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 18 (3-9 May 2010).

SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 20 out of 21 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 29.2 per 100,000 (122 ILI consultations). Fifty-one swabs were received from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance. Two viruses were identified as pandemic H1N1 09 from the non-sentinel surveillance.

- Pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 09 is a notifiable disease in New Zealand. As of 9 May 2010, there have been 3304\(^1\) cases recorded in EpiSurv with 35\(^2\) deaths.

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

In the past week, a total of 122 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 88 general practices in 20 out of 21 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 29.2 per 100,000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Counties Manukau DHB had the highest consultation rate (101.6 per 100,000, 76 cases), followed by Southland (45.1 per 100,000, 4 cases) and Lakes (43.3 per 100,000, 1 case).

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\(^1\) Data source: EpiSurv as of 13 May 2010.
\(^2\) Data source: Ministry of Health.
Fifty-one swabs were received by the virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance (23) and the non-sentinel surveillance (28). Two viruses were identified as pandemic H1N1 09 from Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs through the 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.

* 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 DHB for week 18, 2010.

Influenza Surveillance NZ Week 18

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 | District Health Board
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AK | Auckland
BP | Bay of Plenty
CB | Canterbury
CC | Capital and Coast
CM | Counties Manukau
HB | Hawke's Bay
HU | Hutt Valley
LS | Lakes
MC | MidCentral
NL | Northland
NM | Nelson Marlborough
OT | Otago
SC | South Canterbury
SO | Southland
TK | Taranaki
TW | Tairawhiti
WC | West Coast
WG | Whanganui
WK | Waikato
WM | Waitemata
WR | Wairarapa

Compiled by:
Liza Lopez
Population and Environmental Health
ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
PO Box 50 348, PORIRUA
Tel: 04 914 0647 Fax: 04 978 6690 Email:liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz

Dr. Sue Huang
WHO National Influenza Centre
ESR Wallaceville Science Centre
PO Box 40158, Upper Hutt