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 21 (23-29 May 2011).

**SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:**

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 19 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 18.1 per 100 000 (66 ILI consultations). Sixty-eight swabs were received from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance. Six B viruses were identified from sentinel (4) and non-sentinel surveillance (2).

In the past week, a total of 66 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 18.1 per 100 000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Nelson Marlborough DHB (45.8 per 100 000, 8 cases) had the highest consultation rate, followed by Southern (42.6 per 100 000, 22 cases) and South Canterbury (30.0 per 100 000, 2 cases).

**Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 29 May 2011**

[ ] No data for the week.
Sixty-eight swabs were received by the virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance (16) and the non-sentinel surveillance (52). Six B viruses were identified from sentinel (4) and non-sentinel surveillance (2). The sentinel viruses were reported from Nelson Marlborough (2), Auckland (1) and Southern (1) DHBs. The non-sentinel viruses were reported from Auckland DHB (2).

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 21 (29 May 2011). A total of 52 influenza viruses were identified: influenza B (15) including two of B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like viruses, pandemic (H1N1) 09 (23) including two A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) - like virus, A (H3N2) (8) including one A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) – like virus, A (not sub-typed) (6). The current circulating influenza strains are all covered by the 2011 influenza vaccine.

Figure 3 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.
* 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: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 21, 2011

Influenza Surveillance NZ
Week 21

Compiled by:
Liza Lopez
Health Intelligence Team
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

Code District Health Board
AK Auckland
BP Bay of Plenty
CB Canterbury
CC Capital and Coast
CM Counties Manukau
HB Hawke's Bay
HU Hutt Valley
LS Lakes
MC MidCentral
NL Northland
NM Nelson Marlborough
SC South Canterbury
SN Southern
TK Taranaki
TW Tairawhiti
WC West Coast
WG Whanganui
WK Waikato
WM Waitemata
WR Wairarapa

Consultations for influenza-like illness (per 100 000 practice patients)

- No data
- No activity (0)
- Baseline (<50)
- Normal (50 - 249)
- High activity (250 - 399)
- Epidemic (≥400)

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Week 21