

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/26: 28 June – 4 July 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 26 (28 June – 4 July 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 27.5 per 100 000 (97 ILI consultations).
- One hundred and twenty-nine swabs were received from sentinel (16) and non-sentinel surveillance (113). Seventeen viruses were identified, three from sentinel: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2) and A (not sub-typed) (1), and 14 from non-sentinel surveillance: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (11), A (not sub-typed) (2), and B (not typed) (1).
- Since January 2010, 49² cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv³, 17 of which were reported in week 26.

In the past week, a total of 97 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 27.5 per 100 000 patient population.

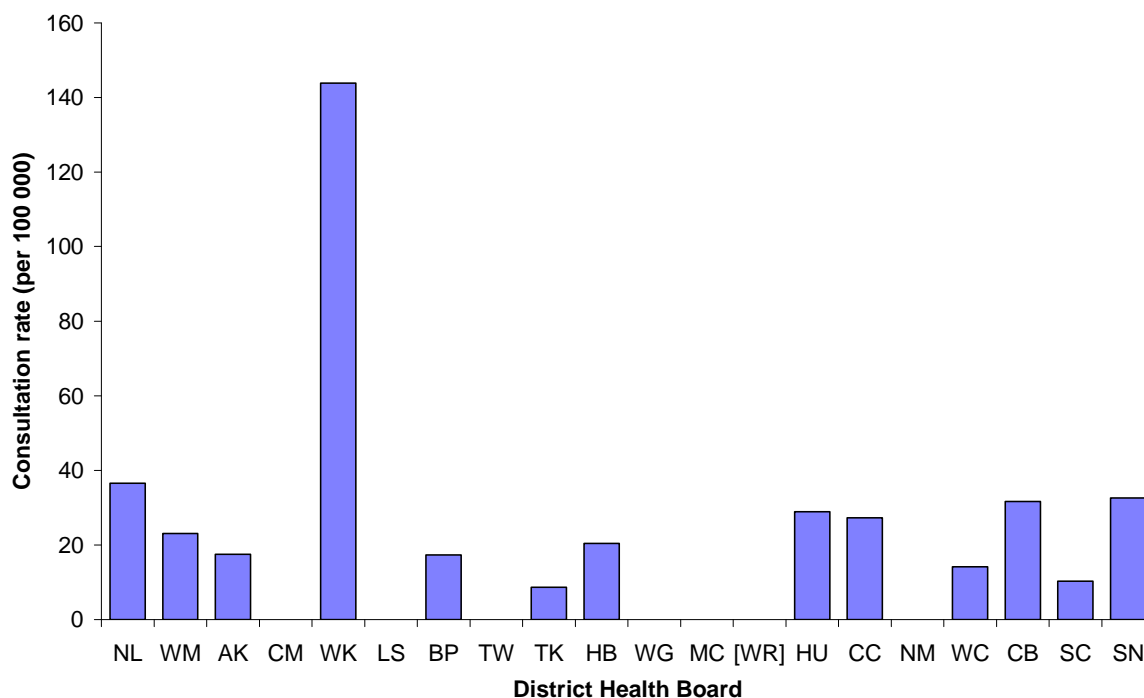
The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Waikato DHB had the highest consultation rate (143.9 per 100 000, 26 cases), followed by Northland (36.6 per 100 000, 4 cases) and Southern (32.6 per 100 000, 18 cases) DHBs.

¹ Otago and Southland DHBs now combined as Southern DHB.

² Includes confirmed and probable cases.

³ Data source: EpiSurv as of 8 July 2010.

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 4 July 2010



[] No data for the week

Sixteen swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2) and A (not sub-typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 26 by DHB

Antigenic strain	AK	CC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	0	1
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	0	2	2
Total	1	2	3

In addition, 113 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 14 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (11), A (not sub-typed) (2), and B (not typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 26 by DHB

Antigenic strain	WM	AK	CM	WK	BP	CC	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pandemic A (H1N1) 09	2	3	0	0	1	3	2	11
Total	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	14

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 26 (4 July 2010). A total of 56 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (38), A (not sub-typed) (16), A (H3N2) (1), and B (not typed) (1).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 26, 4 July 2010

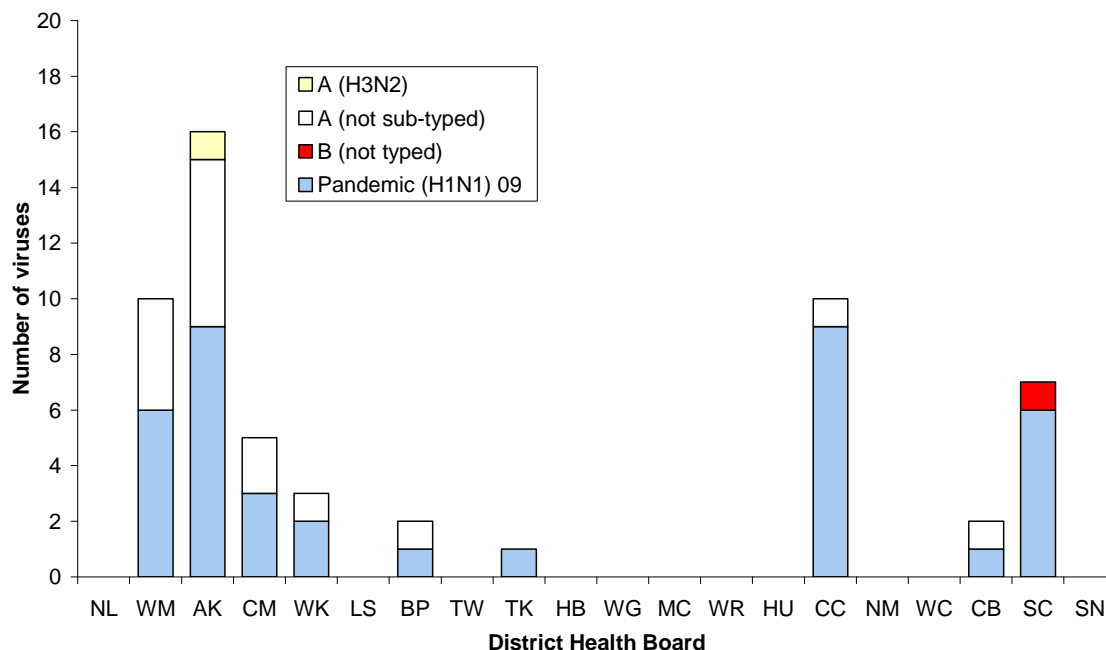
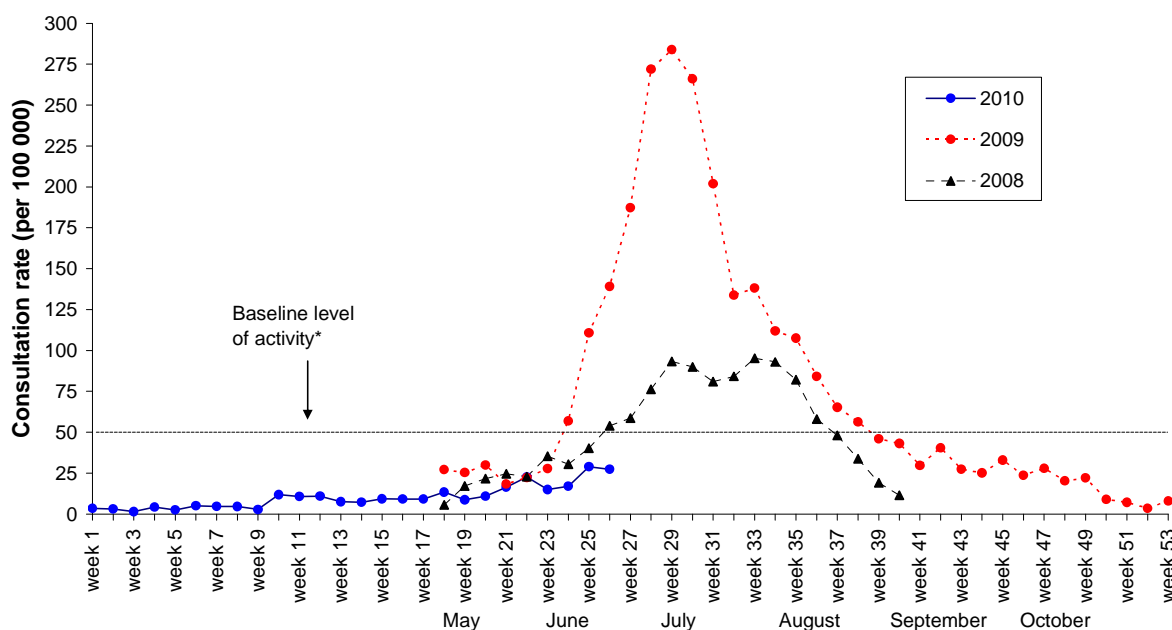


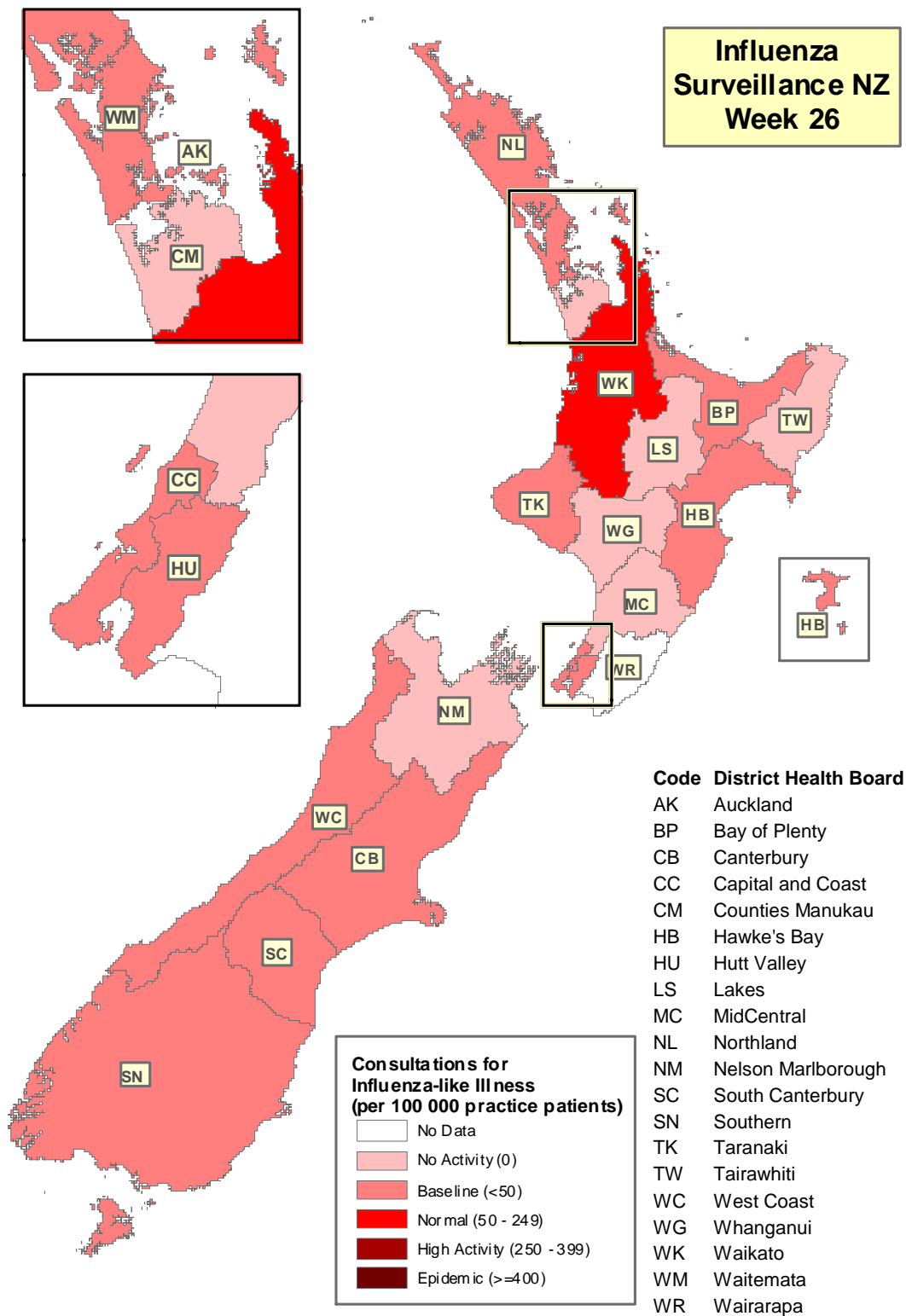
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

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 26, 2010



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