

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

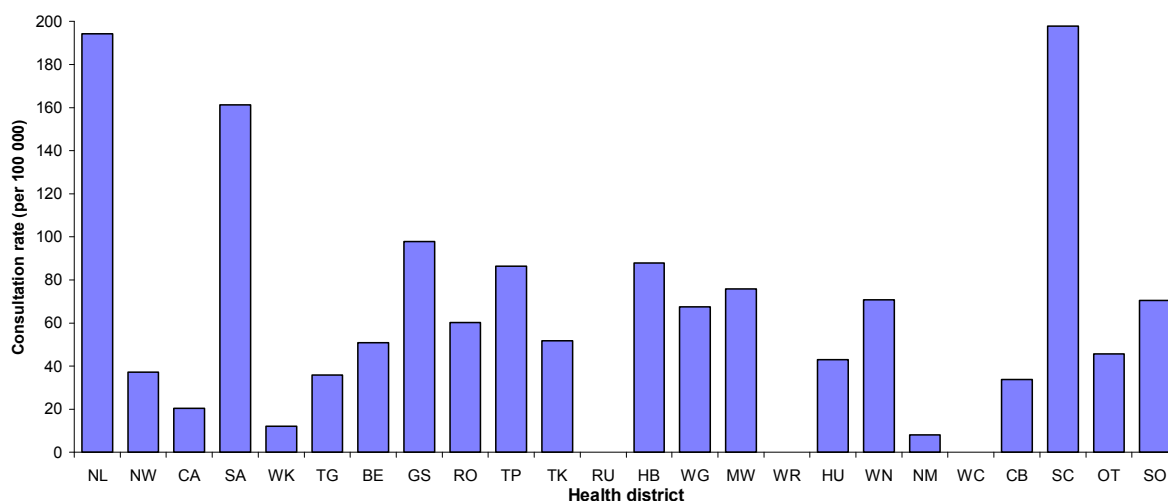
2008/37: 8 - 12 September 2008

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**

*Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 12 September 2008*



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 1**

Antigenic Strain	NW	CA	WK	TG	GS	HB	WG	WR	WN	HU	NM	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
B (not antigenically typed)	2	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	24
Total	2	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	27

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 2**

Antigenic Strain	CA	SA	WK	HB	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	1	0	1	0	2
B (not antigenically typed)	1	0	2	3	12	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>

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**

*Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 12 September 2008*

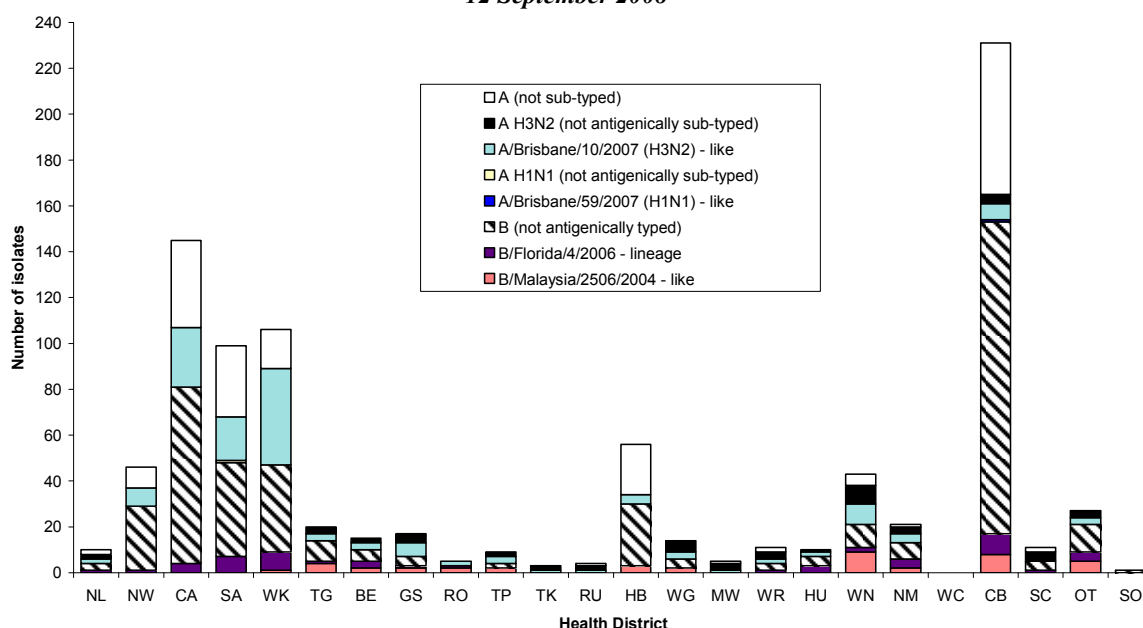


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

**Figure 3**

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

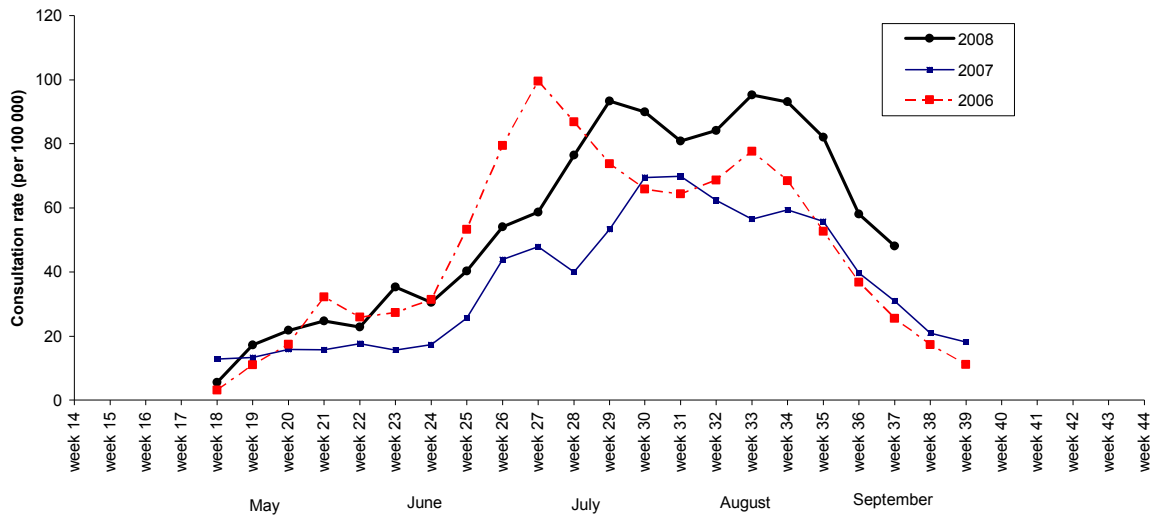
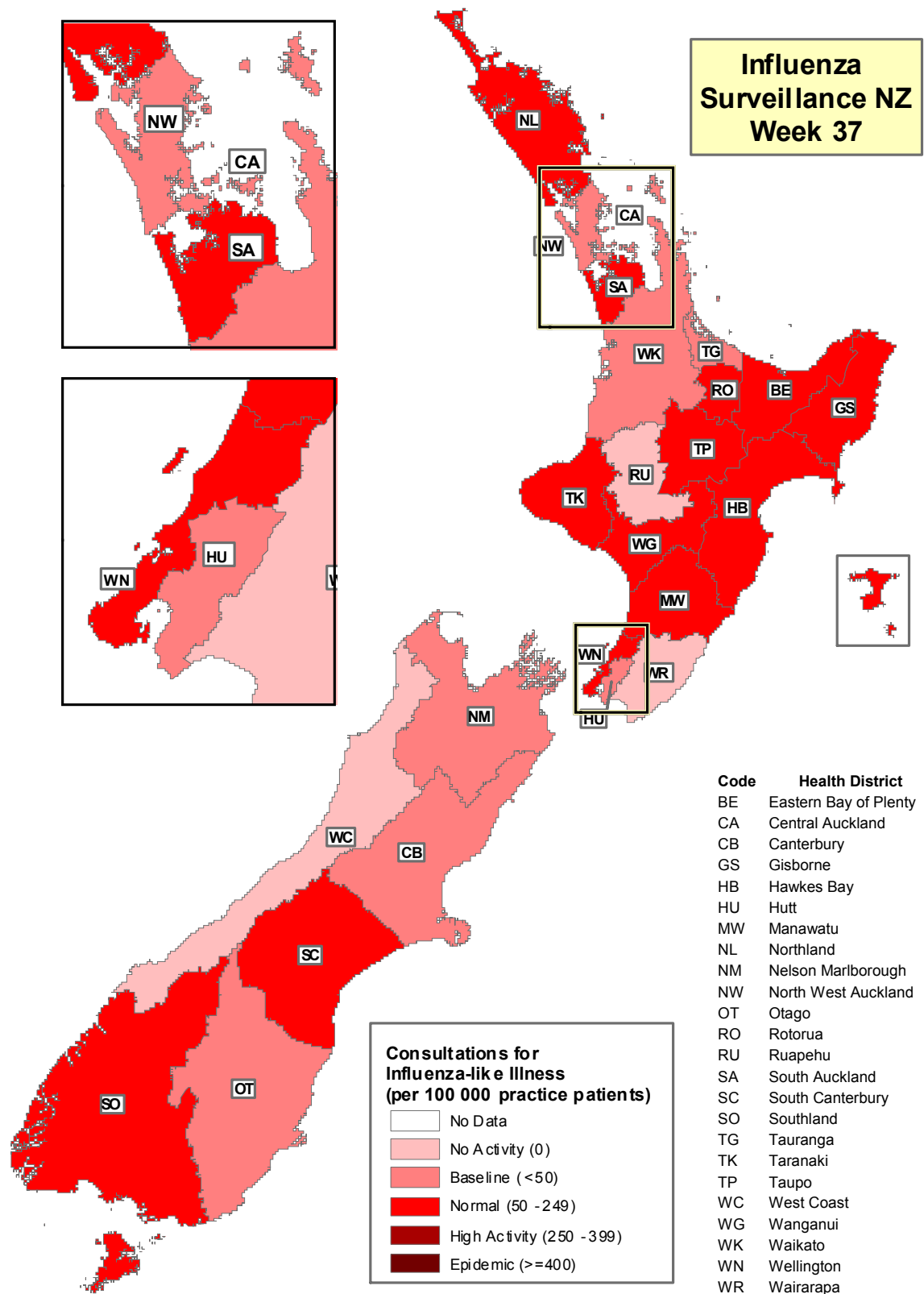


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 37, 2008.

Figure 4



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