INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/35: 25-31 August 2007

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).

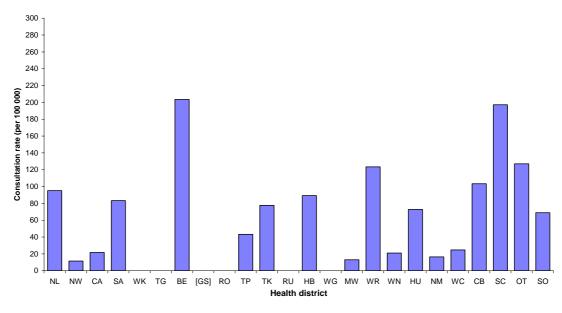


Figure 1. Weekly consulation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 31 August 2007

[] Health district not participating in the influenza surveillance

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.

Antigenic Strain	СВ	НВ	OT	SC	WG	WN	Total
A (not sub-typed)	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
B (not antigenically typed)	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total	7	1	1	1	1	2	13

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.

Antigenic Strain	CA	СВ	НВ	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	31	1	32
B (not antigenically typed)	1	4	0	5
Total	1	35	1	37

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.

340 320 ☐A (not sub-typed) 300 ■ A/New Caledonia/20/1999 (H1N1) - like A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) - like 280 ■ A (H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed 260 ■ A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like ■ A (H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed 240 ■B (not antigenically typed) ■ B/Malaysia/2506/2004 - like 220 ■ B/Shanghai/361/2002 - like Number of isolates 200 180 160 140 120 100 80 60 40 20 NW CA SA WK TG WG MW WR WN HU OT SO BE GS RO TP RU HB NM WC CB SC **Health District**

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 31August 2007

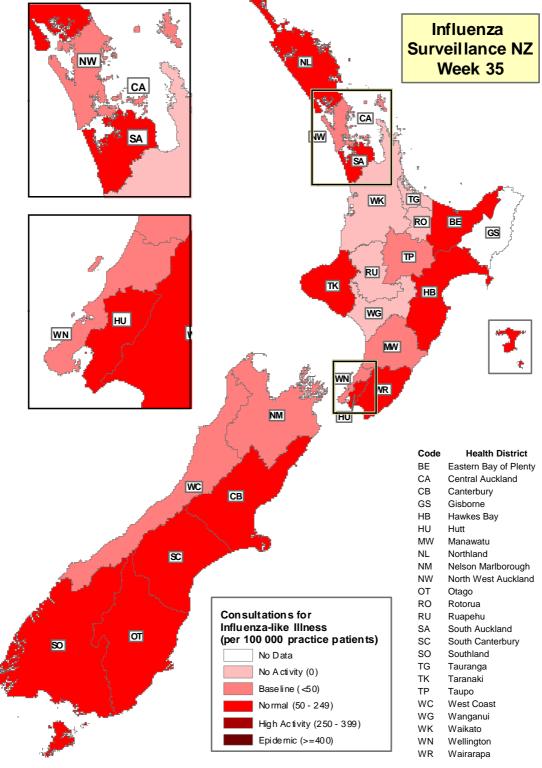
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

260 **-**2007 - - 2006 200 Consultation rate (per 100 000) -- ★ - · 2005 180 160 100 80 60 40 20 week 14 week 19 week 17 week 39 week 15 week 16 week 18 week 20 week 22 week 23 week 26 week 27 week 28 week 32 week 33 week 25 week 21 week 24 July August

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"

Compiled by: Lisa McCallum

Population and Environmental Health phone: 04 914-0700 ESR Kenepuru Science Centre fax: 04 914-0770

PO Box 50 348 email: lisa.mccallum@esr.cri.nz PORIRUA