

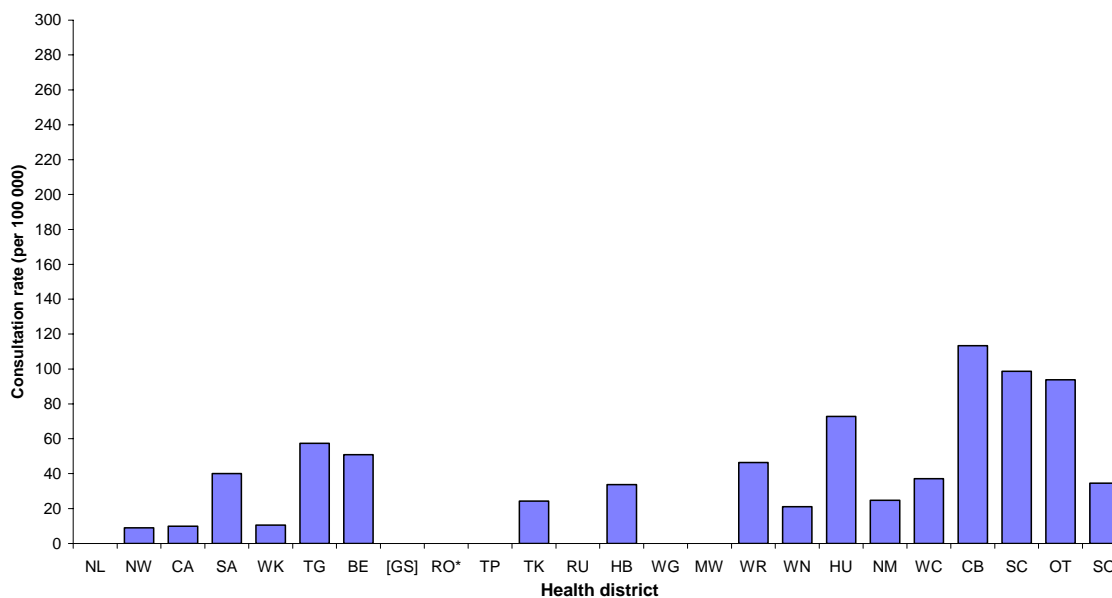
# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/36: 01-07 September 2007

In the past week, a total of 131 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 39.59 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (113.3 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (98.6 per 100 000).

*Figure 1. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 07 September 2007*



[ ] Health district not participating in the influenza surveillance  
\* Health district did not participate for the week

Thirty-nine swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, nine influenza viruses were isolated, three as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like, three as B (not antigenically typed), one as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like and one as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.**

Antigenic Strain	CA	CB	NW	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	2	0	3
A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) -like	0	0	1	1
B (not antigenically typed)	0	3	0	3
B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like	0	1	0	1
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>

In addition, 40 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Twenty-nine were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like and ten as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.**

Antigenic Strain	CA	CB	SA	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	27	1	29
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	1	0	0	1
B (not antigenically typed)	0	8	2	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 36, 07 September 2007. A total of 593 influenza viruses were identified, 353 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 121 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, 25 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 54 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 32 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and three as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

*Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 07 September 2007*

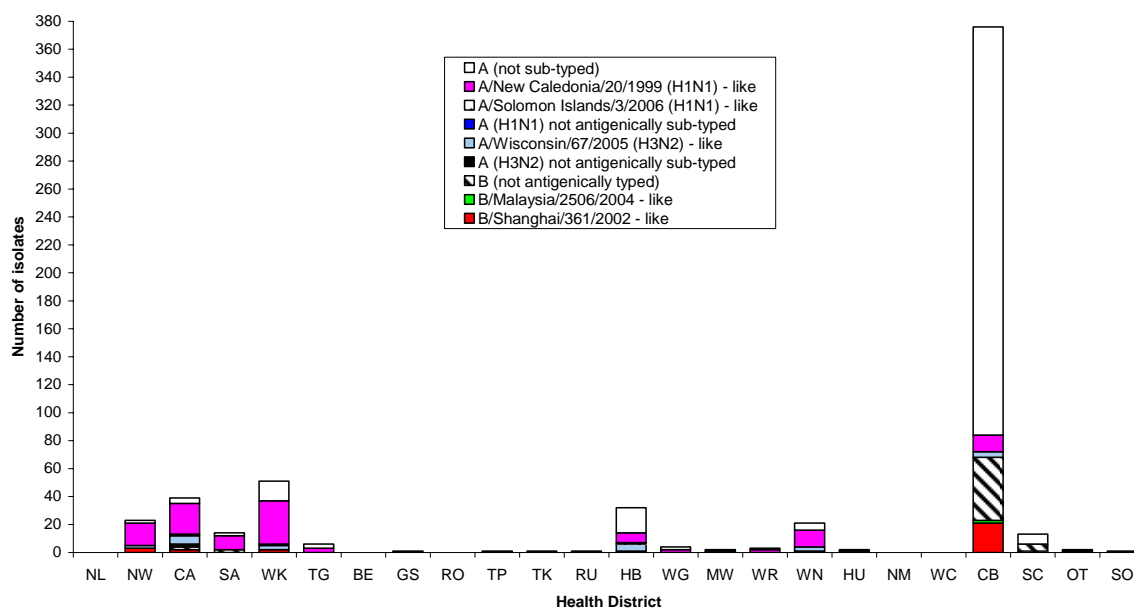


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

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

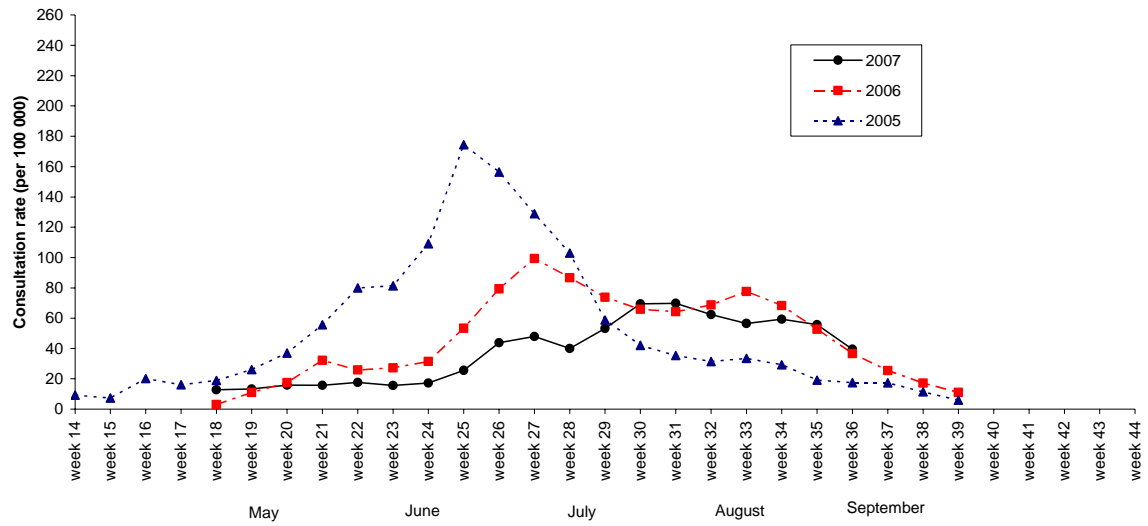
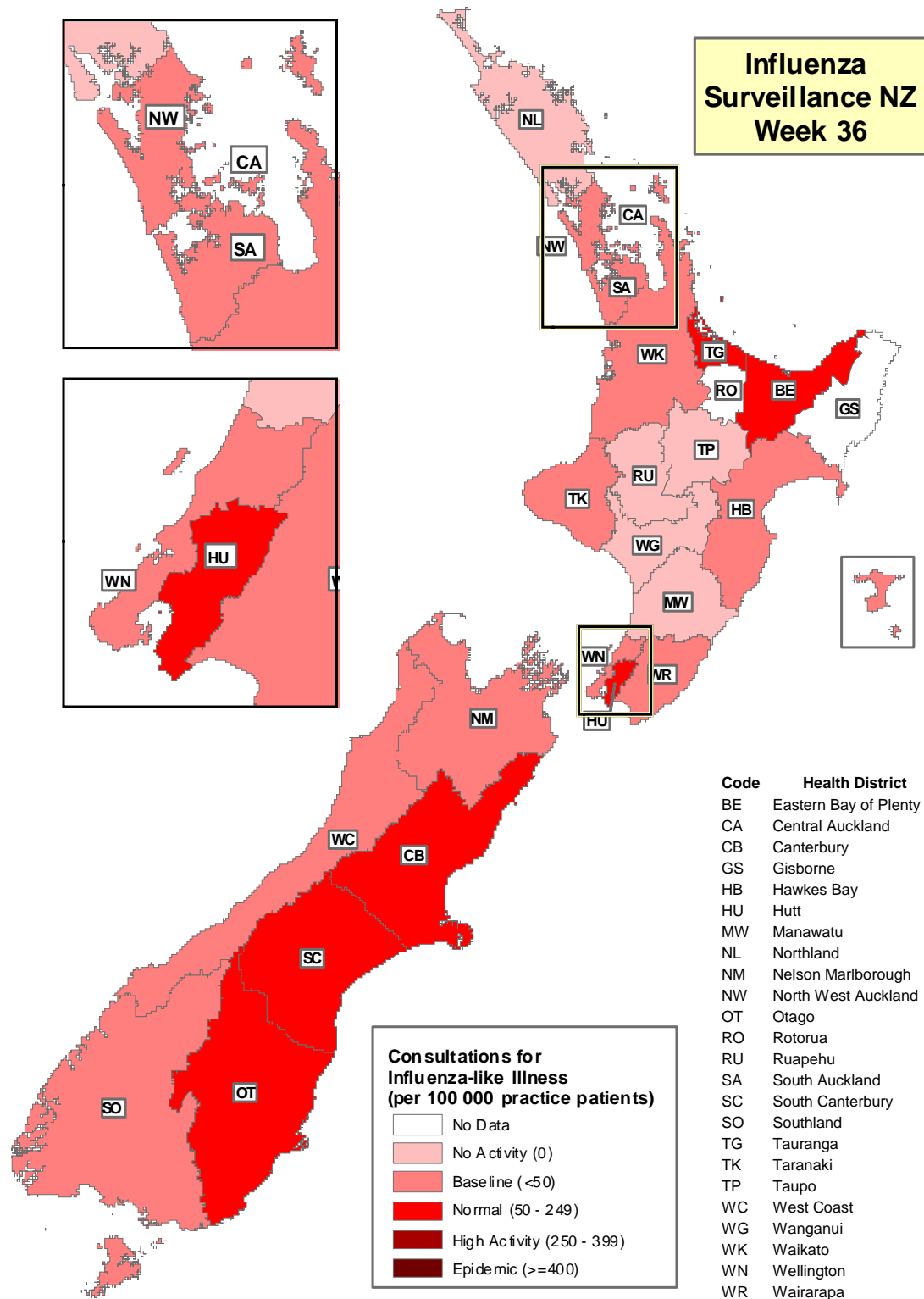


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 36, 2007.

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  
 ESR Kenepuru Science Centre  
 PO Box 50 348  
 PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0700  
 fax: 04 914-0770  
 email: lisa.mccallum@esr.cri.nz