In the past week, a total of 195 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices in 23 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 55.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Eastern Bay of Plenty had the highest consultation rate (203.5 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (197.2 per 100 000).

Forty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 13 influenza viruses were isolated, five as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), three as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like, three as B (not antigenically typed) and two 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>CB</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Shanghai/361/2002-like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, 37 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Thirty-two were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and five 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>CA</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 35, 31 August 2007. A total of 544 influenza viruses were identified, 340 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 105 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, 48 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 25 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and one as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 31 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 higher 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 35, 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”

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)

Code Health District
BE Eastern Bay of Plenty
CA Central Auckland
CB Canterbury
GS Gisborne
HB Hawkes Bay
HU Hutt
MW Manawatu
NL Northland
NM Nelson Marlborough
NW North West Auckland
OT Otago
RO Rotorua
RU Ruapehu
SA South Auckland
SC South Canterbury
SO Southland
TG Tauranga
TK Tararua
TP Taupo
WC West Coast
WG Wanganui
WK Waitakere
WN Wellington
WR Wairarapa

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