

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

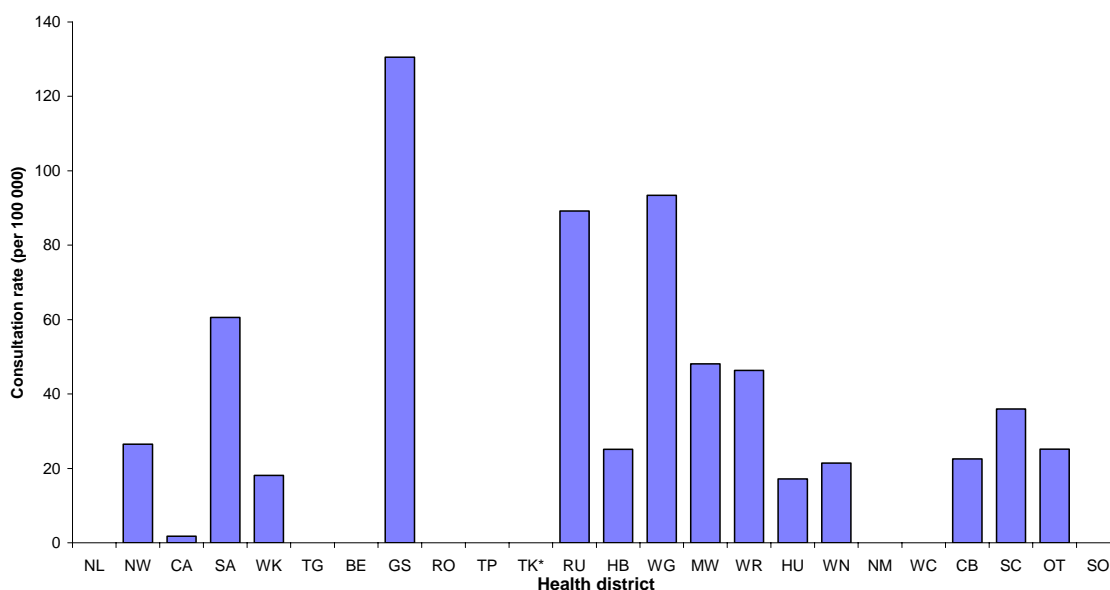
2008/22: 26 – 30 May 2008

In the past week, a total of 79 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 23.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Gisborne had the highest consultation rate (130.6 per 100 000), followed by Wanganui (93.4 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 30 May 2008



*Health district did not participate for the week

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

Table 1

| Antigenic strain | CA | WK | WG | MW | WN | CB | Total |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A (yet to be sub-typed) | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| A H3N2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |

In addition, six influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

| Antigenic strain | CA | WK | Total |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| A (yet to be sub-typed) | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Total | 1 | 5 | 6 |

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 22, 30 May 2008. A total of 28 influenza viruses were identified, 17 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), five A H3N2, one A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and five influenza B (yet to be typed).

Figure 2

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 30 May 2008

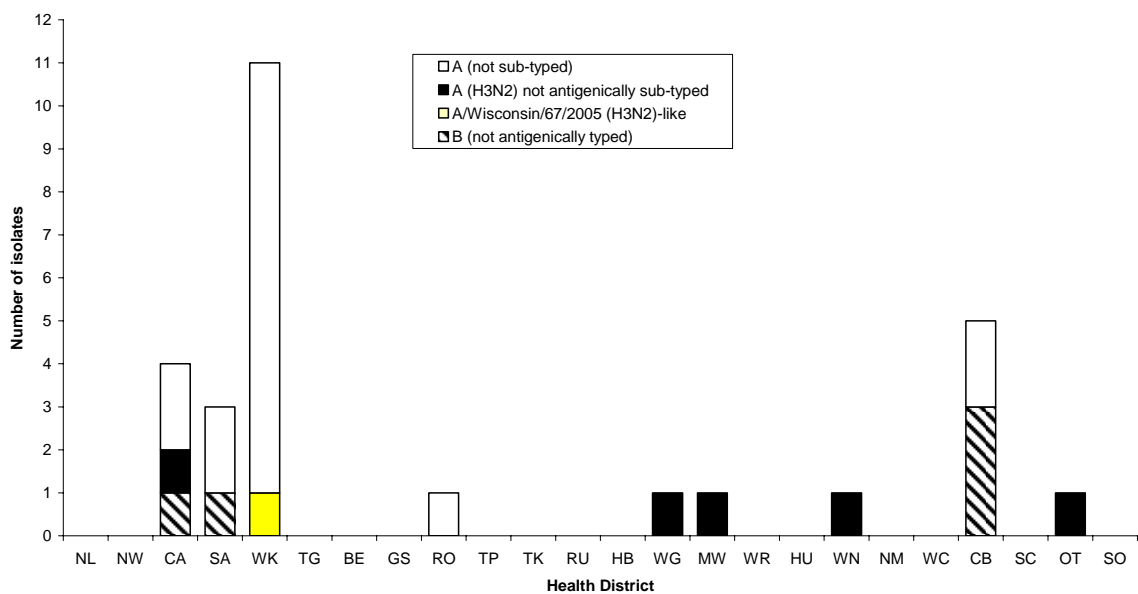


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

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

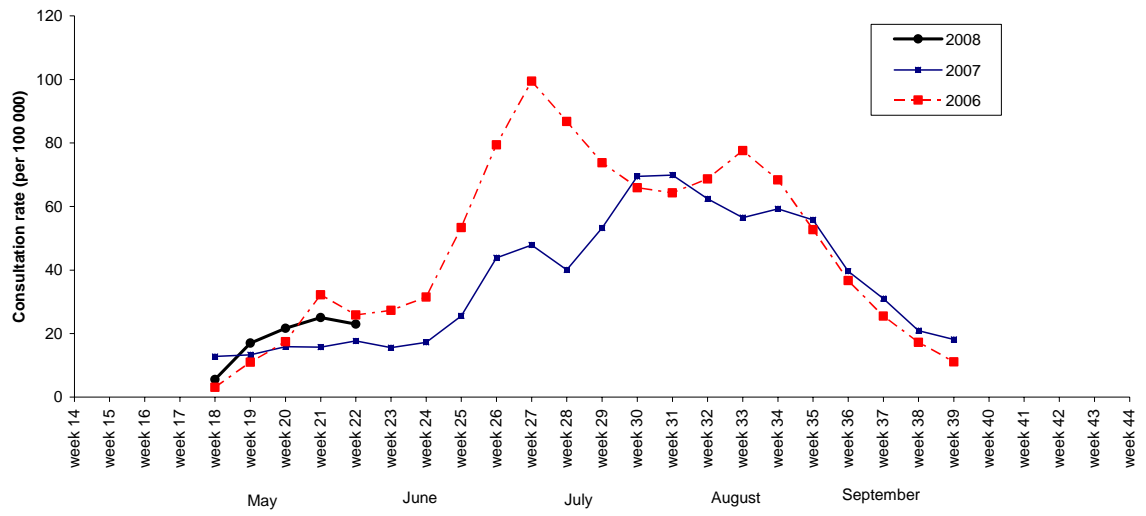
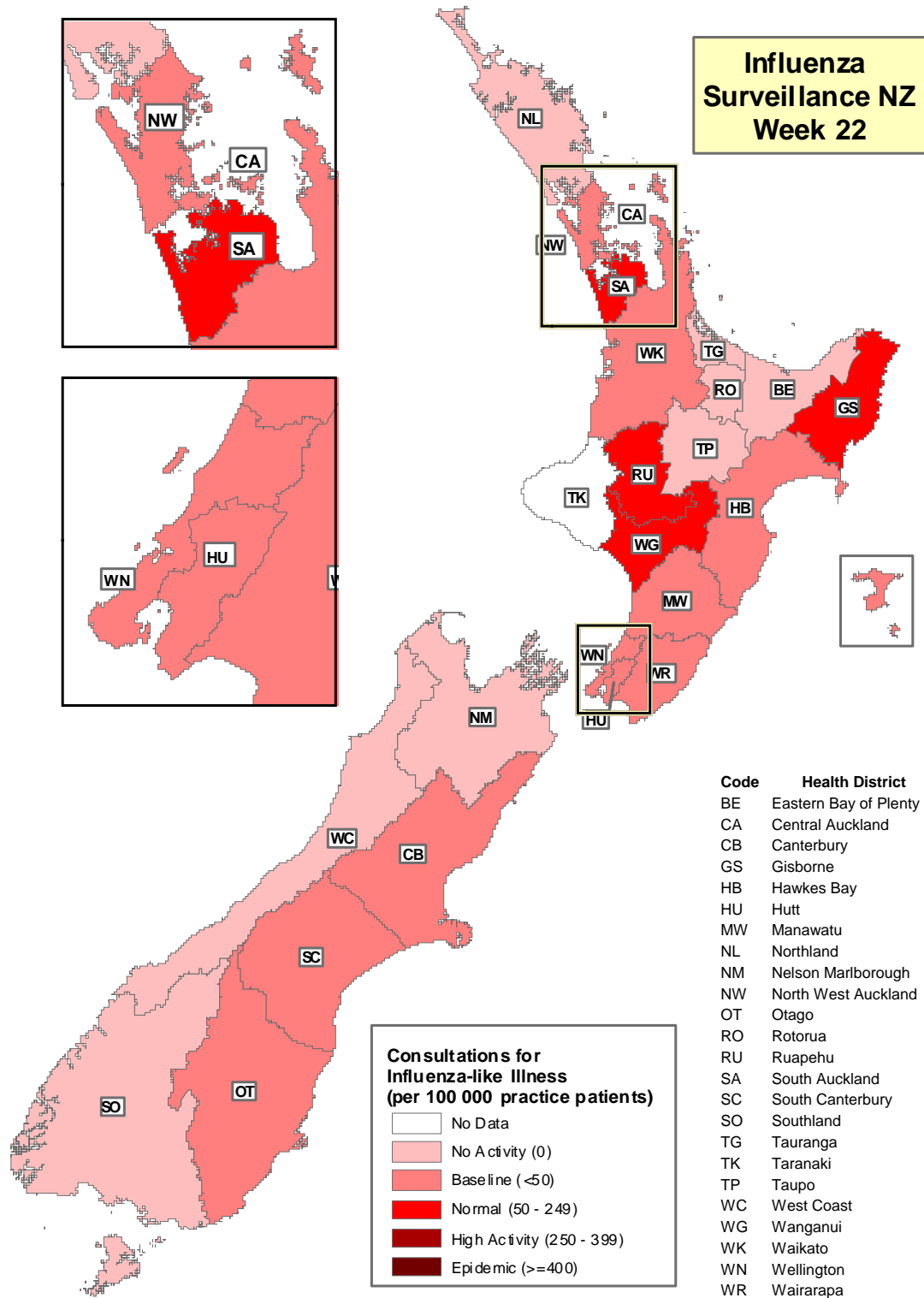


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 22, 2008.

Figure 4



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