

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

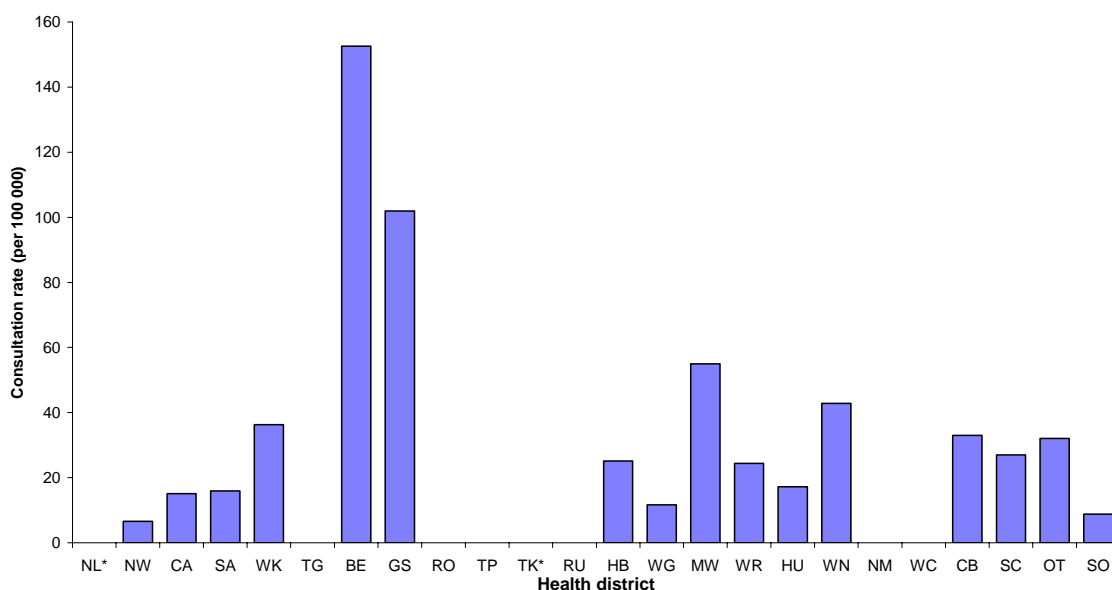
2008/21: 19 – 23 May 2008

In the past week, a total of 82 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 24.2 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 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 (152.6 per 100 000), followed by Gisborne (101.9 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 23 May 2008



*Health districts did not participate for the week

Thirty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, three influenza viruses were identified, one influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one A H3N2, and one influenza B (yet to be typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic strain	CA	WK	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	1	0	1
A H3N2	0	0	1	1
B (yet to be typed)	1	0	0	1
Total	1	1	1	3

In addition, five influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Two were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one A H3N2, and two influenza B (yet to be typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Antigenic strain	CA	WK	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	2	0	2
A H3N2	1	0	0	1
B (yet to be typed)	0	0	2	2
Total	1	2	2	5

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 21, 23 May 2008. A total of 15 influenza viruses were identified, eight as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), two as A H3N2, and five as influenza B (yet to be typed).

Figure 2

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 23 May 2008

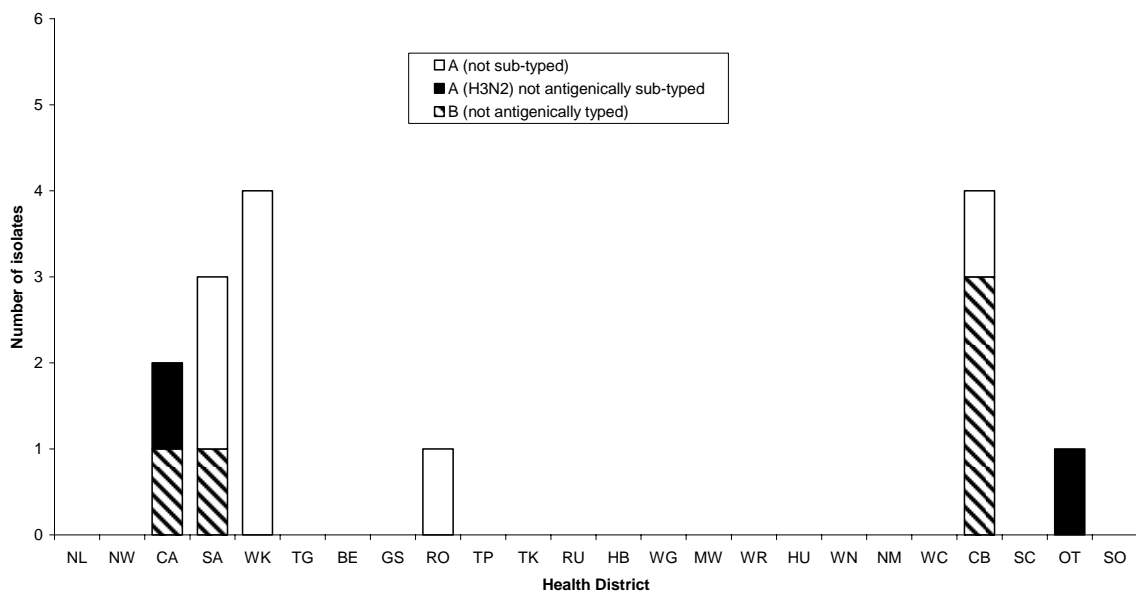


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2006, 2007 and 2008

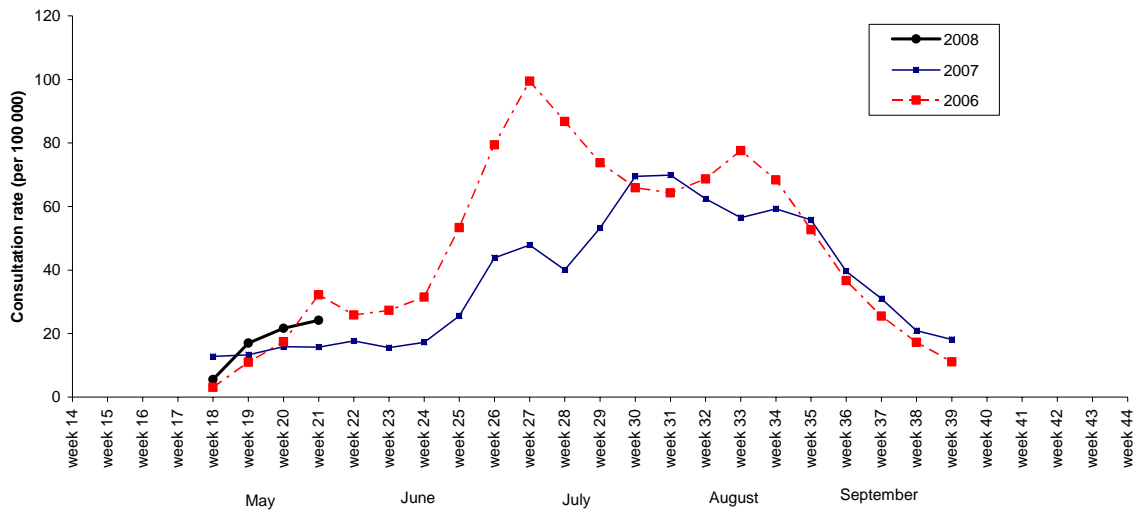
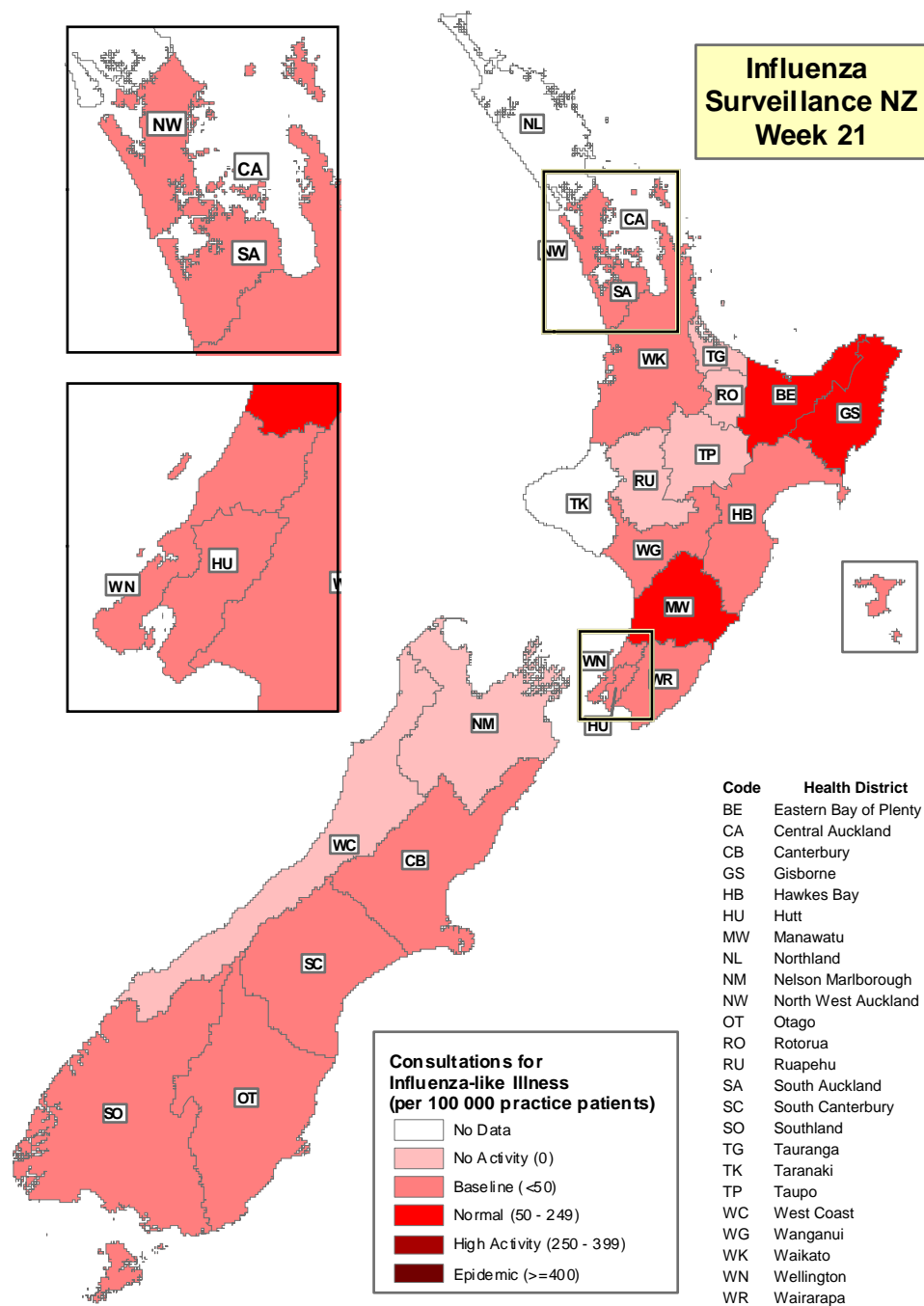


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 21, 2008.

Figure 4



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