

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/27: 5-11 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 27 (5-11 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 35.0 per 100 000 (115 ILI consultations).
- One hundred and ninety swabs were received from sentinel (33) and non-sentinel surveillance (156). Thirty-three viruses were identified, five from sentinel: A (not sub-typed) (3) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2), and 33 from non-sentinel surveillance: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (25) and A (not sub-typed) (8).
- Since January 2010, 90² cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv³, 41 of which were reported in week 27.

In the past week, a total of 115 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 77 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 35.0 per 100 000 patient population.

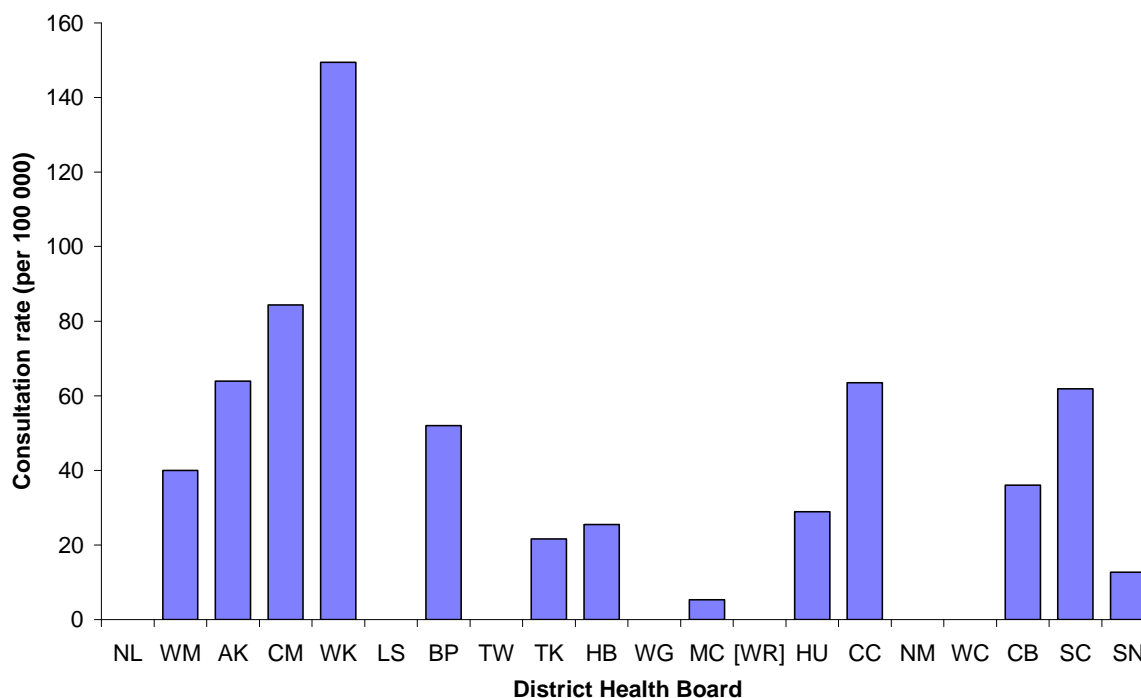
The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Waikato DHB had the highest consultation rate (149.4 per 100 000, 27 cases), followed by Counties Manukau (84.3 per 100 000, 1 case) and Auckland (63.9 per 100 000, 16 cases) DHBs.

¹ Otago and Southland DHBs now combined as Southern DHB.

² Includes confirmed (82), probable (17), and under investigation cases (1).

³ Data source: EpiSurv as of 15 July 2010.

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 11 July 2010



[] No GP/practice participating in the sentinel surveillance.

Thirty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, five influenza viruses were identified: A (not sub-typed) (3) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (2). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 27 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	AK	WK	LS	BP	Total
A (not sub-typed)	2	0	0	1	3
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	0	1	1	0	2
Total	2	1	1	1	5

In addition, 156 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 33 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (25) and A (not sub-typed) (8). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 27 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	AK	WK	BP	TK	CC	CB	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	11	0	1	3	1	4	5	25
Total	18	1	1	3	1	4	5	33

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 27 (11 July 2010). A total of 94 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (65), A (not sub-typed) (27), seasonal A (H3N2) (1), and B (not typed) (1).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 27, 11 July 2010

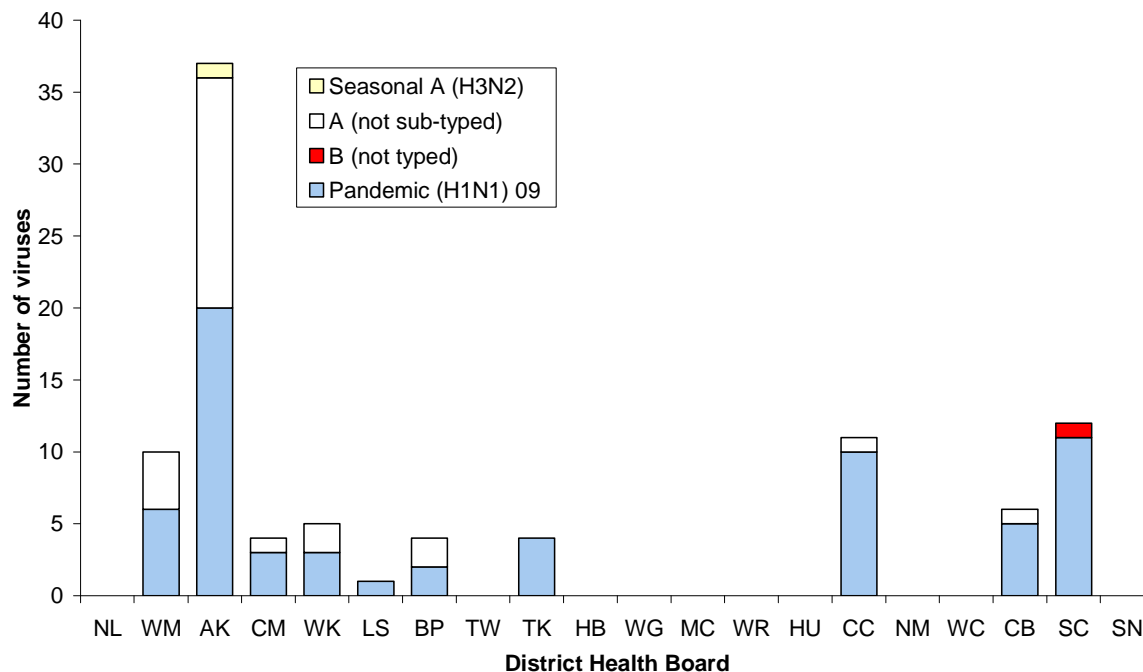
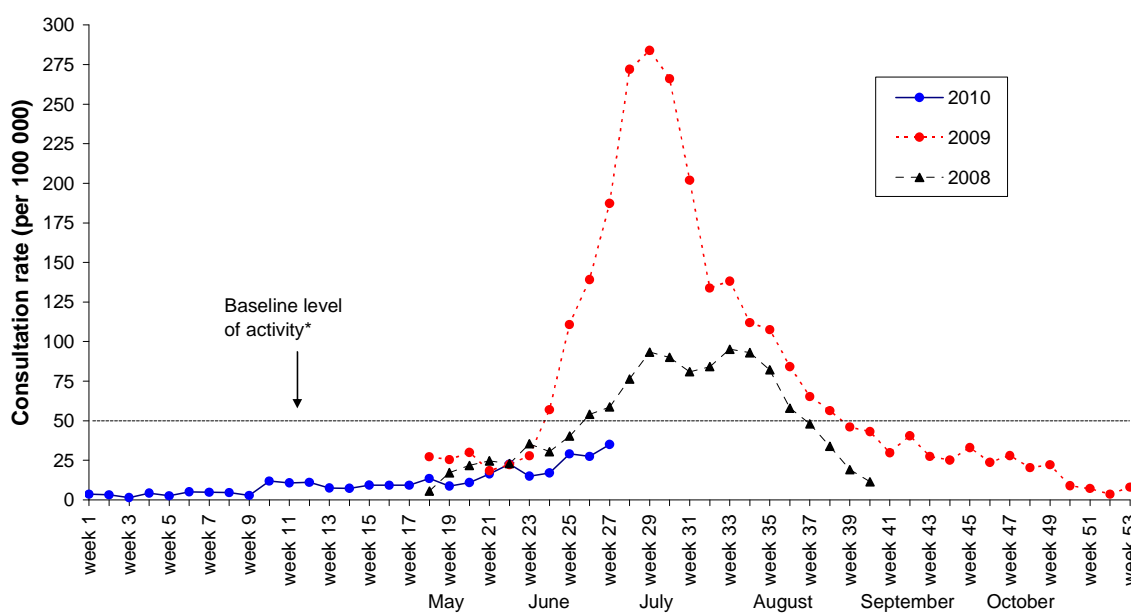


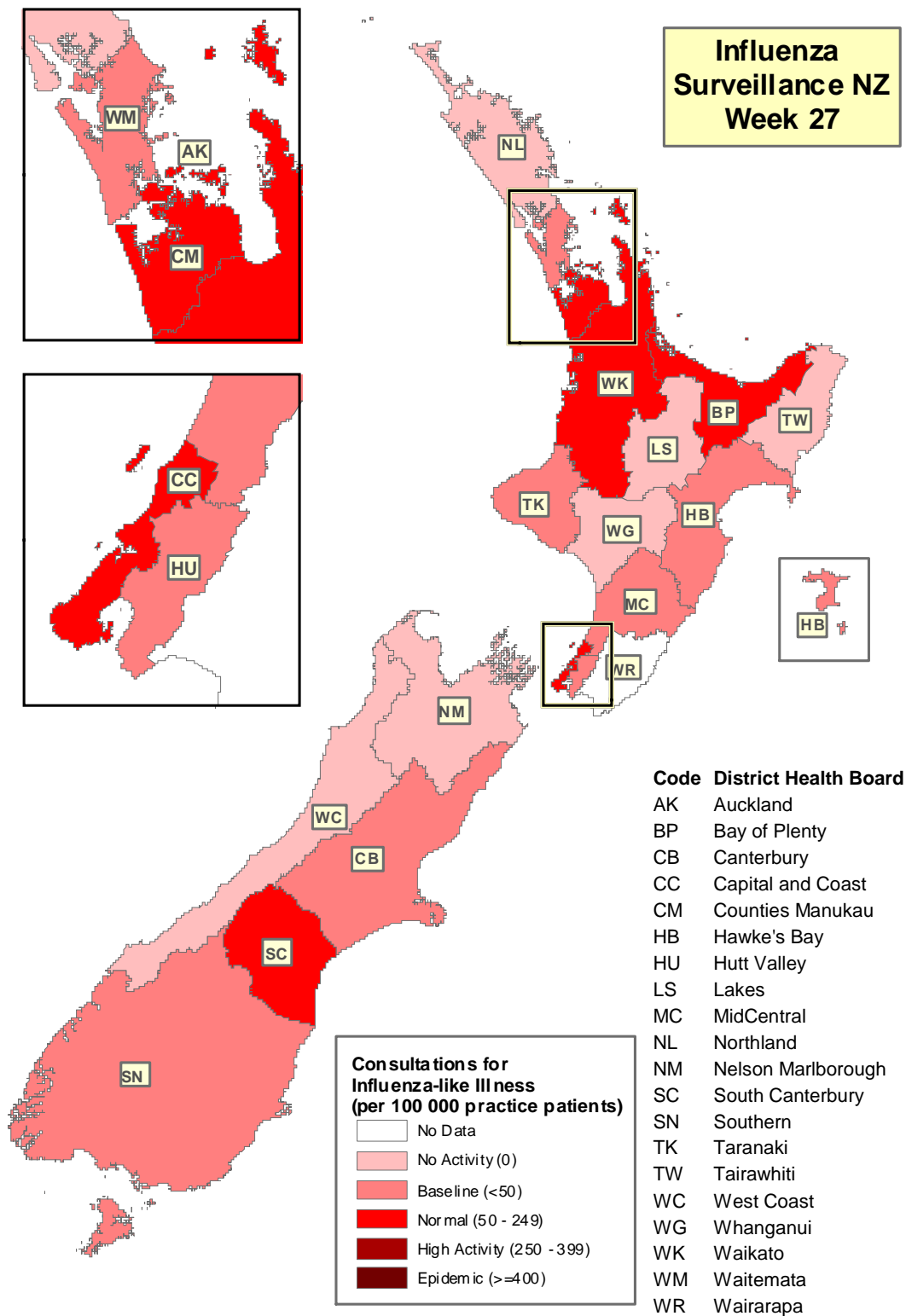
Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

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 27, 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