In the past week, a total of 274 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 82 general practices in all of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 80.9 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Northland had the highest consultation rate (826.0 per 100 000), followed by South Canterbury (233.9 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Note: Some health districts have only one sentinel GP with a small patient denominator so the consultation rates could be high (e.g. Northland).

Fifty-nine swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifty-seven swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 30 influenza viruses were identified, 13 B (not antigenically typed), nine influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), six A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, and two A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>GS</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>SC</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>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, 23 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 13 B (not antigenically typed), and 10 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 31, 1 August 2008. A total of 429 influenza viruses were identified, 123 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 120 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 41 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 112 influenza B (not antigenically typed), and 32 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage.

Figure 2

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 1 August 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 31, 2008.
Figure 4

Influenza Surveillance NZ Week 31

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

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