

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2011/23: 6 - 12 June 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 23 (6 - 12 June 2011).

## SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from all 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 18.8 per 100 000 (70 ILI consultations). Seventy-nine swabs were received from sentinel (21) and non-sentinel surveillance (58). Three B viruses were identified from sentinel and eight viruses from the non-sentinel surveillance: A (H3N2) (3), B (3), and A (not sub-typed) (2).

## INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 70 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in all 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 18.8 per 100 000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Northland DHB (74.6 per 100 000, 10 cases) had the highest consultation rate, followed by MidCentral (26.6 per 100 000, 7 cases), Nelson Marlborough (26.3 per 100 000, 3 cases) and Bay of Plenty (26.3 per 100 000, 1 case).

**Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 12 June 2011**

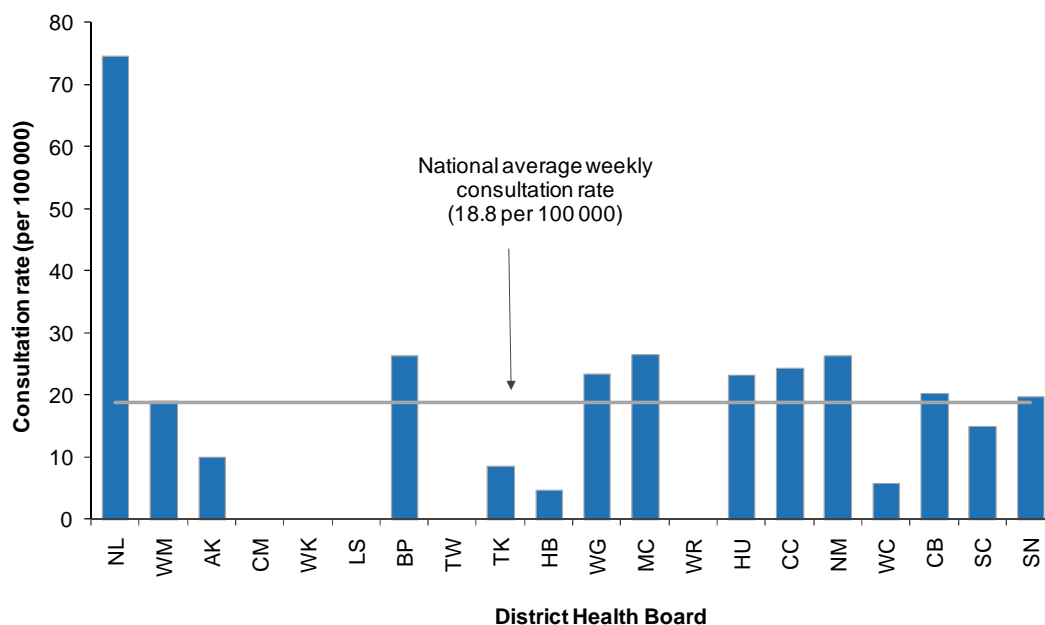
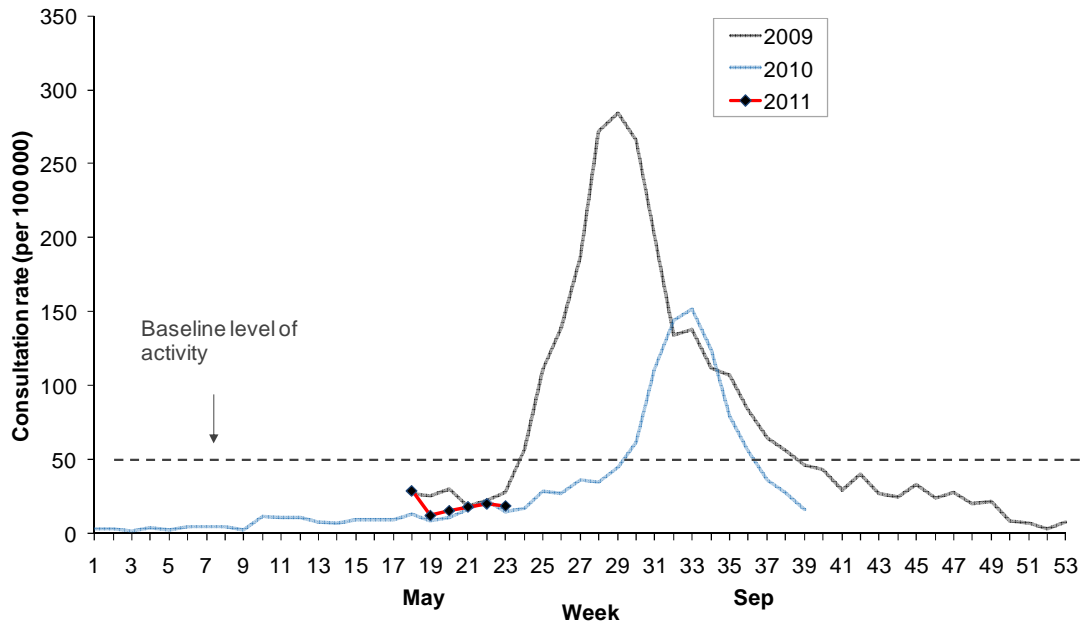


Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2009, 2010 seasons, and 2011 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

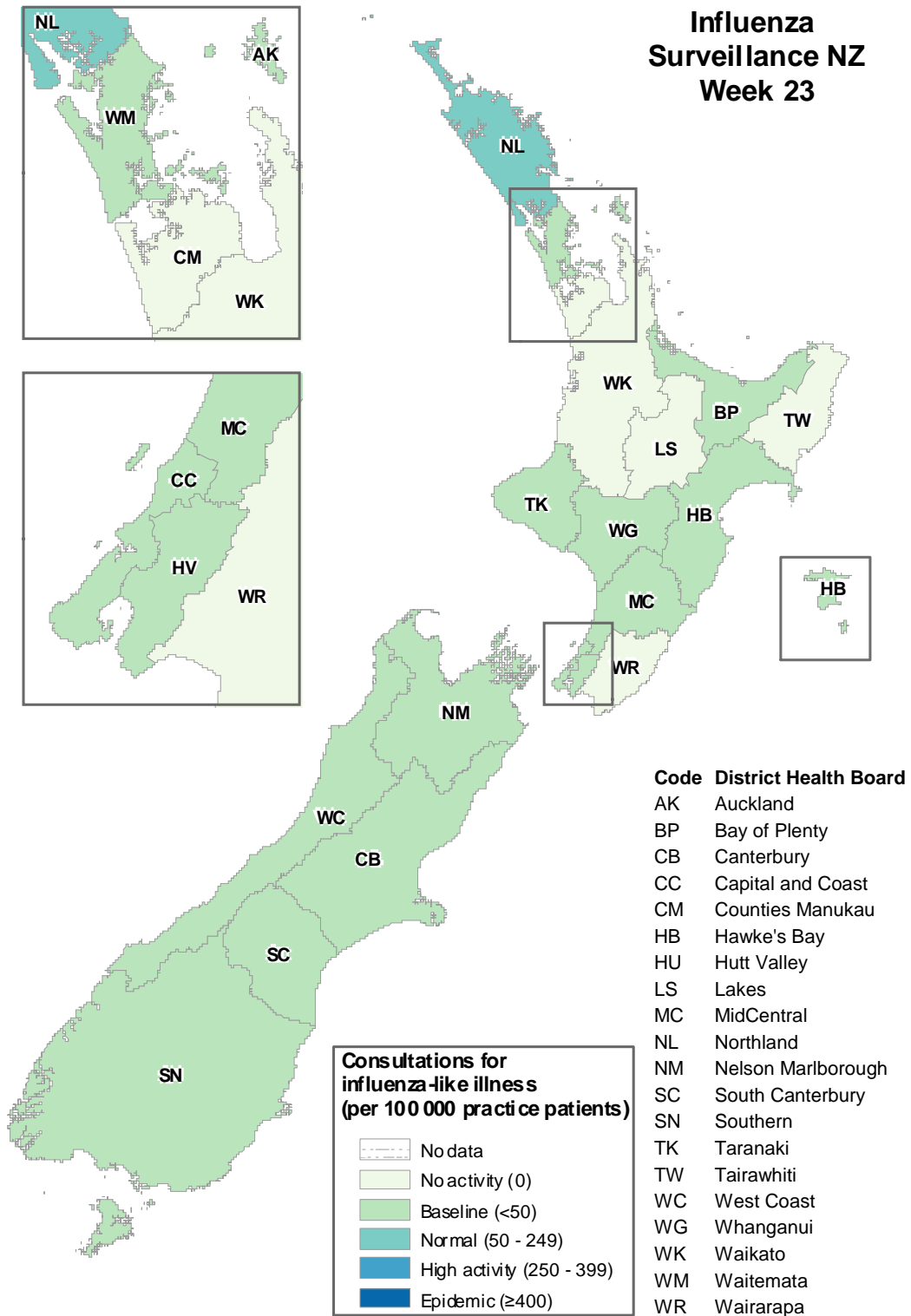
**Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2009, 2010 and 2011**



\* 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 maps the consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB.

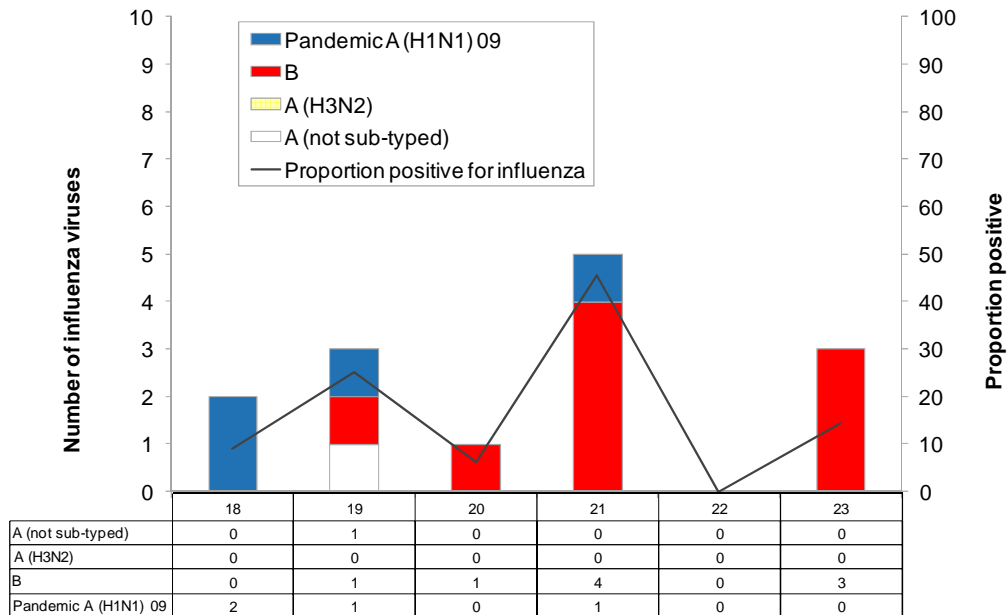
**Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 23, 2011**



## VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 21 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three B viruses were identified (Figure 4), one each from Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Wanganui.

**Figure 4: Total influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–23 and the total percentage positive from the swabs received**



In addition, 58 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, eight viruses were identified (Figure 5): A (H3N2) (3) from Capital and Coast, B (3) one each from Counties Manukau, Waikato, and Capital and Coast, and A (not sub-typed) (2) from Counties Manukau.

**Figure 5: Total influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–23 and the total percentage positive from the swabs received**

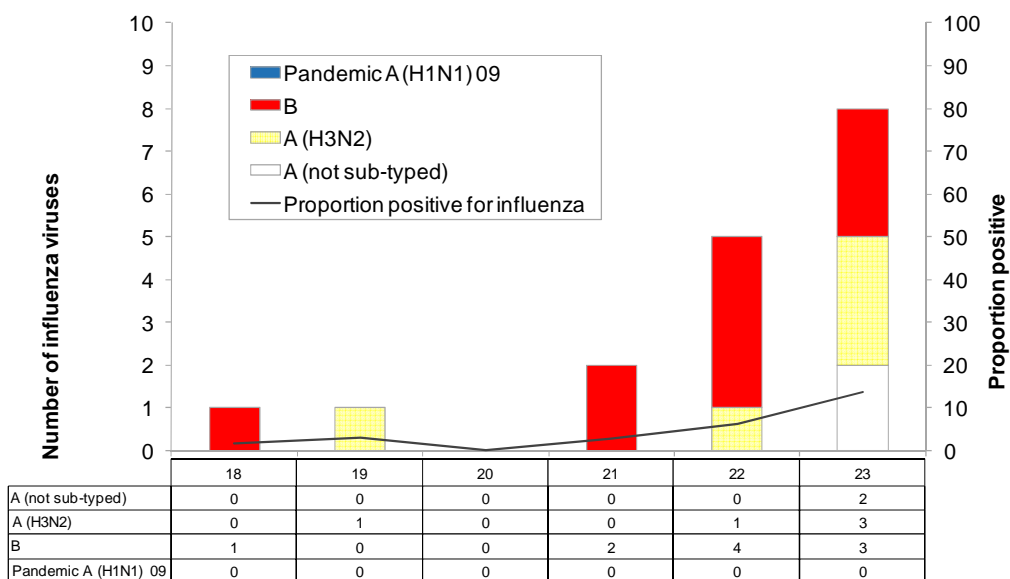


Figure 6 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 23 (12 June 2011). A total of 69 influenza viruses were identified: influenza B (25) including two of B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like viruses, pandemic (H1N1) 09 (25) including three A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) - like virus, A (H3N2) (12) including one A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) – like virus, A (not sub-typed) (7). The current circulating influenza strains are all covered by the 2011 influenza vaccine.

**Figure 6: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 22, 12 June 2011**

