

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

Weekly update of 2010/1: 4-10 January 2010
Brief summary of 2009/52: (21-27 December 2009)
Brief summary of 2009/53: (28 December – 3 January 2010)

The national influenza surveillance system in New Zealand is an essential public health component for assessing and implementing strategies to control influenza. This report summarises the data collected from sentinel general practice (GP) surveillance and non-sentinel surveillance for week 1 (4-10 January 2010). A brief summary of influenza activity in weeks 52 (21-27 December 2009) and 53 (28 December – 3 January 2010) of 2009 is also reported.

IN THIS REPORT:

Summary of weeks 52 & 53:

- **Week 52 (21-27 December 2009):** Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 10 out of 24 health districts with a national consultation rate of 1.6 per 100 000 (2 ILI consultations). Seven swabs were received from sentinel surveillance. No influenza viruses were identified in the sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance.
- **Week 53 (28 December - 3 January 2010):** Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 6 out of 24 health districts with a national consultation rate of 5.9 per 100 000 (5 ILI consultations). Three swabs were received from sentinel surveillance. No influenza viruses were identified. One pandemic (H1N1) 09 was reported from Waikato from non-sentinel surveillance.

Summary of 2009 (weeks 1-53)

- A total of 4899 influenza viruses have been reported through sentinel (624, 13%) and non-sentinel surveillance (4275, 87%). The majority (2801, 57 %) of the viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 09.
- Pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 09 is a notifiable disease in New Zealand. As of 10 January 2010, there have been 3298¹ cases recorded in EpiSurv with 20 deaths.

(Note: For further information please refer to the Ministry of Health's website:
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/influenza-a-h1n1>)

Summary of week 1 (4-10 January 2010)

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 13 out of 24 health districts with a national consultation rate of 18.2 per 100 000 (45 ILI consultations). Eighteen swabs were received from sentinel surveillance. No influenza viruses were identified. Two pandemic (H1N1) 09 were reported from South Auckland and Canterbury from non-sentinel surveillance.

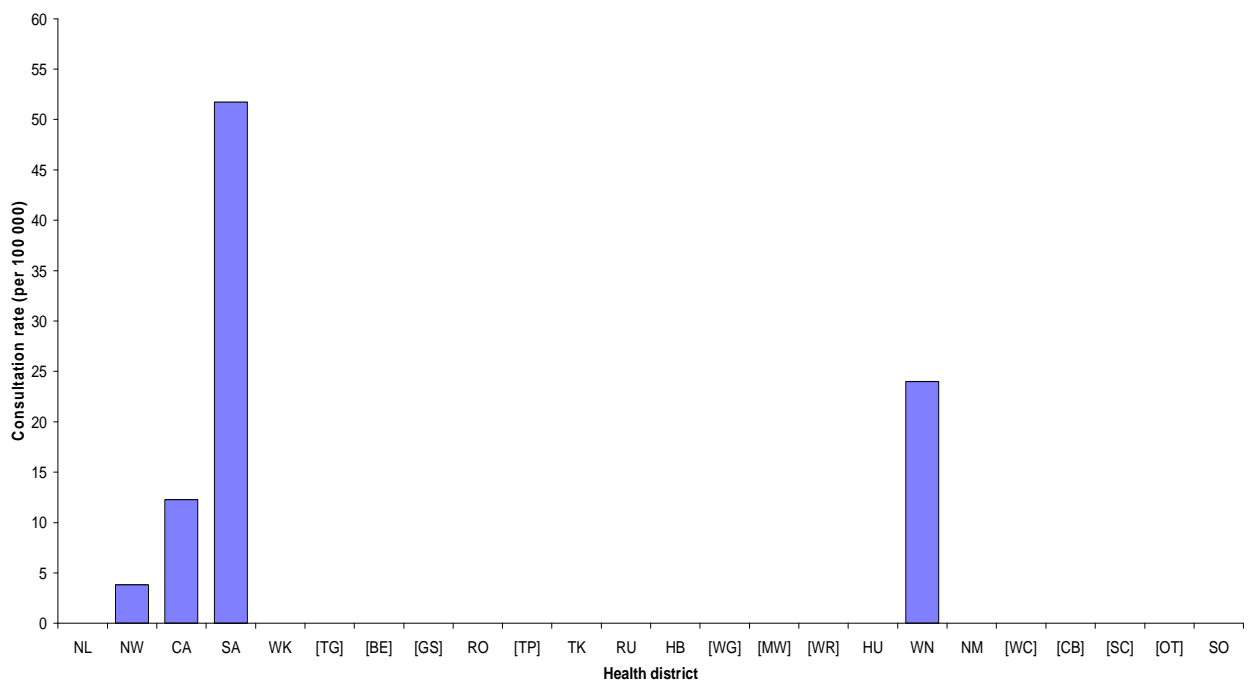
¹ Data source: EpiSurv as of 14 January 2010.

Week 1 (4-10 January 2010)

In the past week, a total of 45 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 48 general practices in 13 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 18.2 per 100 000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (51.7 per 100 000, 39 cases), followed by Wellington (24.0 per 100 000, 3 cases) and Central Auckland (12.3 per 100 000, 2 cases).

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 10 January 2010



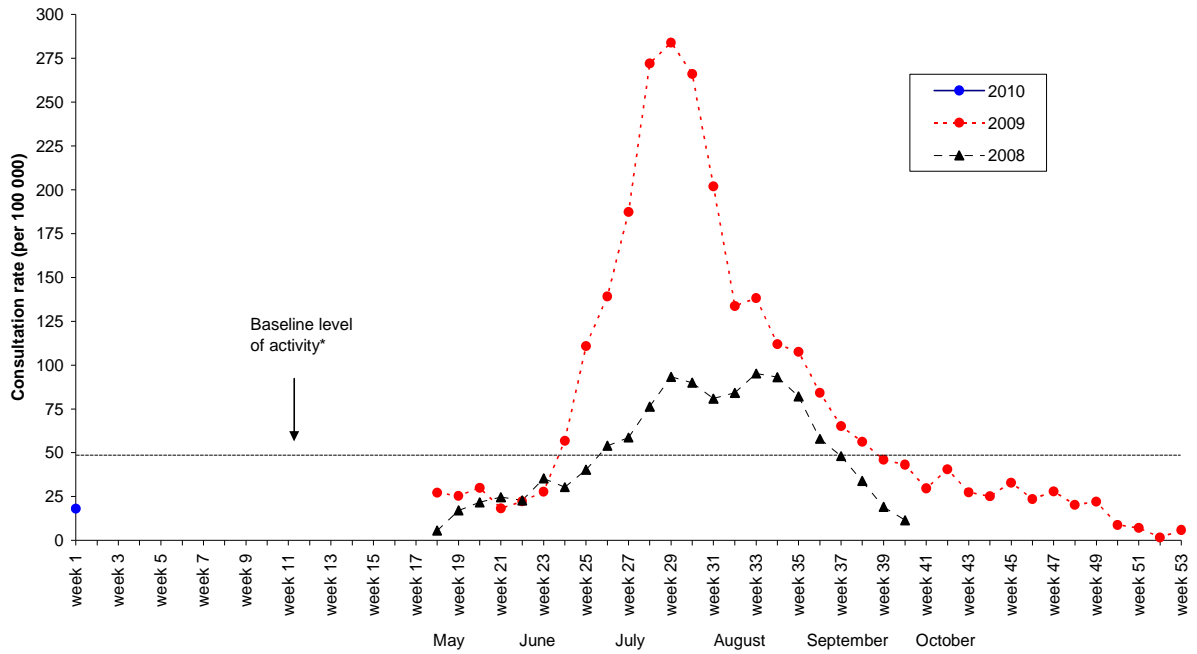
*Health districts did not participate for the week.

Eighteen swabs were received by the virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. No influenza viruses were identified.

Two pandemic (H1N1) 09 cases from South Auckland and Canterbury were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

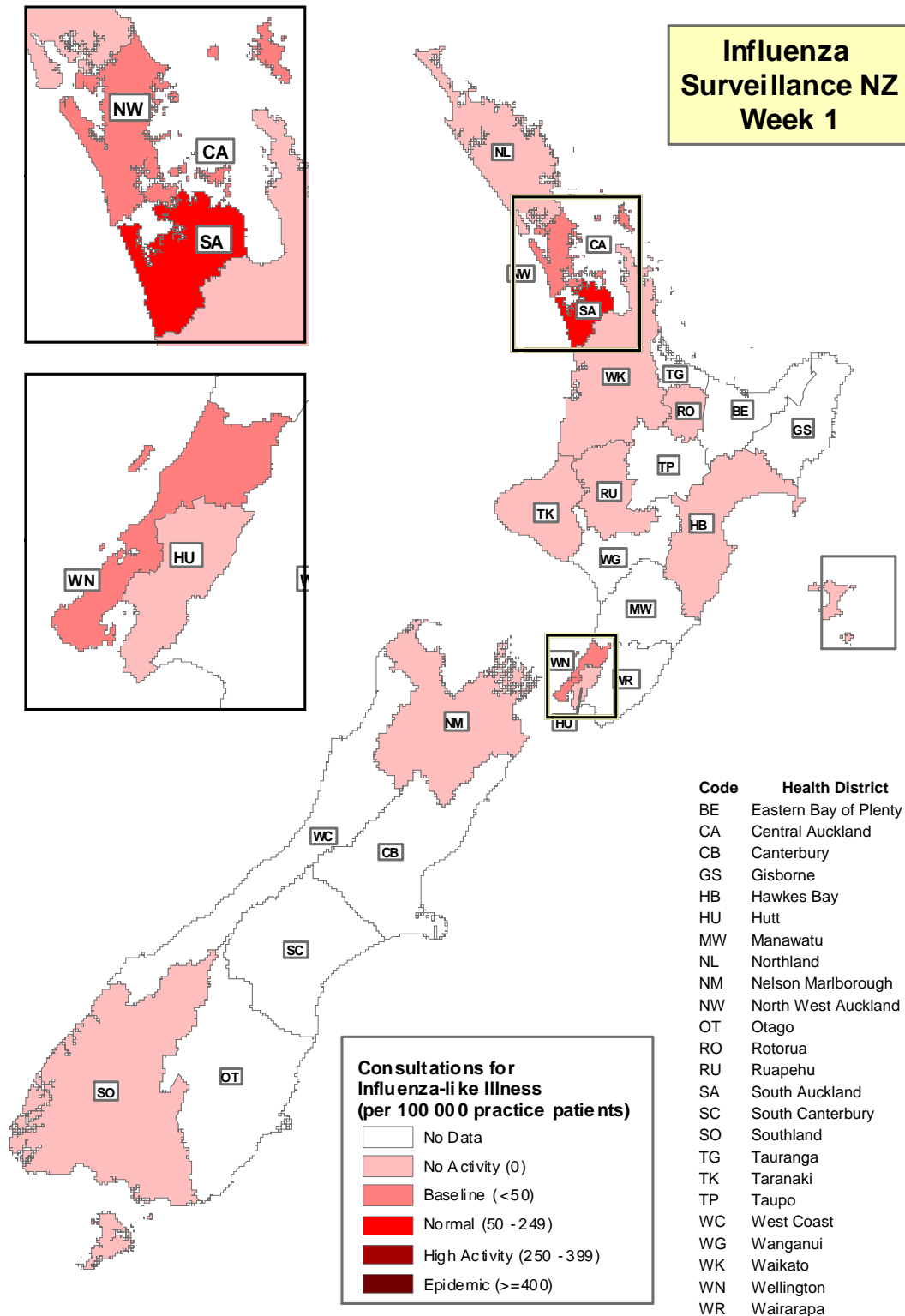
Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2008, 2009 and 2010



Note: There is only one value for 2010 (18.2 per 100 000).

* A weekly rate <50 ILI consultations per 100,000 patient population is considered baseline activity. A rate of 50–249 is considered indicative of normal seasonal influenza activity, and a rate of 250–399 indicative of higher than expected influenza activity. A rate ≥ 400 ILI consultations per 100,000 patient population indicates an epidemic level of influenza activity.

Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 1, 2010.



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