

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2012/19: 7 – 13 May 2012

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 (7 – 13 May 2012).

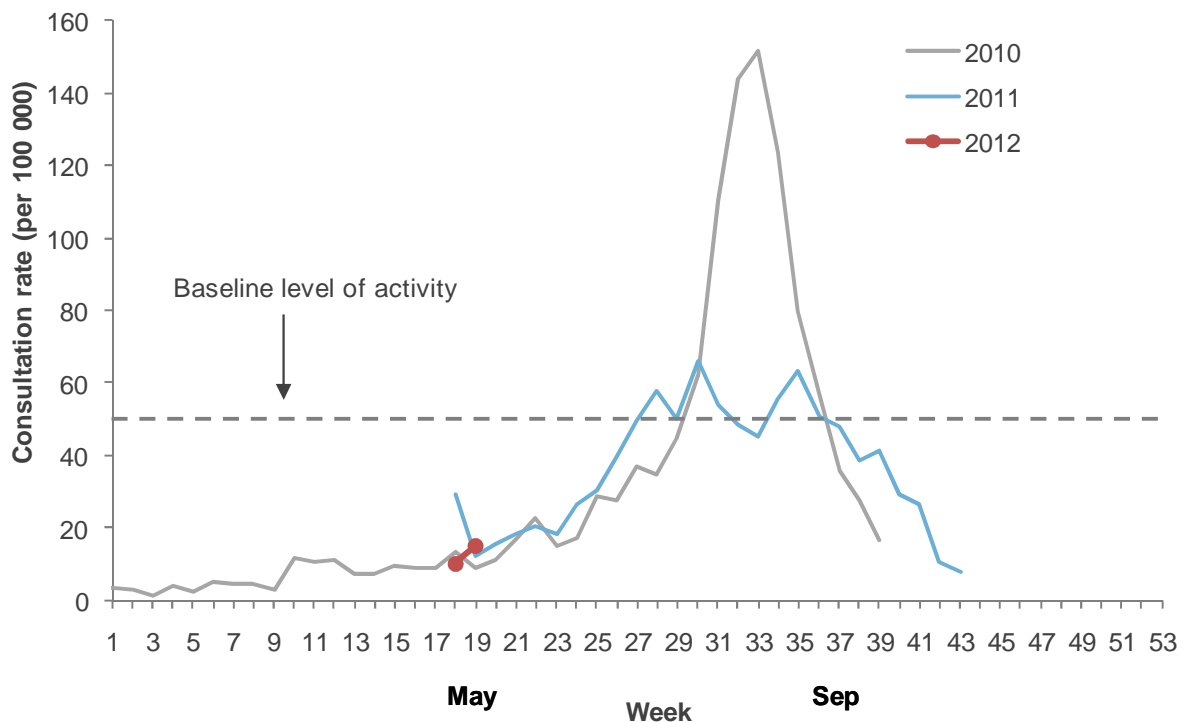
Summary

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 18 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 15.1 per 100 000 (55 ILI consultations). One hundred forty-eight swabs were received from sentinel (22) and non-sentinel (126) surveillance. Five viruses were identified: A(H3N2) (2), A (not sub-typed) (2) and B (not typed) (1).

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 55 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 76 general practices in 18 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 15.1 per 100 000 patient population. Figure 1 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2010, 2011 seasons, and 2012 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

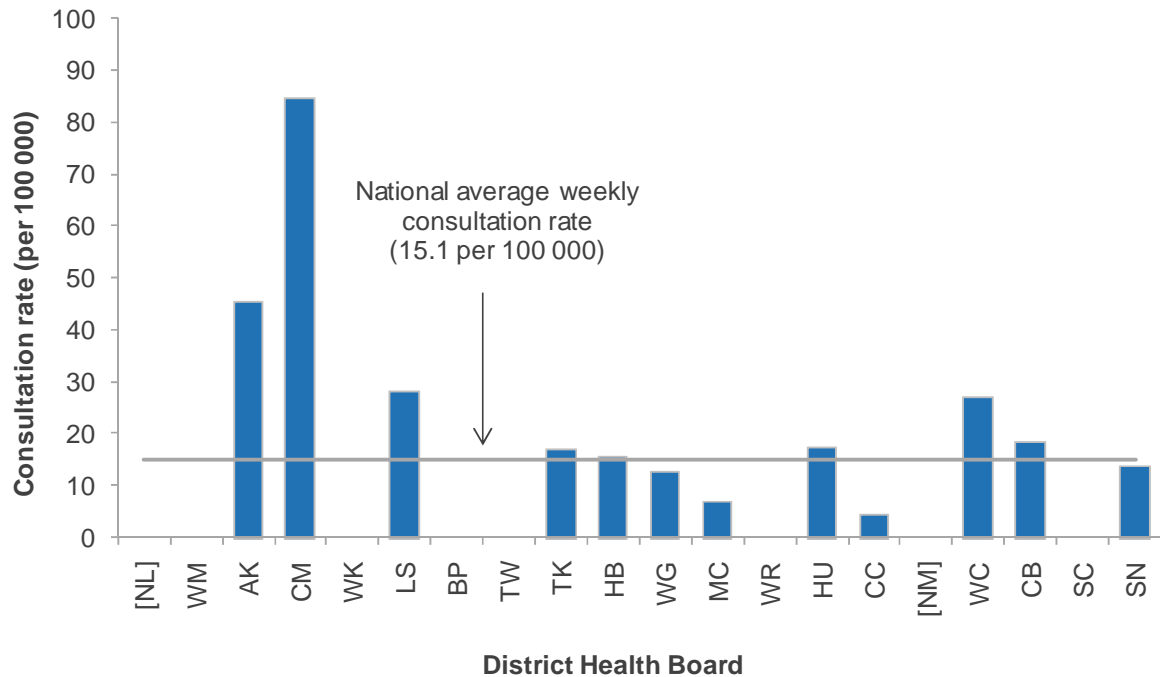
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010, 2011 and 2012



* 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 2 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Counties Manukau DHB had the highest consultation rate (84.8 per 100 000, 1 case), followed by Auckland (45.5 per 100 000, 13 cases) and Lakes (28.1 per 100 000, 1 case).

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 13 May 2012



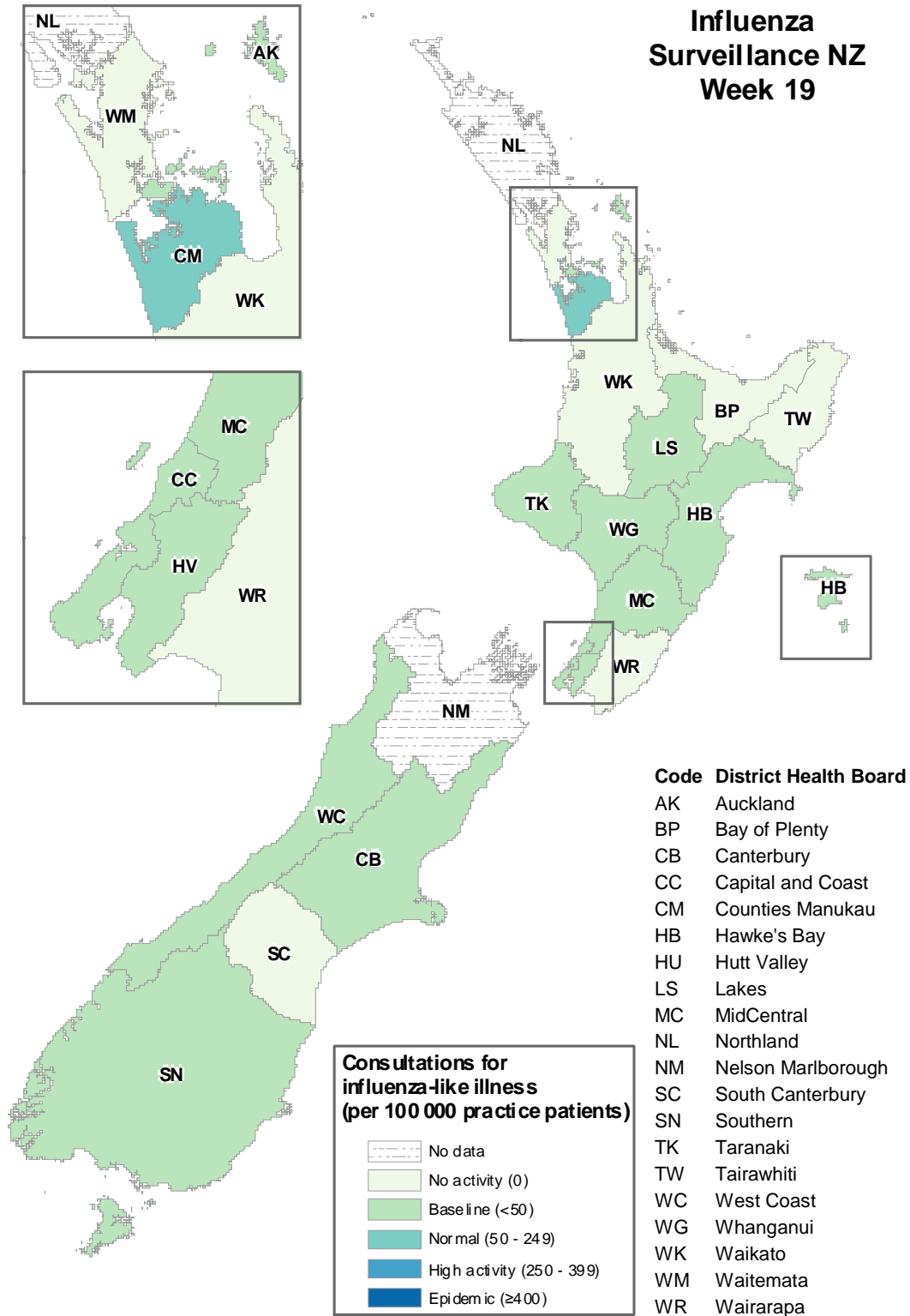
[] No data for the week.

VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 22 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three viruses were identified: two viruses from Canterbury A (not sub-typed) and A(H3N2), and one A(not sub-typed) from Lakes.

In addition, 126 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, two viruses were identified: B (not typed) from Counties Manukau and A(H3N2) from Canterbury.

Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 19, 2012



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