

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/25: 21-27 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 25 (21-27 June 2010).

SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 19 out of 20¹ District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 29.0 per 100 000 (106 ILI consultations).
- One hundred and forty-two swabs were received from sentinel (26) and non-sentinel surveillance (116). Eight viruses were identified, three from sentinel: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2) and A (H3N2) (1), and five from non-sentinel surveillance: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (3) and A (not sub-typed) (2).
- Since January 2010, 32² cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv³, six of which were reported in week 25.

In the past week, a total of 106 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 87 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 29.0 per 100 000 patient population.

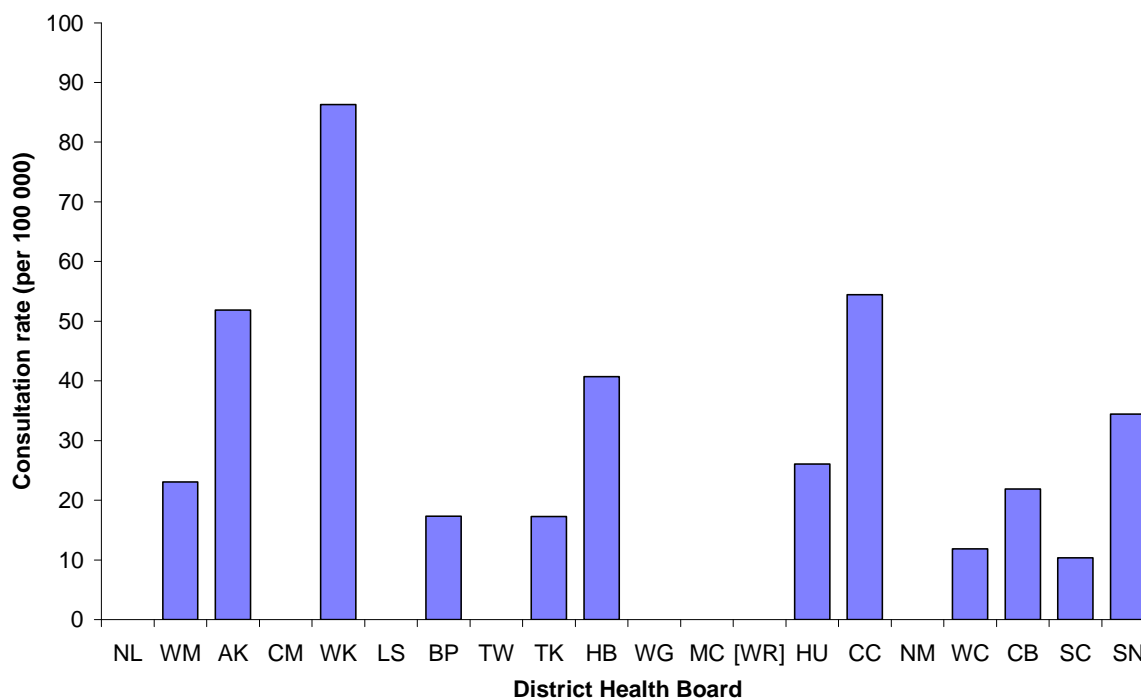
The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Waikato DHB had the highest consultation rate (86.3 per 100 000, 17 cases), followed by Capital and Coast (54.5 per 100 000, 12 cases) and Auckland (51.8 per 100 000, 19 cases) DHBs.

¹ Otago and Southland DHBs now combined as Southern DHB.

² Includes confirmed and probable cases.

³ Data source: EpiSurv as of 1 July 2010.

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 27 June 2010



[] No data for the week

Twenty-six swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2) and A (H3N2) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 25 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	Auckland	Capital and Coast	Total
A (H3N2)	1	0	1
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	1	1	2
Total	2	1	3

In addition, 116 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, five influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (3) and A (not sub-typed) (2). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 25 by DHB

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

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 25 (27 June 2010). A total of 39 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (27), A (not sub-typed) (11) and A (H3N2) (1).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 25, 27 June 2010

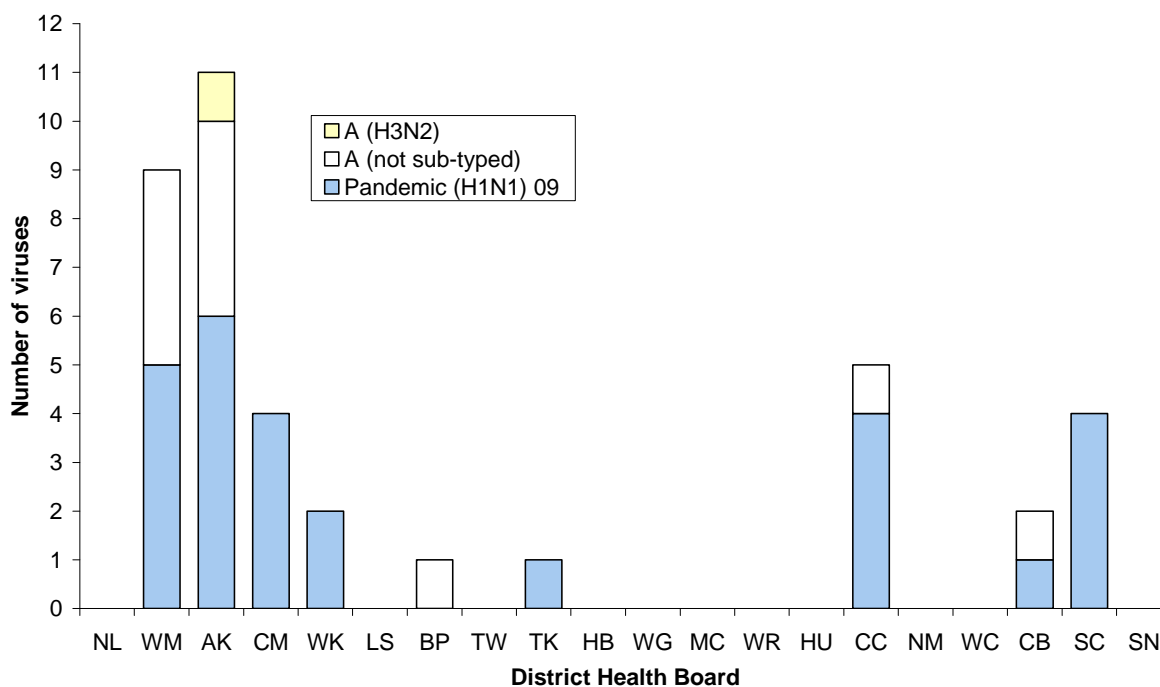
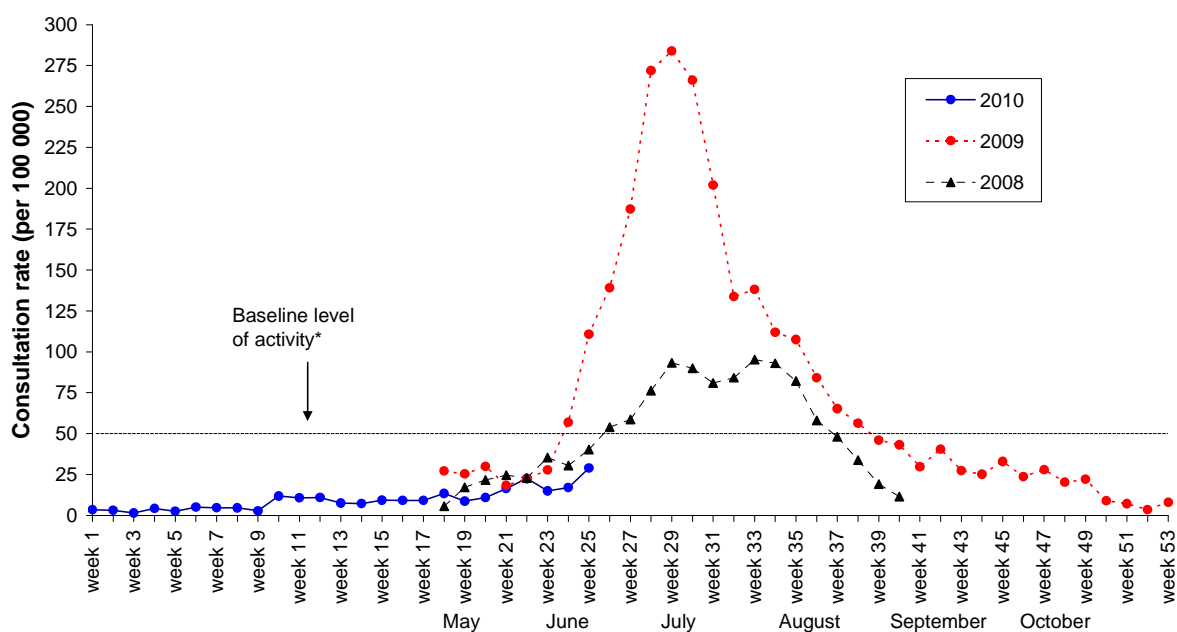


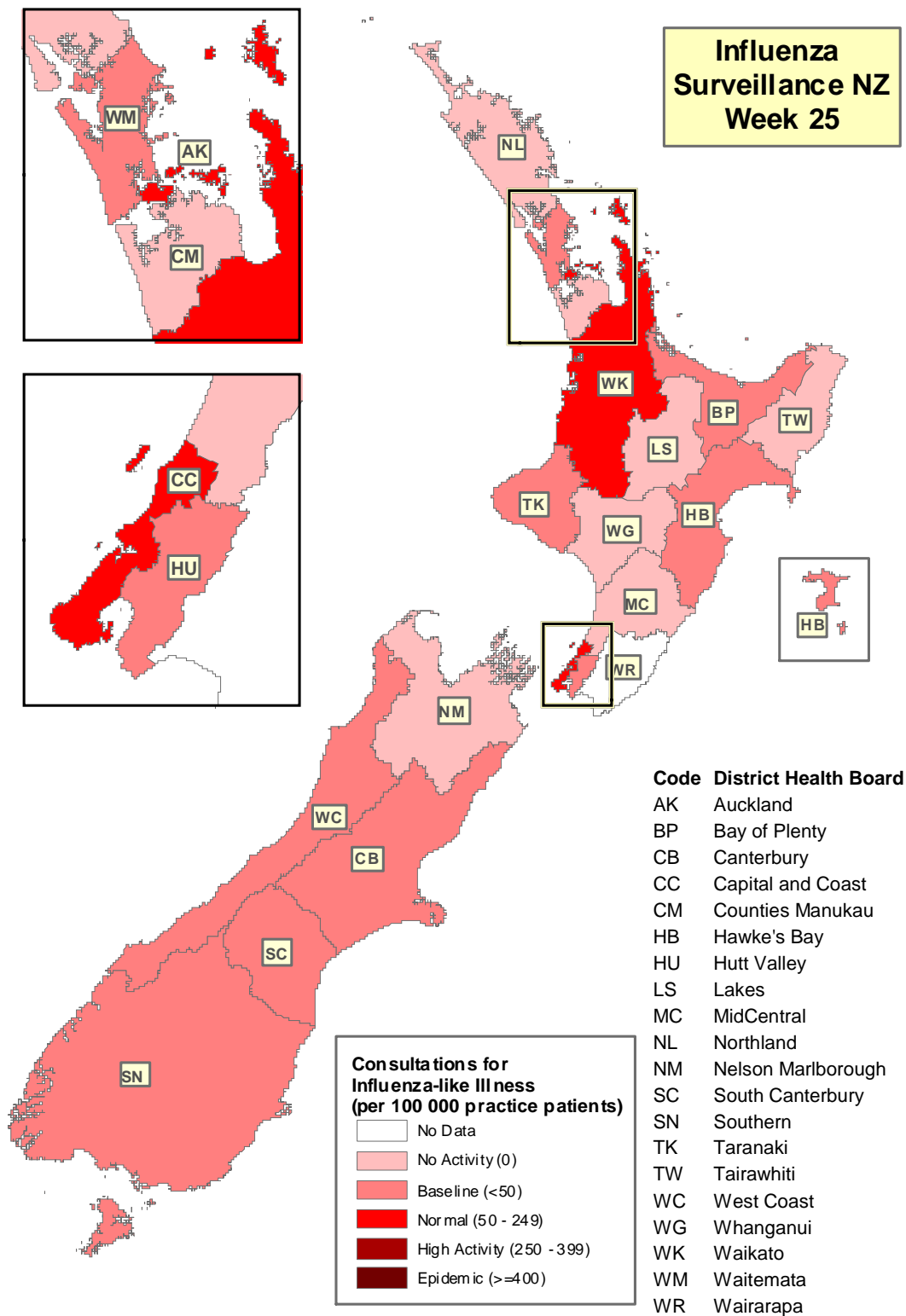
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

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 25, 2010



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