

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2011/21: 23-29 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 21 (23-29 May 2011).

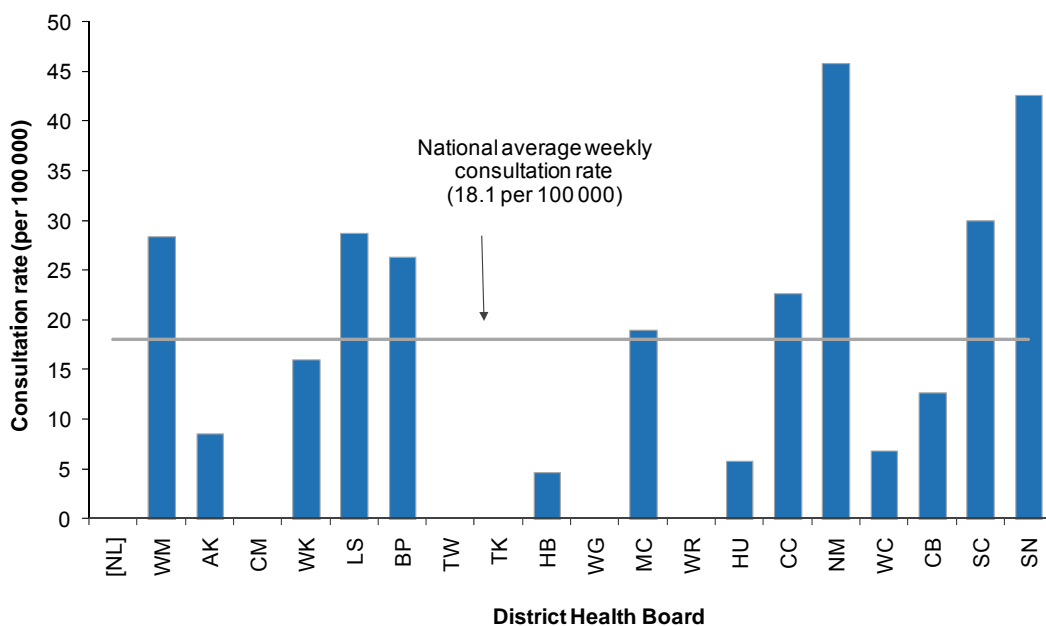
## SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

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 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 21, 29 May 2011**

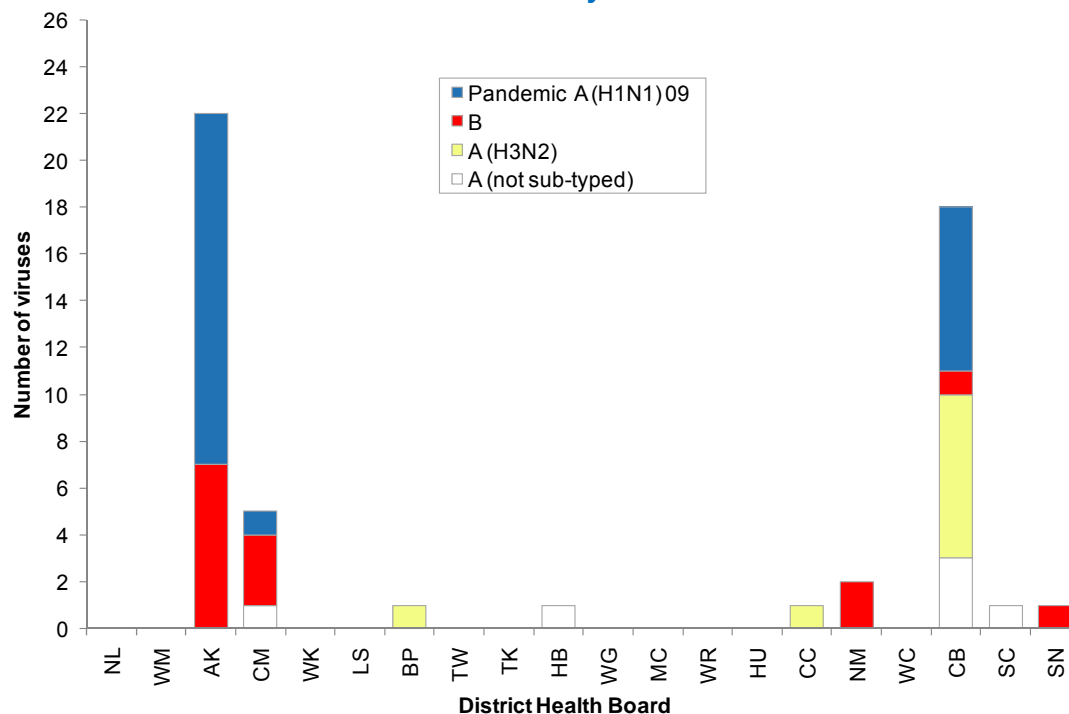
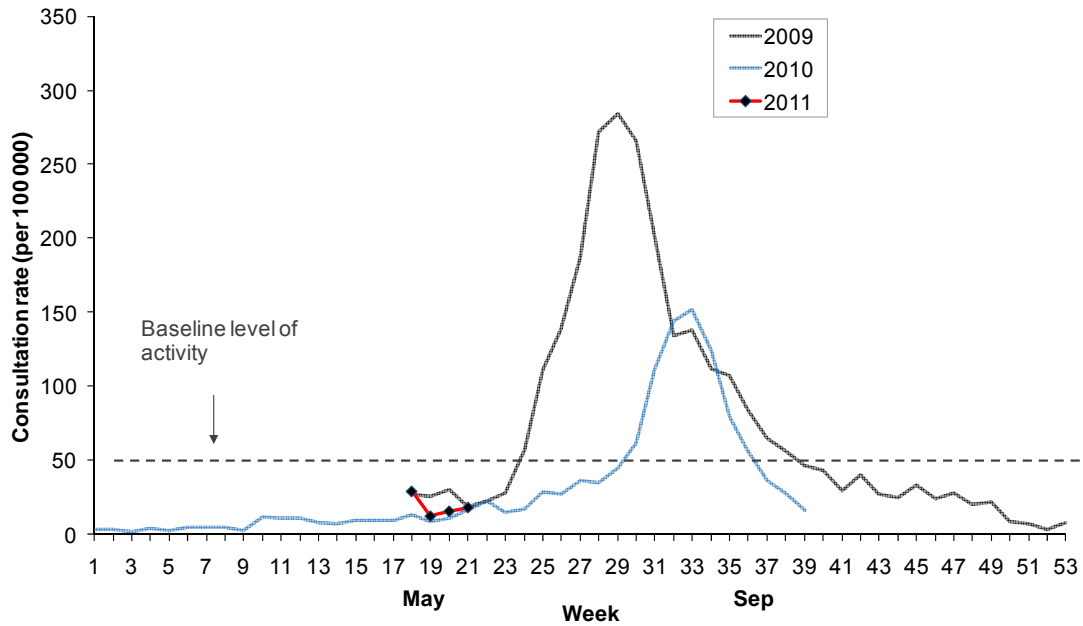


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2009, 2010 seasons, and 2011 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

**Figure 3: 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 4: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 21, 2011

