

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/24: 14-20 June 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 (laboratory-based) for week 24 (14-20 June 2010).

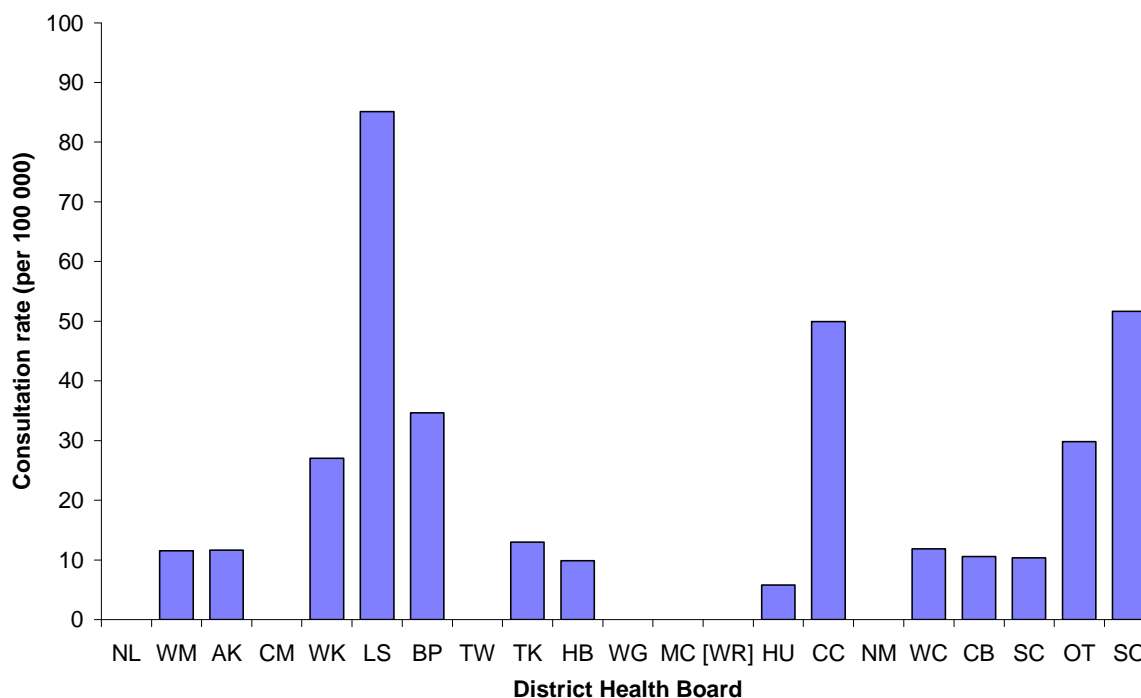
SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 20 out of 21 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 16.7 per 100 000 (61 ILI consultations).
- One hundred and nineteen swabs were received from sentinel (11) and non-sentinel surveillance (108). Nine viruses were identified, three from sentinel: A (not sub-typed) (2) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (1), and six from non-sentinel surveillance: A (not sub-typed) (5) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (1). This is the first time this year that confirmed viruses including pandemic (H1N1) 09 were isolated from the sentinel surveillance.
- Since January 2010, 26 cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv, four of which were reported in week 24.

In the past week, a total of 61 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 86 general practices in 20 out of 21 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 16.7 per 100 000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Lakes DHB had the highest consultation rate (85.1 per 100 000, 3 cases), followed by Southland (51.7 per 100 000, 6 cases) and Capital and Coast (49.9 per 100 000, 11 cases) DHBs.

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 20 June 2010



[] No data for the week

Eleven swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three influenza viruses were identified, two A (not sub-typed) and one pandemic (H1N1) 09. The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 24 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	Waitemata	Auckland	South Canterbury	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	1	0	2
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	0	0	1	1
Total	1	1	1	3

In addition, 108 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, six influenza viruses were identified, five A (not sub-typed) and one pandemic (H1N1) 09. The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 24 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	Waitemata	Auckland	South Canterbury	Total
A (not sub-typed)	3	2	0	5
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	0	0	1	1
Total	3	2	1	6

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 24 (20 June 2010). A total of 28 influenza viruses were identified: 20 pandemic (H1N1) 09 and eight A (not sub-typed).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 24, 20 June 2010

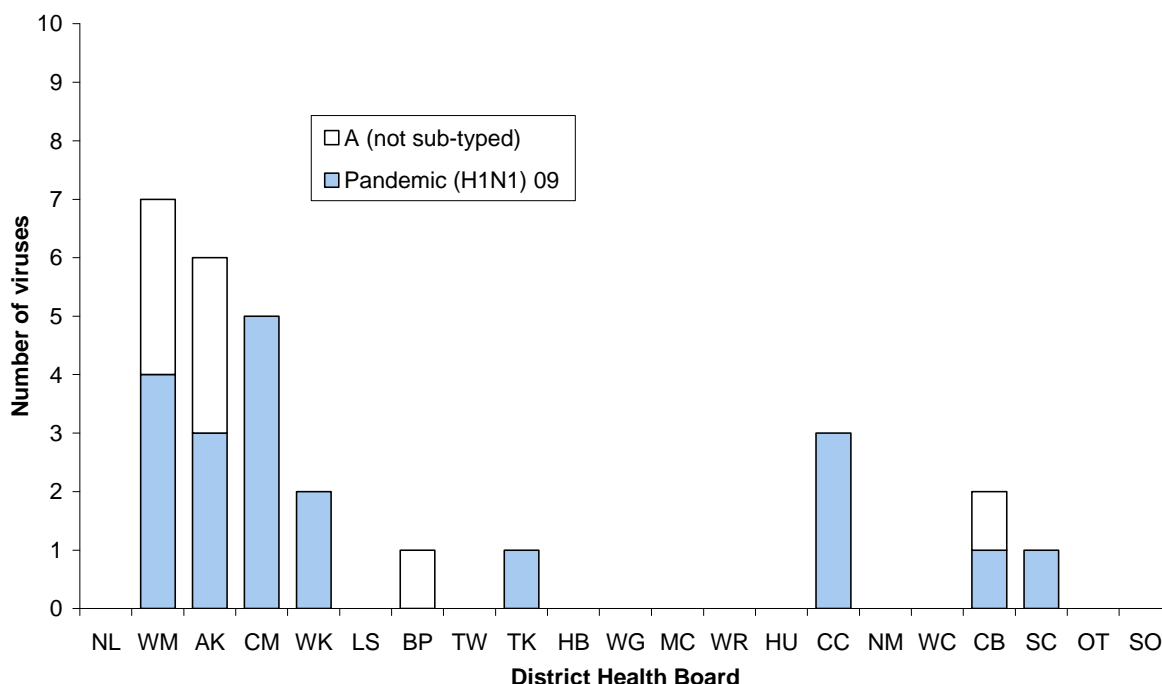
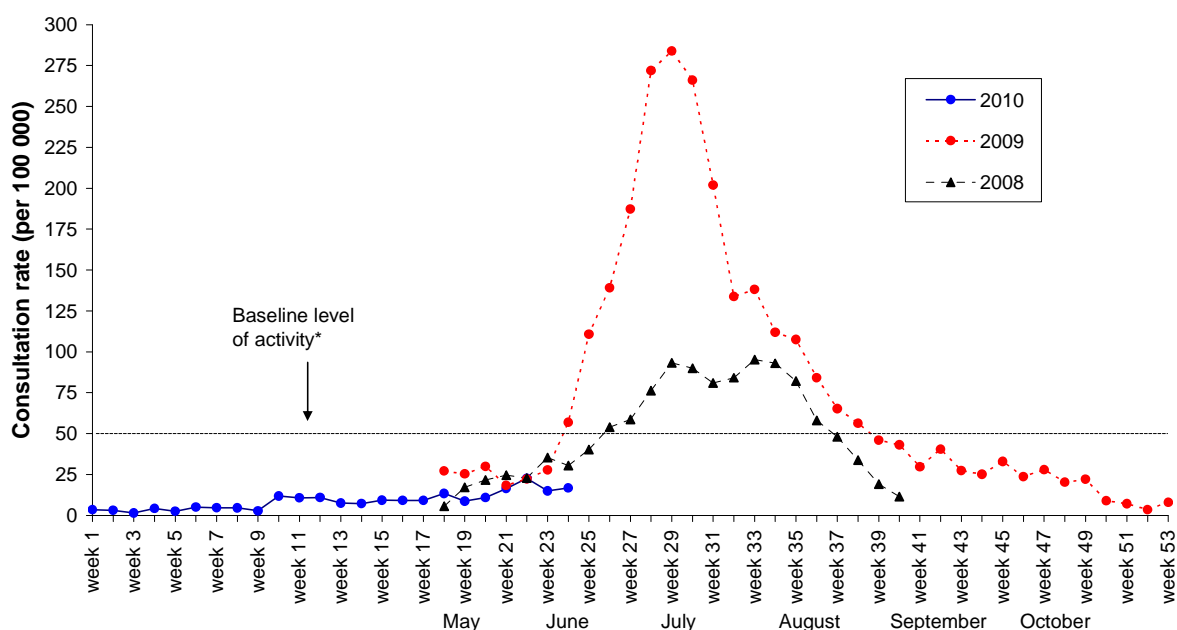


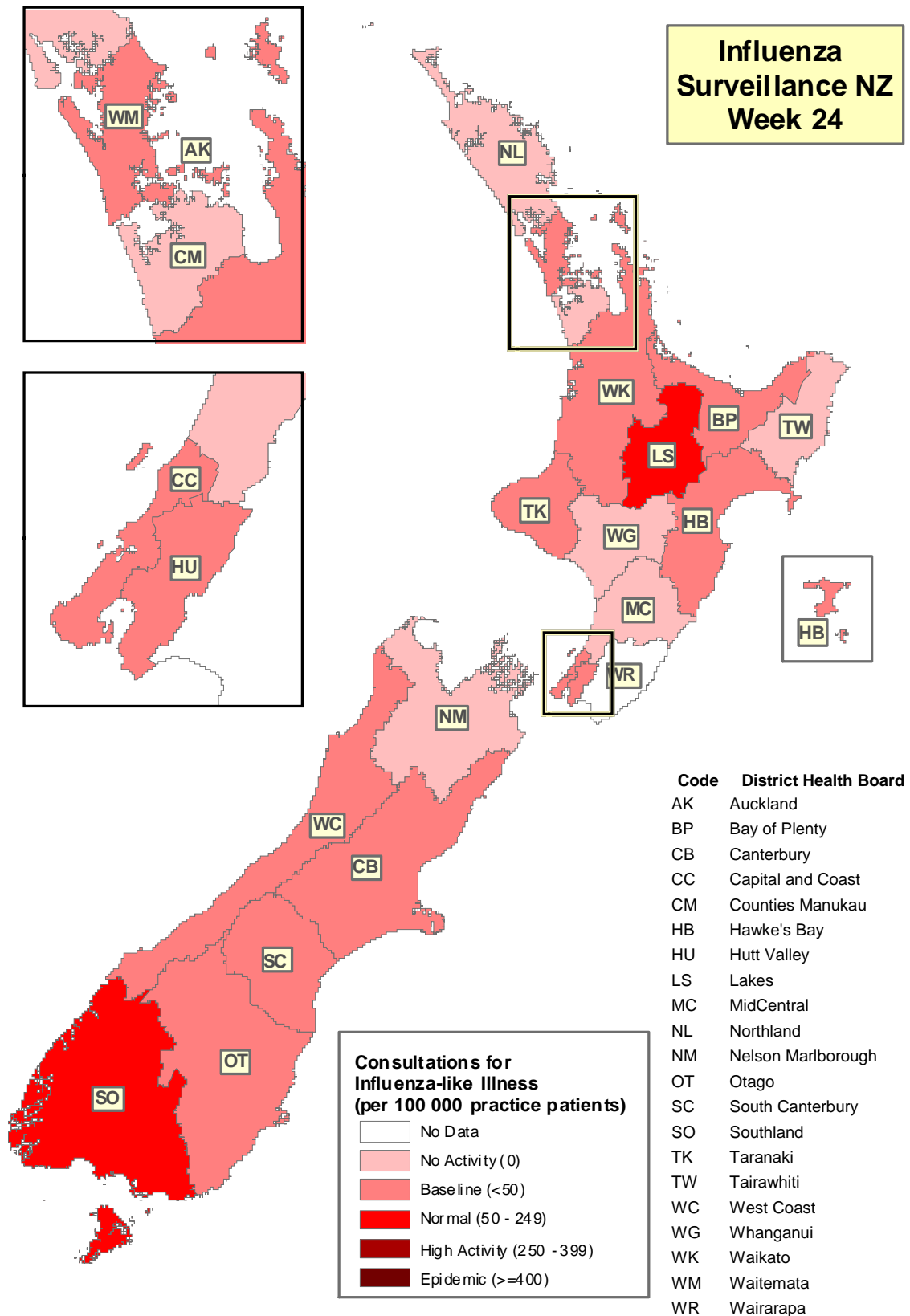
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2008, 2009 and 2010



* 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 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 24, 2010



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