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**

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H3N2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (yet to be typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Health districts did not participate for the week*
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H3N2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (yet to be typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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)

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