In the past week, a total of 61 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 19.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Wanganui had the highest consultation rate (202.3 per 100 000), followed by Northland (145.8 per 100 000).

Seventeen swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-one swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 14 influenza B (not antigenically typed) were identified. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>TG</th>
<th>BE</th>
<th>RO</th>
<th>RU</th>
<th>MW</th>
<th>WN</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, nine influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, eight B (not antigenically typed) and one 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>WK</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>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 39, 26 September 2008. A total of 964 influenza viruses were identified, 200 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 156 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 50 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like, one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 436 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 67 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, and 53 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage.

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 39, 2008.
Figure 4

Influenza Surveillance NZ
Week 39

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

Compiled by: Liza Lopez
Population and Environmental Health
ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
PO Box 50 348
PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0647
fax: 04 914-0770
email: liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz