In the past week, a total of 196 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 76 general practices in 23 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 59.3 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 (288.7 per 100 000), followed by Hutt (165.6 per 100 000).

Forty-two swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-four swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, nine influenza viruses were isolated, seven as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, and one as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>SO</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Shanghai/361/2002 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, 79 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Sixty-four were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and 15 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>CB</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 34, 24 August 2007. A total of 494 influenza viruses were identified, 306 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 99 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, two as A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) – like, one as A(H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed, 20 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 42 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 21 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and one as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 24 August 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 34, 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”

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