

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

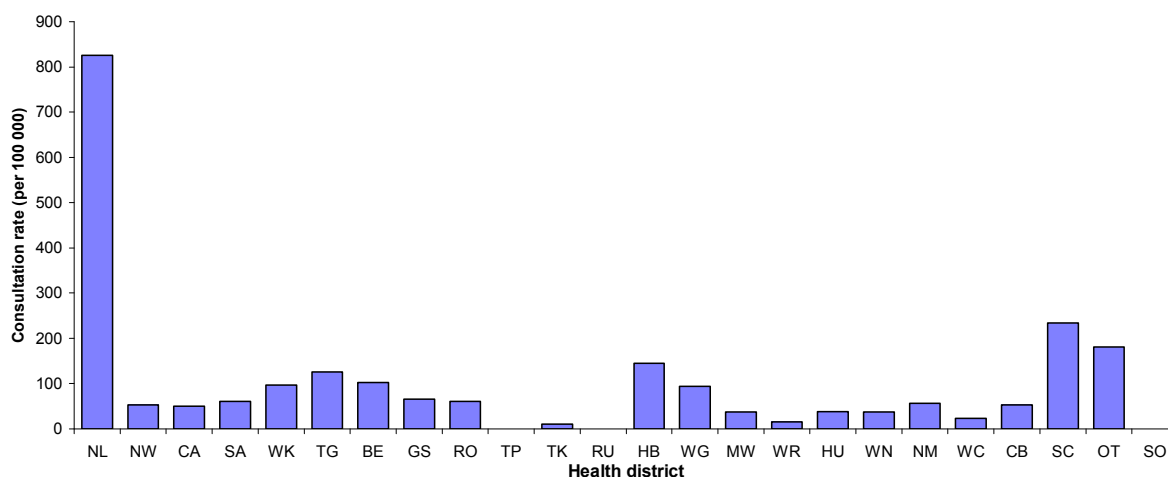
2008/31: 28 July – 1 August 2008

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

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



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 1

Antigenic Strain	NL	NW	CA	WK	GS	HB	WG	WN	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
B (not antigenically typed)	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	13
Total	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	8	1	5	30

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 2

Antigenic Strain	NW	CA	SA	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	3	2	5	10
B (not antigenically typed)	2	1	4	6	13
Total	2	4	6	11	23

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

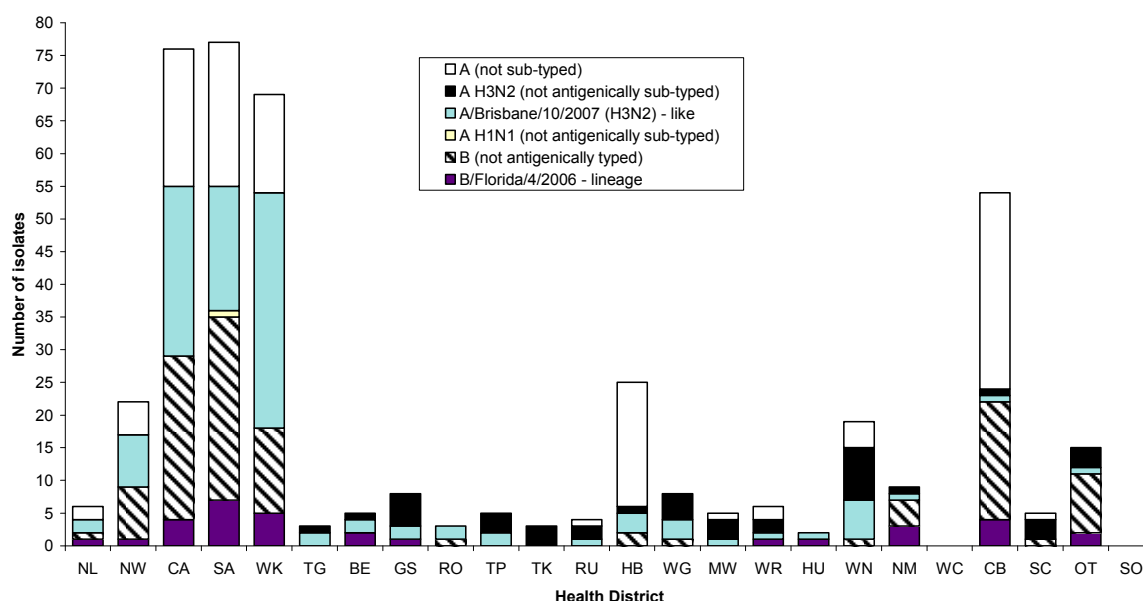


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

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

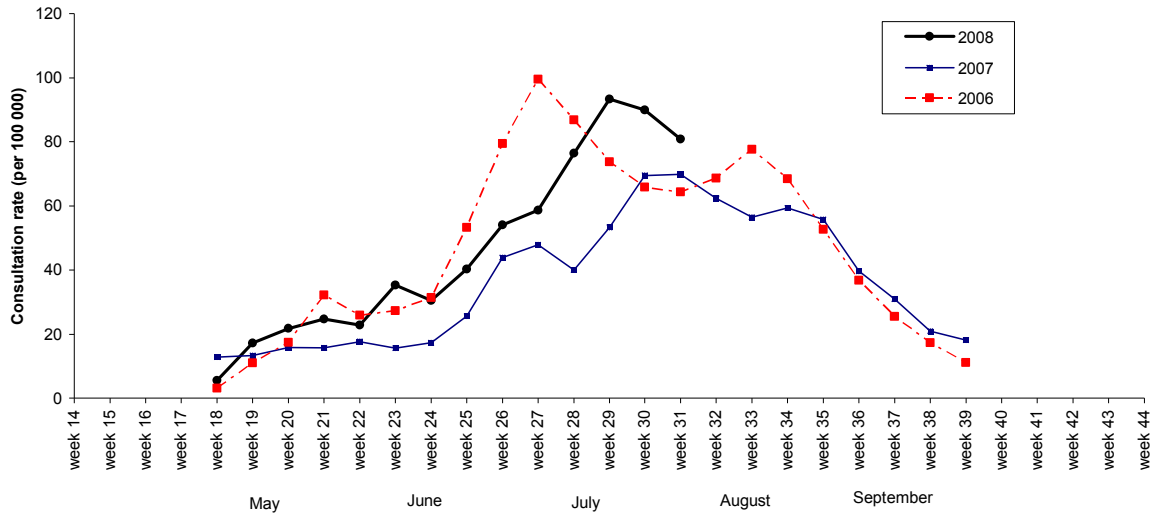
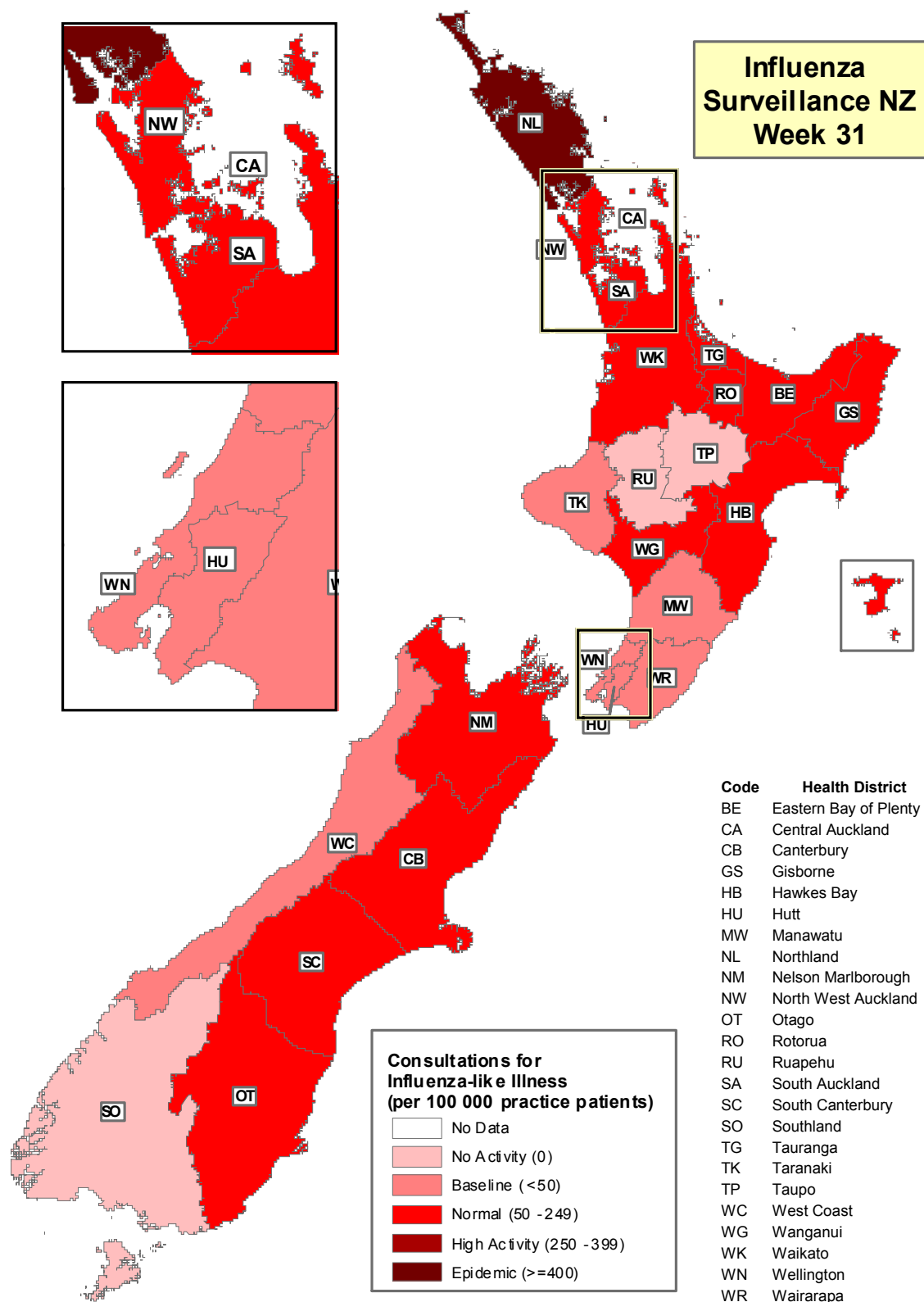


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 31, 2008.

Figure 4



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