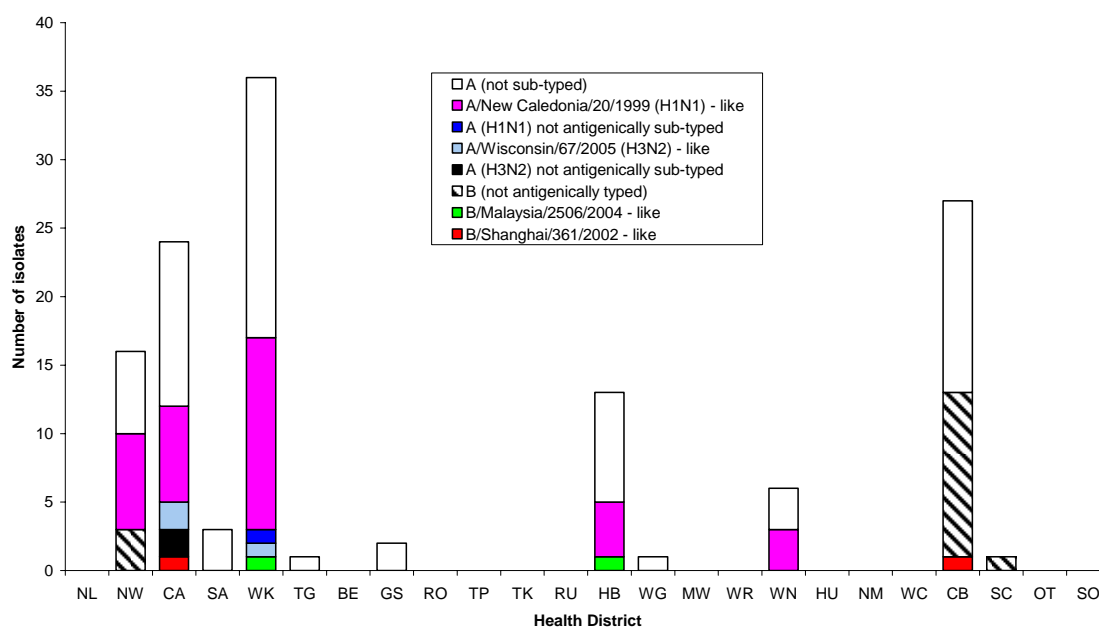


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is lower than at the same time last year.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2005, 2006 and 2007

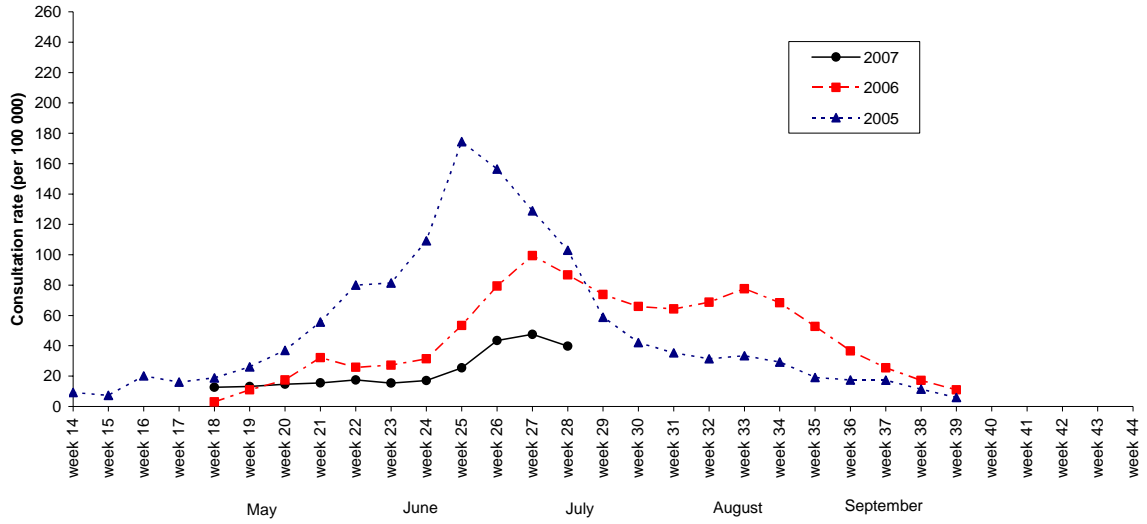
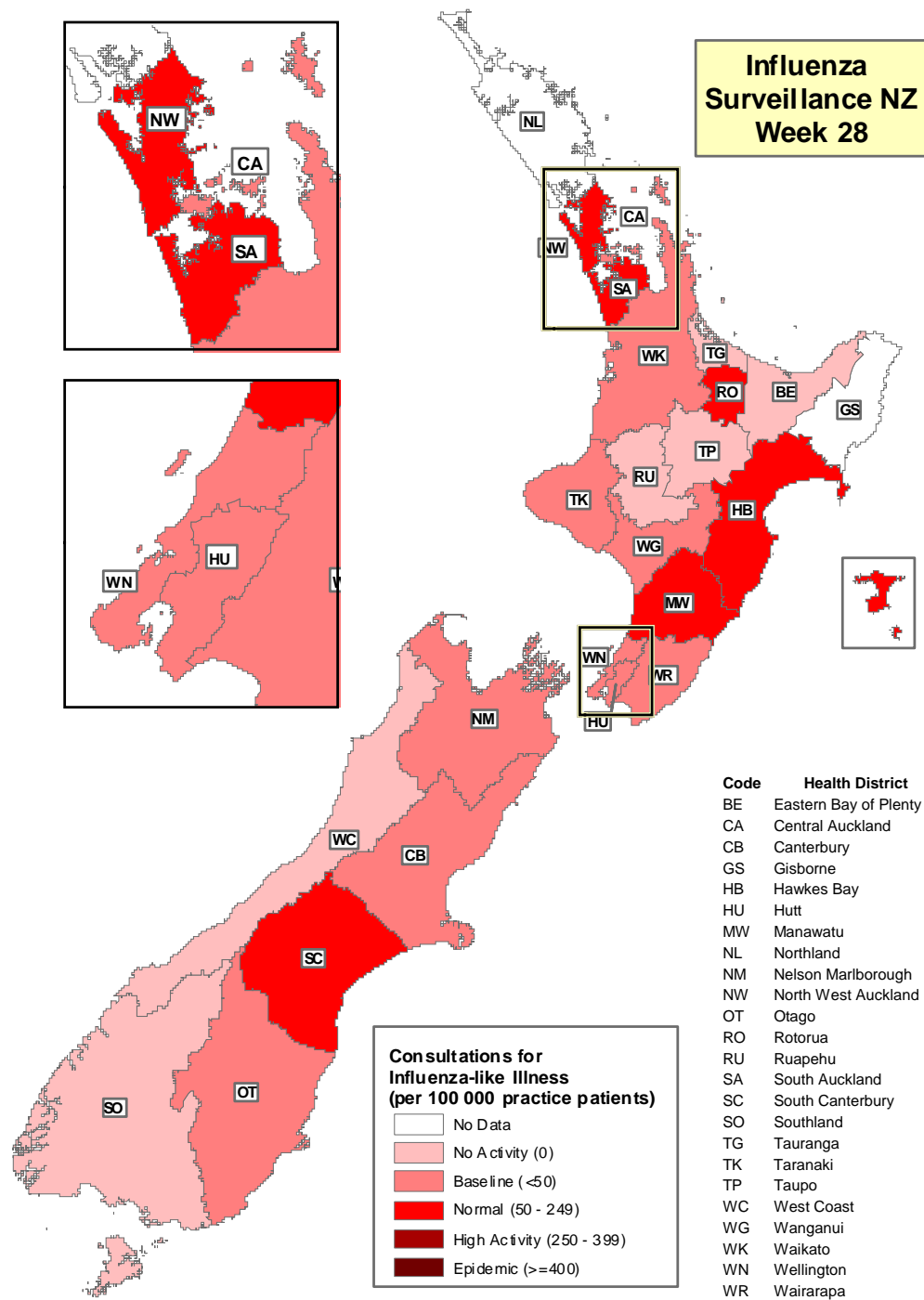


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 28, 2007.

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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