In the past week, a total of 194 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 23 of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 58.0 per 100,000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Ruapehu had the highest consultation rate (356.7 per 100,000), followed by South Auckland (354.8 per 100,000).

Figure 1

![Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 5 September 2008](chart)

[ ] Health district did not participate for the week.

Forty-five swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifty-two swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 52 influenza viruses were identified, 22 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, 16 B (not antigenically typed), six A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, five B/Florida/4/2006 – like, one A (yet to be sub-typed), one A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), and one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>TG</th>
<th>BE</th>
<th>GS</th>
<th>TP</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>WR</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be 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>0</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>
</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>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Florida/4/2006 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Malaysia/2506/2004 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, 41 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 31 B (not antigenically typed), eight influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and two B/Florida/4/2006 – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (yet to be sub-typed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Florida/4/2006 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 36, 5 September 2008. A total of 873 influenza viruses were identified, 194 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 140 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 60 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like, one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 385 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 50 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage, and 42 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

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: 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 36, 2008.
Figure 4

Influenza Surveillance NZ
Week 36

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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