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).

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>MW</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H3N2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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)

Code | Health District
--- | ---
BE | Eastern Bay of Plenty
CA | Central Auckland
CB | Canterbury
GS | Gisborne
HB | Hawkes Bay
HU | Hutt
MW | Manawatu
NL | Northland
NM | Nelson Marlborough
NW | North West Auckland
OT | Otago
RO | Rotorua
RU | Ruapehu
SA | South Auckland
SC | South Canterbury
SO | Southland
TG | Tauranga
TK | Taranaki
TP | Taupo
WC | West Coast
WG | Wanganui
WK | Waikato
WN | Wellington
WR | Wairarapa

Compiled by: Liza Lopez
Population and Environmental Health
ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
PO Box 50 348
PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0647
fax: 04 914-0770
email: liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz