In the past week, a total of 162 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in all of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 48.1 per 100,000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (197.9 per 100,000), followed by Northland (194.4 per 100,000).

Figure 1

Thirty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-five swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 27 influenza viruses were identified, 24 B (not antigenically typed), two A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), and one A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>TG</th>
<th>GS</th>
<th>HB</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>WR</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>NM</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>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>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>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, 20 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 18 B (not antigenically typed) and two A (yet to be sub-typed). 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>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 37, 12 September 2008. A total of 909 influenza viruses were identified, 197 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 151 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 51 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like, one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 415 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 51 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage, and 42 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2

![Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 12 September 2008](image)

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 37, 2008.
Figure 4

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)

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