

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2010/31: 2-8 August 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 31 (2-8 August 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 110.7 per 100 000 (393 ILI consultations).
- A total of 836 swabs were received from sentinel (121) and non-sentinel surveillance (715). Of these, 289 influenza viruses have been reported through sentinel (40, 14%) and non-sentinel surveillance (249, 86%). The majority of the viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 09 (207, 72%).
- Since January 2010, 624² cases of pandemic (H1N1) 09 have been recorded in EpiSurv³, 196 of which were reported in week 31.

In the past week, a total of 393 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 83 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 110.7 per 100 000 patient population.

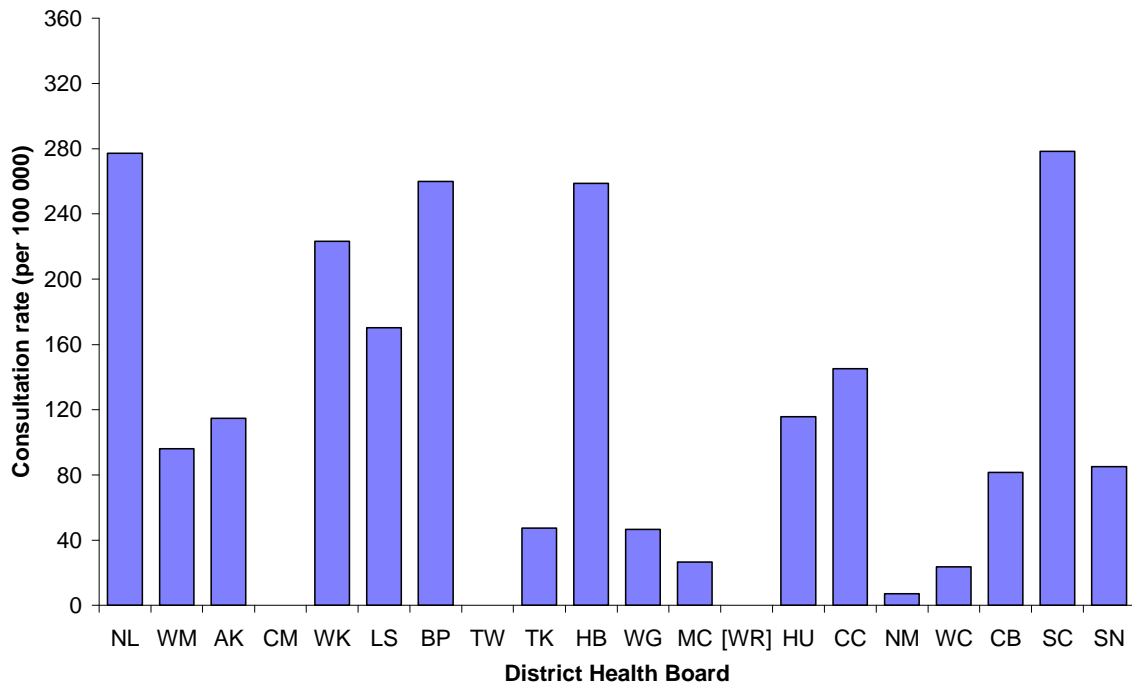
The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. South Canterbury DHB had the highest consultation rate (278.4 per 100 000, 27 cases), followed by Northland (277.3 per 100 000, 15 cases) and Bay of Plenty (260.0 per 100 000, 15 cases) DHBs.

¹ Otago and Southland DHBs now combined as Southern DHB.

² Includes confirmed (580), probable (16), and under investigation (28) cases.

³ Data source: EpiSurv as of 12 August 2010.

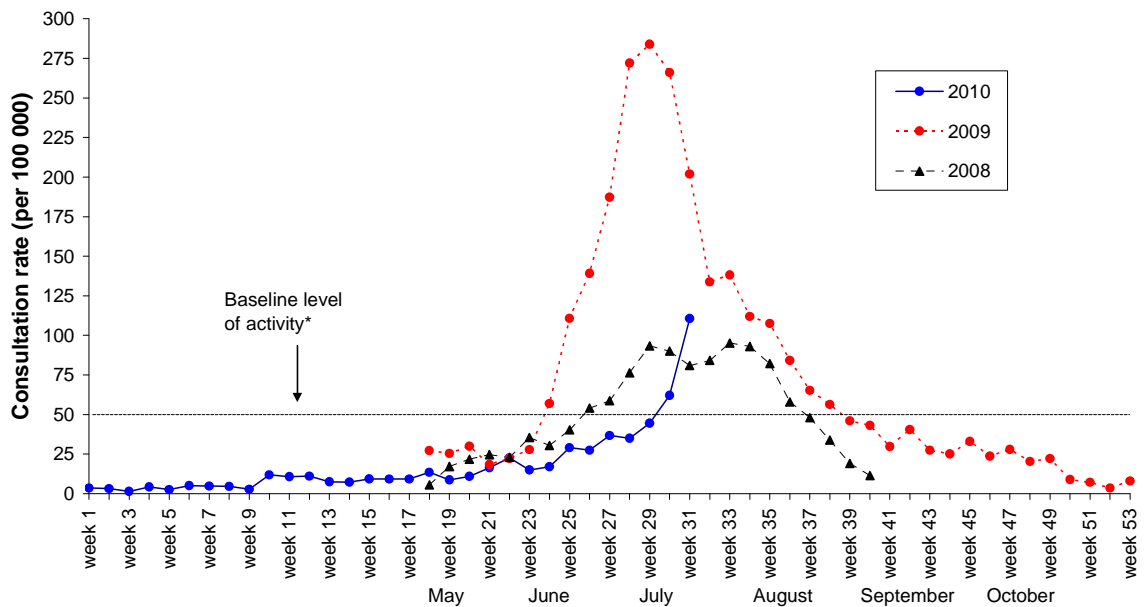
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 8 August 2010



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

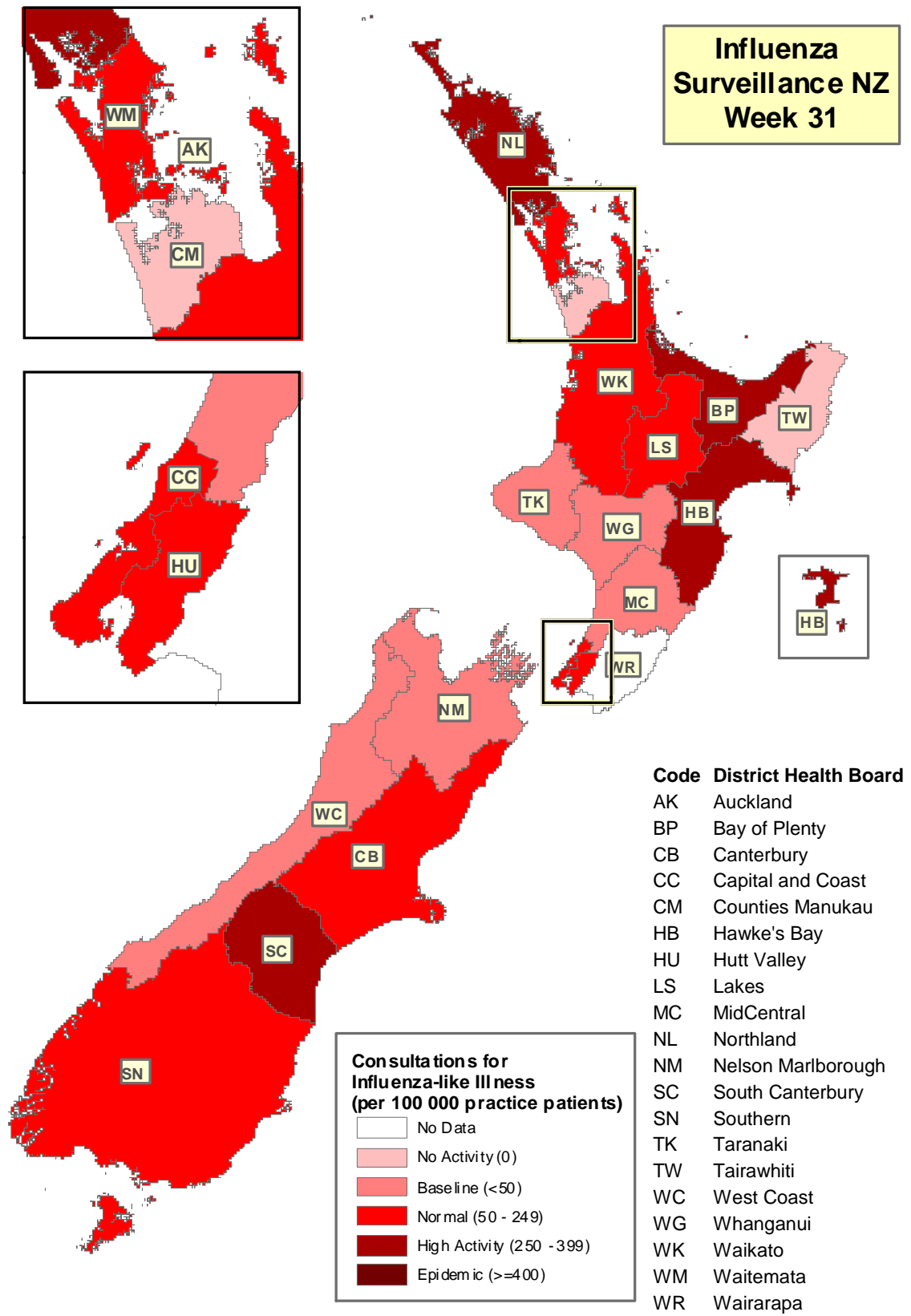
Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2008, 2009 seasons, and 2010 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is above the baseline.

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 31, 2010



A total of 121 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, 40 influenza viruses were identified: A (not sub-typed) (21), pandemic (H1N1) 09 (18) and B (not typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 31 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	AK	WK	BP	CC	WC	CB	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	16	2	1	1	0	1	0	21
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	0	0	0	0	3	14	1	18
Total	16	2	1	1	3	15	2	40

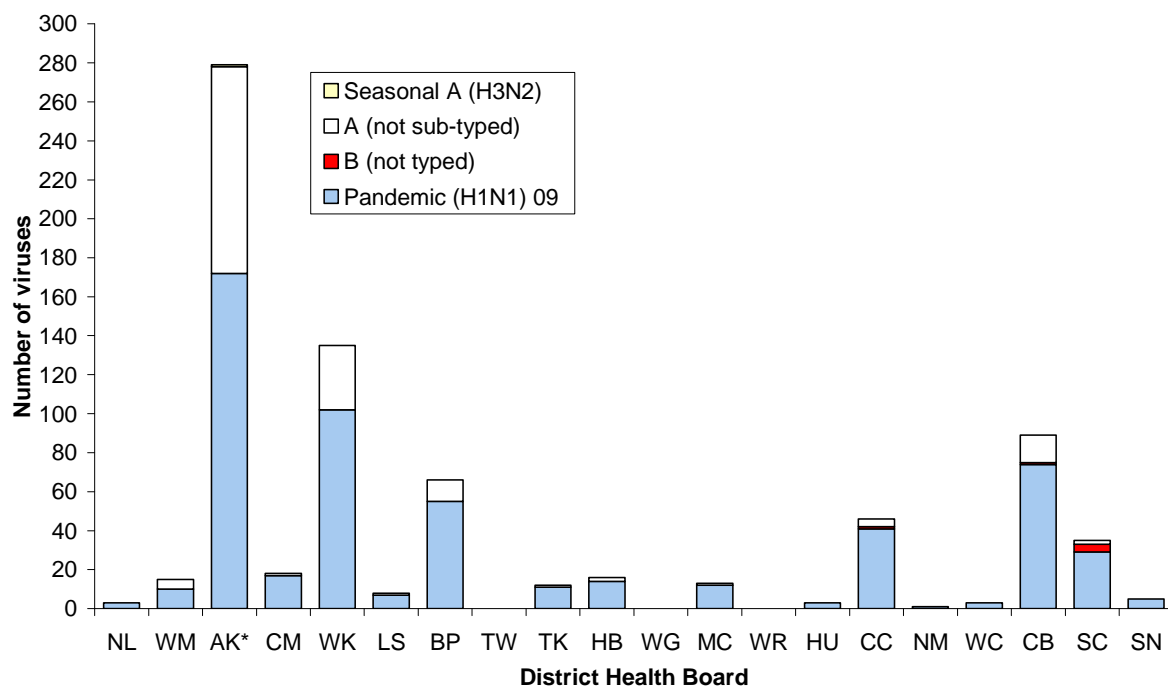
In addition, 715 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 249 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (189), A (not sub-typed) (58) and B (not typed) (2). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 31 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	NL	AK	WK	LS	BP	TK	HB	MC	HU	CC	NM	CB	SC	SN	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	25	18	0	7	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	58
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Pandemic (H1N1) 09	2	50	37	1	31	1	8	9	2	17	1	23	5	2	189
Total	2	75	55	1	38	2	9	10	2	19	1	27	6	2	249

Figure 4 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 31 (8 August 2010). A total of 747 influenza viruses were identified: pandemic (H1N1) 09 (559), A (not sub-typed) (181), B (not typed) (6) and seasonal A (H3N2) (1).

Figure 4: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 31, 8 August 2010



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