

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2011/19: 9-15 May 2011

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 for week 19 (9-15 May 2011).

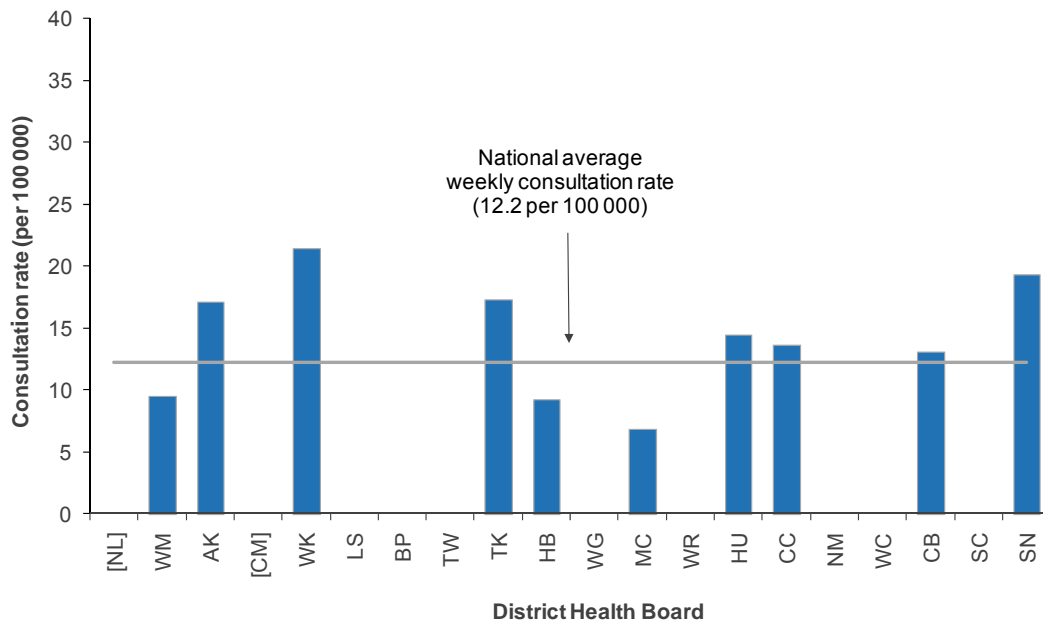
SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 18 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 12.2 per 100 000 (43 ILI consultations). Forty-five swabs were received from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance. Four viruses were identified from sentinel (3) and non-sentinel (1). The sentinel viruses were: A (not sub-typed) from Hawke's Bay, pandemic A (H1N1) 09 from Canterbury, and B (not typed) from Bay of Plenty DHBs. The non-sentinel virus was reported as A (H3N2) from Capital and Coast DHB.

In the past week, a total of 43 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 18 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 12.2 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 (21.4 per 100 000, 4 cases), followed by Southern (19.4 per 100 000, 10 cases) and Taranaki (17.3 per 100 000, 4 cases).

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 15 May 2011

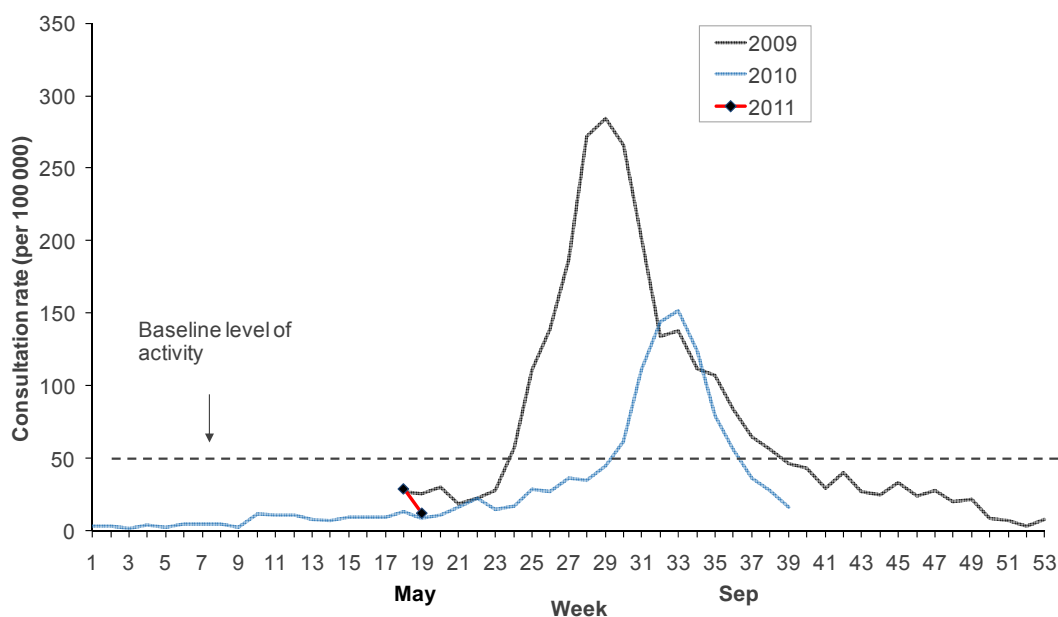


[] No data for the week.

Forty-five swabs were received by the virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance (12) and the non-sentinel surveillance (33). Four viruses were identified from sentinel (3) and non-sentinel (1). The sentinel viruses were: A (not sub-typed) from Hawke’s Bay, pandemic A (H1N1) 09 from Canterbury and B (not typed) from Bay of Plenty DHBs. The non-sentinel virus was reported as A (H3N2) from Capital and Coast DHB.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2009, 2010 seasons, and 2011 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2009, 2010 and 2011



* 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: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 19, 2011

