

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2012/20: 14 – 20 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 20 (14 – 20 May 2012).

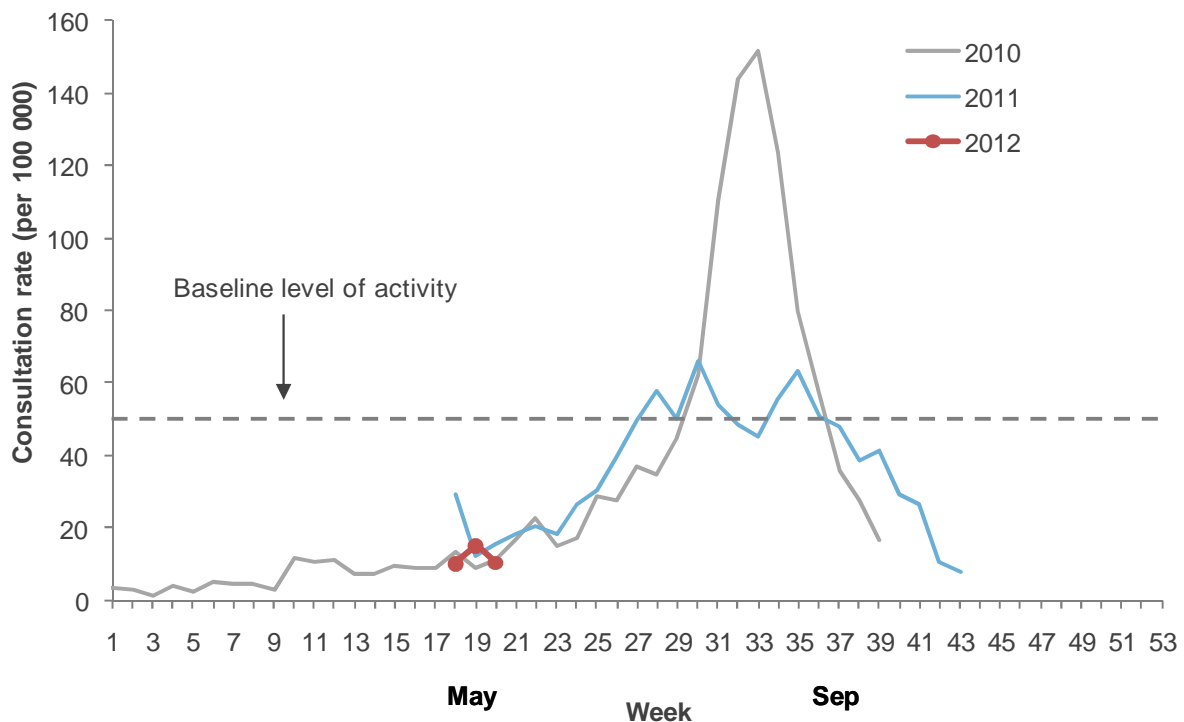
Summary

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 19 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 10.4 per 100 000 (38 ILI consultations). One hundred and fifty-six swabs were received from sentinel (20) and non-sentinel (136) surveillance. Five viruses were identified: A (not sub-typed) (2), B (not typed) (2) and A(H3N2) (1).

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 38 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 10.4 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.

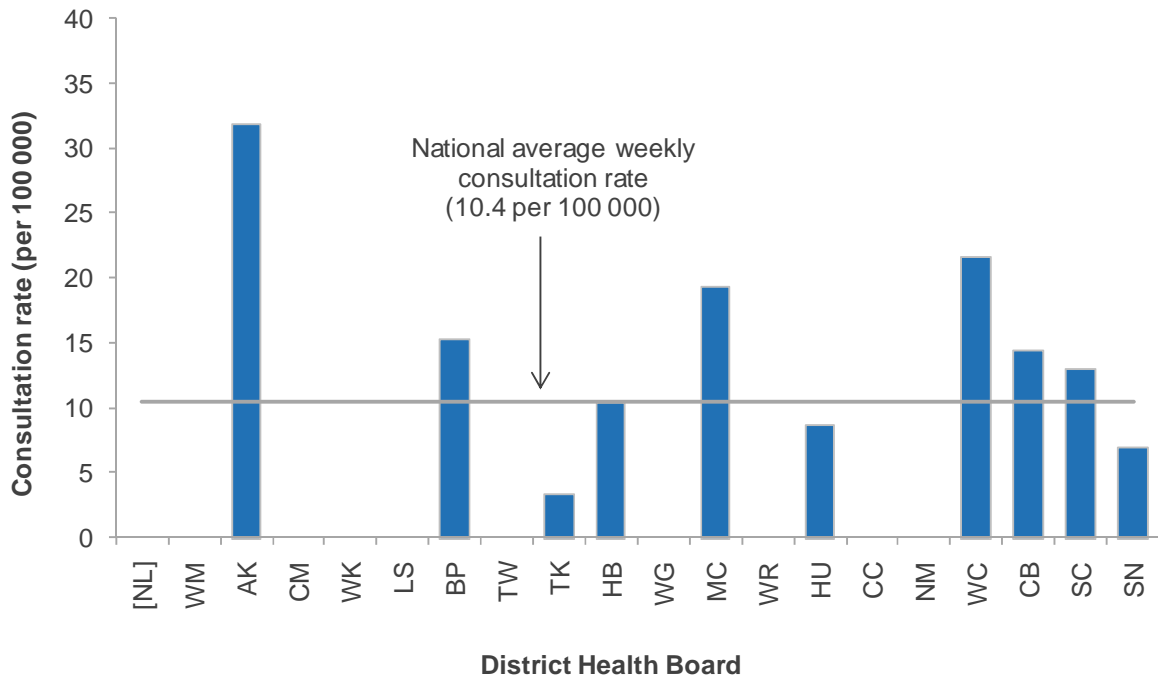
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010, 2011 and 2012



* 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. Auckland DHB had the highest consultation rate (31.8 per 100 000, 7 cases), followed by West Coast (21.7 per 100 000, 4 cases) and MidCentral (19.3 per 100 000, 4 cases).

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 20 May 2012



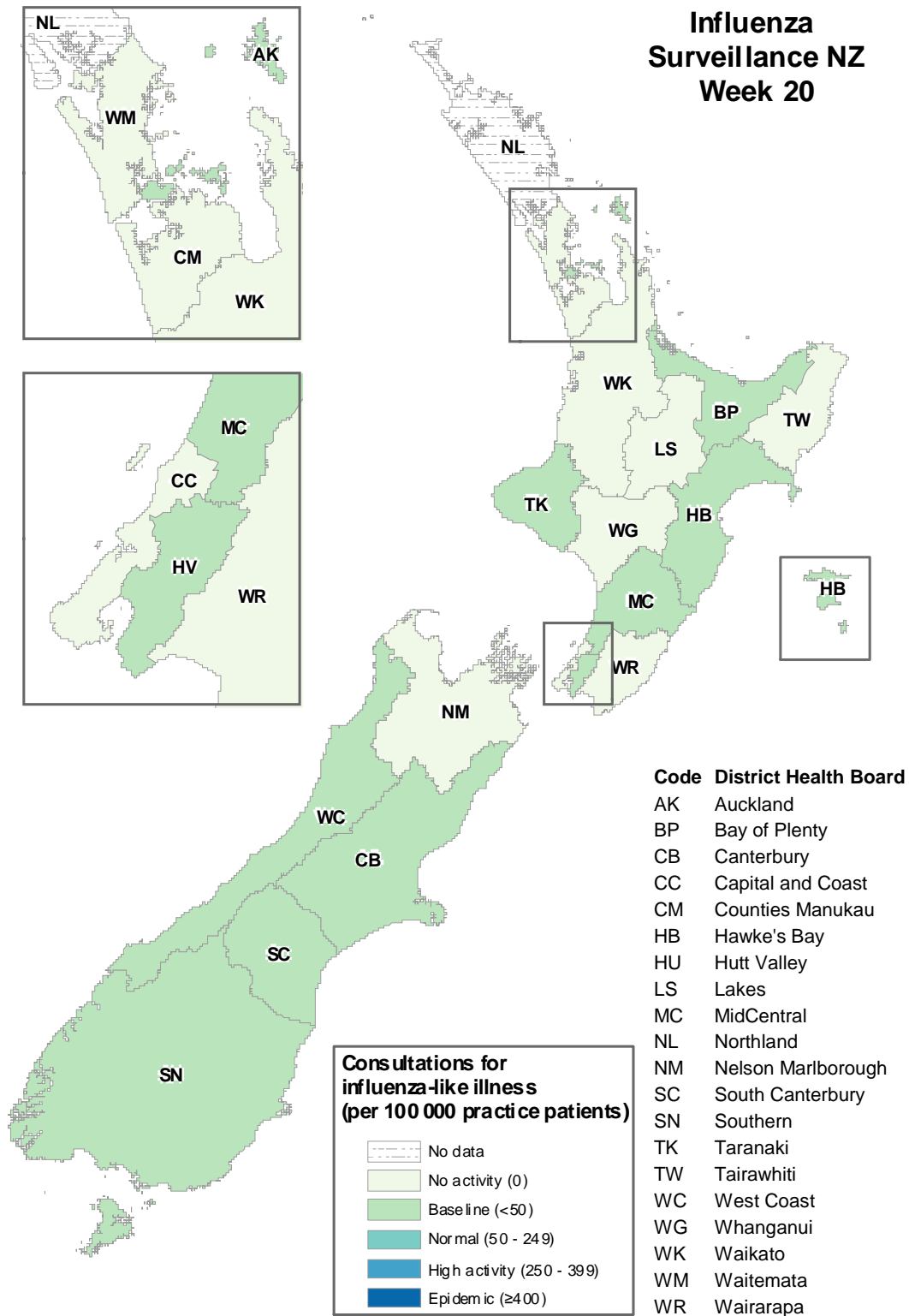
[] No data for the week.

VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 20 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, one virus was identified as A (not sub-typed) from Canterbury DHB.

In addition, 136 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, four viruses were identified. Three viruses, B (not typed) (2) and A (not sub-typed) (1) from Auckland DHB, and one A(H3N2) virus from Counties Manukau DHB.

Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 20, 2012



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