INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE


In the past week, a total of 38 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 23 of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 11.5 per 100,000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Gisborne had the highest consultation rate (65.3 per 100,000), followed by Canterbury (33.8 per 100,000).

Figure 1

![Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 3 October 2008](image)

Seven swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twelve swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 28 influenza viruses were identified, 11 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, 10 B (not antigenically typed), two A (yet to be sub-typed), two A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, two B/Florida/4/2006 – like, and one A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>WK</th>
<th>TG</th>
<th>GS</th>
<th>RU</th>
<th>MW</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</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>1</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>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Florida/4/2006 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Malaysia/2506/2004 - like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, three influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, two A (yet to be sub-typed) and one B (not antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigenic Strain</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>CB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (not sub-typed)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (not antigenically typed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 40, 3 October 2008. A total of 995 influenza viruses were identified, 178 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 176 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 59 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like, one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 420 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 100 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, and 60 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage.

**Figure 2**

*Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 3 October 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 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 40, 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)

Code | Health District
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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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