In the past week, a total of 98 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 31.0 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 (101.7 per 100,000), followed by Canterbury (100.0 per 100,000).

Thirty-nine swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-six were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 22 influenza viruses were isolated, seven as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), three as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, one as A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like, one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like, eight 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>BE</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>SO</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) - like</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Chicago/361/2002 - like</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, 25 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Nineteen 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 37, 14 September 2007. A total of 640 influenza viruses were identified, 369 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 130 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, 29 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 58 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 44 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and three as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 14 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 37, 2007.
Influenza Surveillance NZ Week 37

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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