

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/28: 12-18 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 28 (12-18 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 35.3 per 100 000 (119 ILI consultations).
- Three hundred and eighty-six swabs were received from sentinel (38) and non-sentinel surveillance (348). One hundred and four viruses were identified, 25 from sentinel: A (not sub-typed) (13) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (12), and 79 from non-sentinel surveillance: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (52), A (not sub-typed) (26) and B (not typed) (1).
- Since January 2010, 150² cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv³, 61 of which were reported in week 28.

In the past week, a total of 119 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 35.3 per 100 000 patient population.

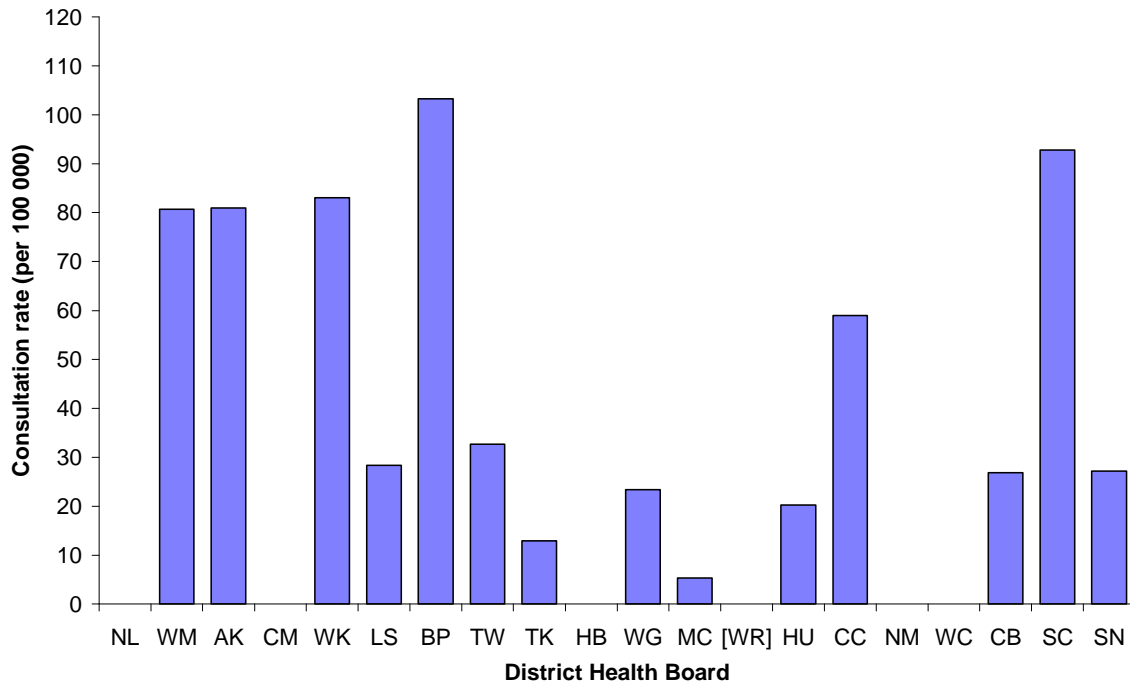
The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Bay of Plenty DHB had the highest consultation rate (103.3 per 100 000, 4 cases), followed by South Canterbury (92.8 per 100 000, 9 cases) and Waikato (83.0 per 100 000, 15 cases) DHBs.

¹ Otago and Southland DHBs now combined as Southern DHB.

² Includes confirmed (137), probable (7), and under investigation (6) cases.

³ Data source: EpiSurv as of 22 July 2010.

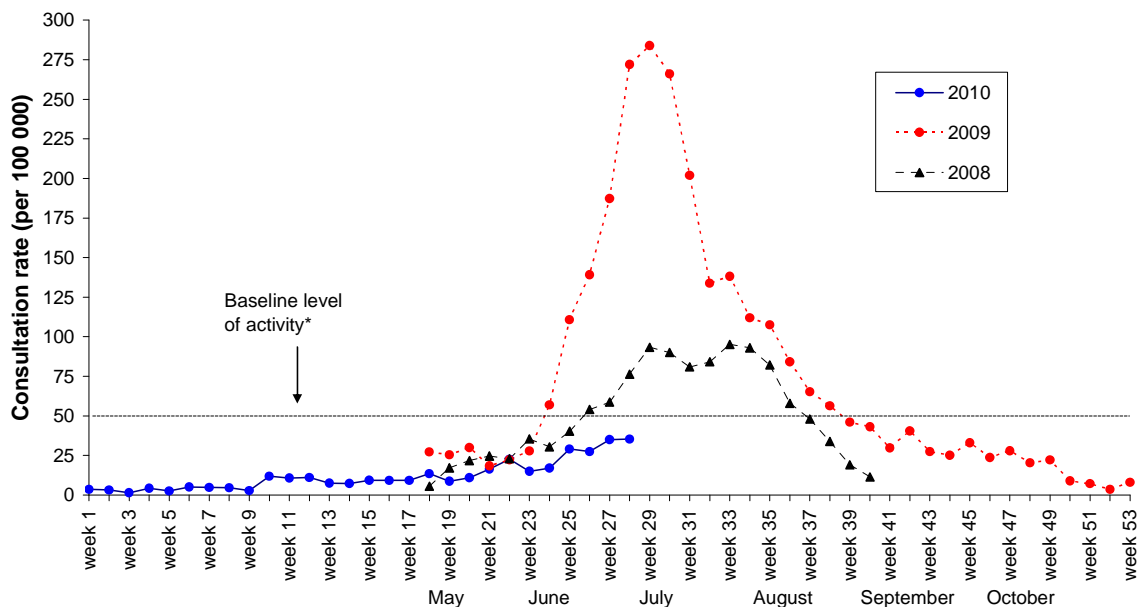
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 18 July 2010



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

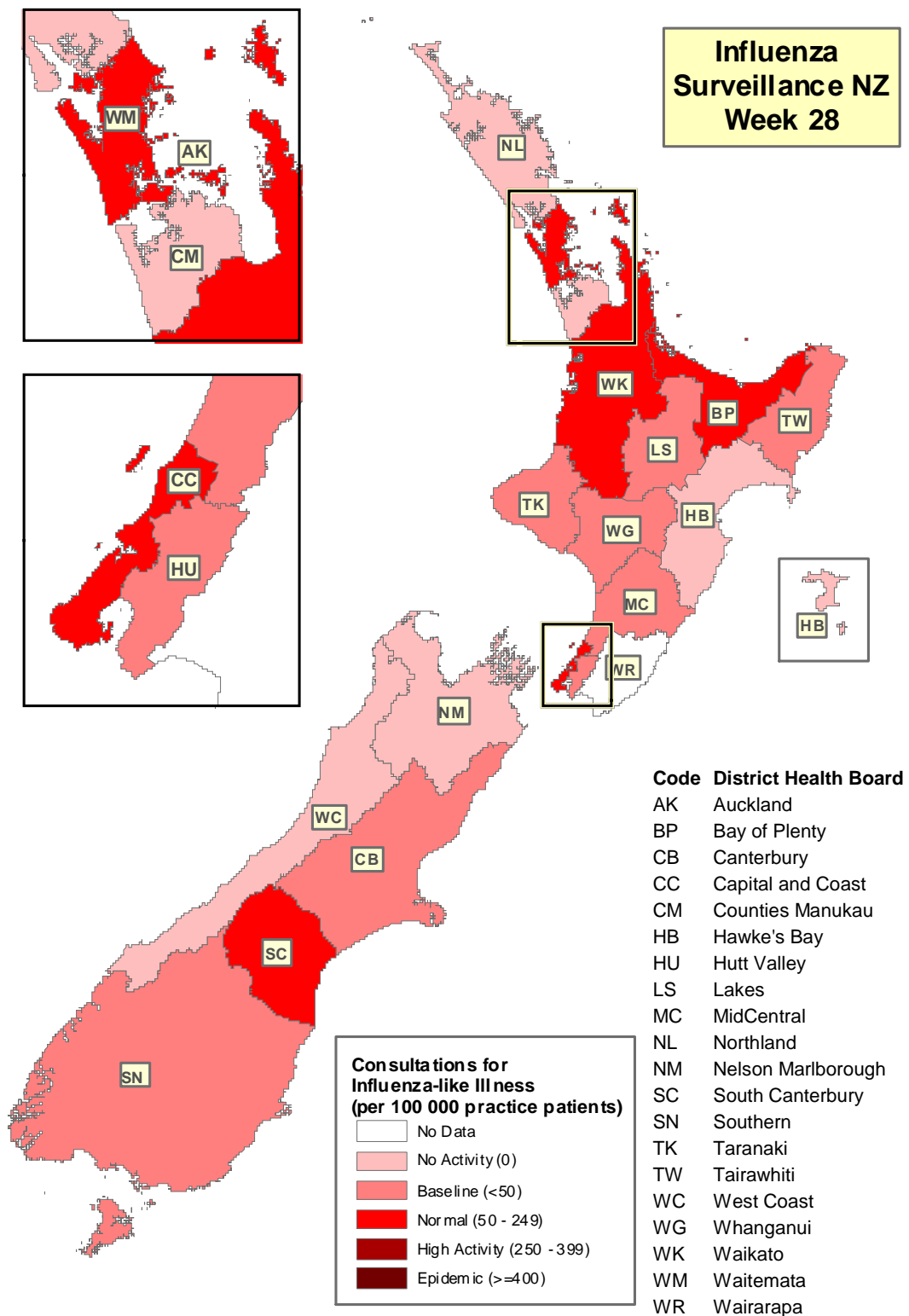
Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

Figure 2: 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 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 28, 2010



Thirty-eight swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, 25 influenza viruses were identified: A (not sub-typed) (13) and pandemic (H1N1) 09 (12). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 28 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	WM	AK	LS	BP	TK	CC	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (not sub-typed)	2	8	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	13
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	3	1	12
Total	3	8	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	25

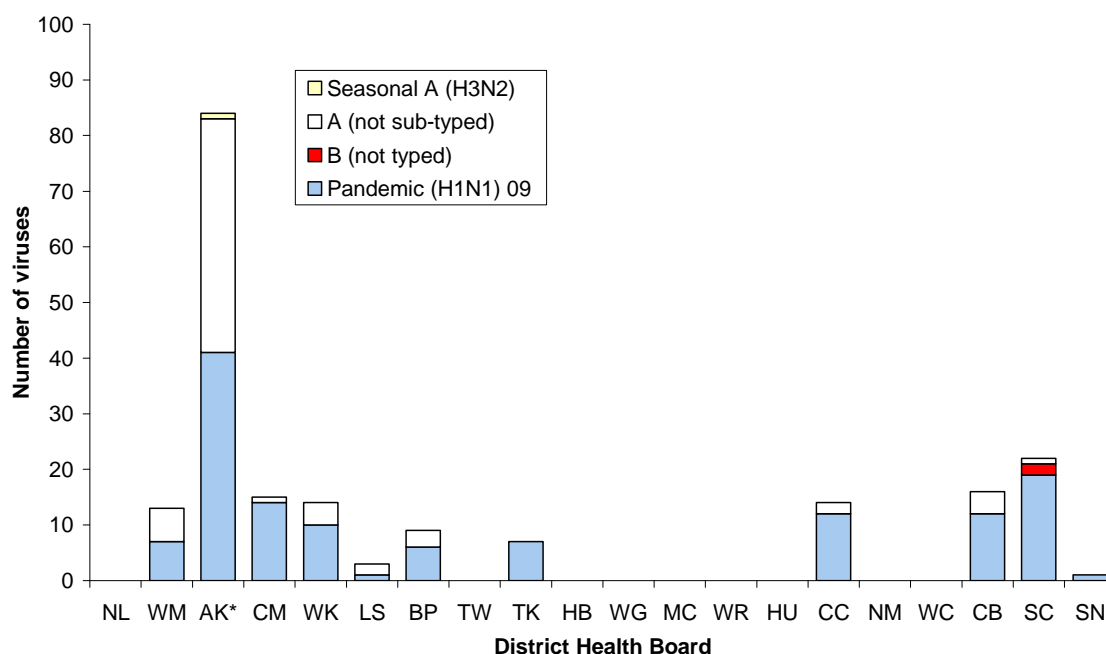
In addition, 348 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 79 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (52), A (not sub-typed) (26) and B (not typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 28 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	AK	CM	WK	LS	BP	TK	CC	CB	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	18	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	0	26
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	21	11	6	0	3	2	1	3	5	52
Total	39	11	9	1	4	2	1	6	6	79

Figure 4 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 28 (18 July 2010). A total of 198 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (130), A (not sub-typed) (65), B (not typed) (2) and seasonal A (H3N2) (1).

Figure 4: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 28, 18 July 2010



*Note: Viruses from Auckland without DHB codes have been temporarily assigned to Auckland (AK).