

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2012/21: 21 – 27 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 21 (21 – 27 May 2012).

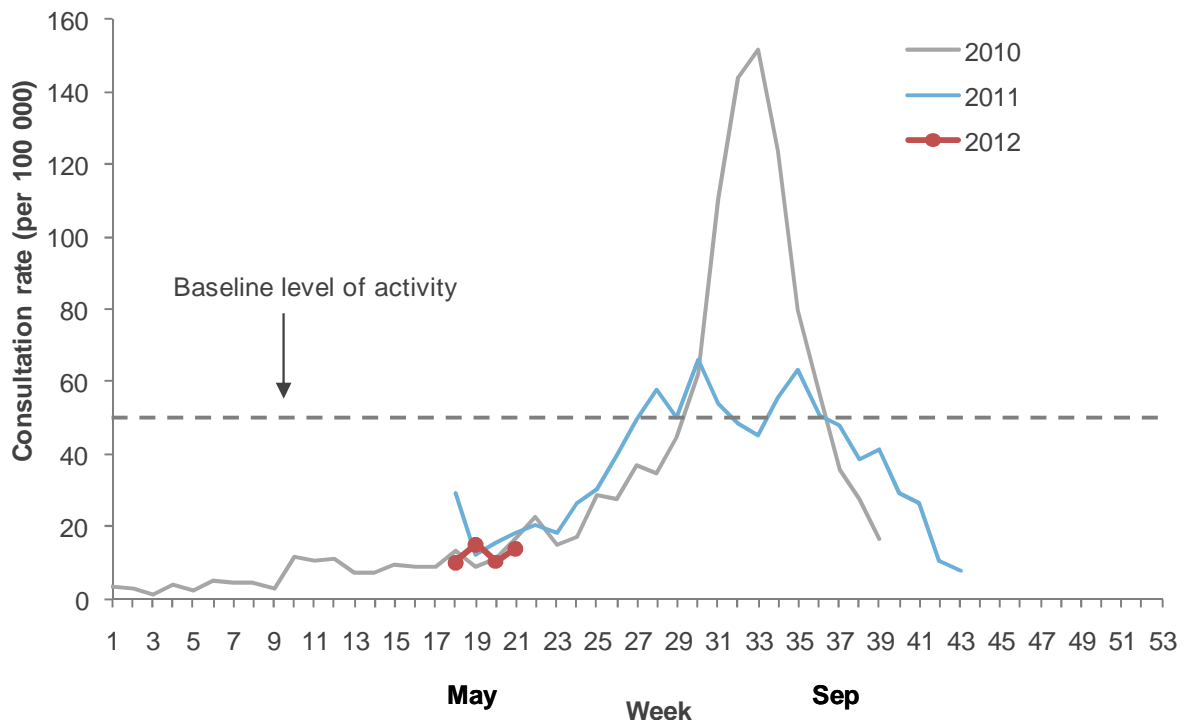
Summary

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 19 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 14.0 per 100 000 (54 ILI consultations). One hundred and twenty-three swabs were received from sentinel (34) and non-sentinel (89) surveillance. Seven viruses were identified: B (not typed) (3), A (not sub-typed) (2), A(H3N2) (1) and B/Wisconsin/1/2010 – like (1).

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 54 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 82 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 14.0 per 100 000 patient population. Figure 1 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2010, 2011 seasons, and 2012 to date. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

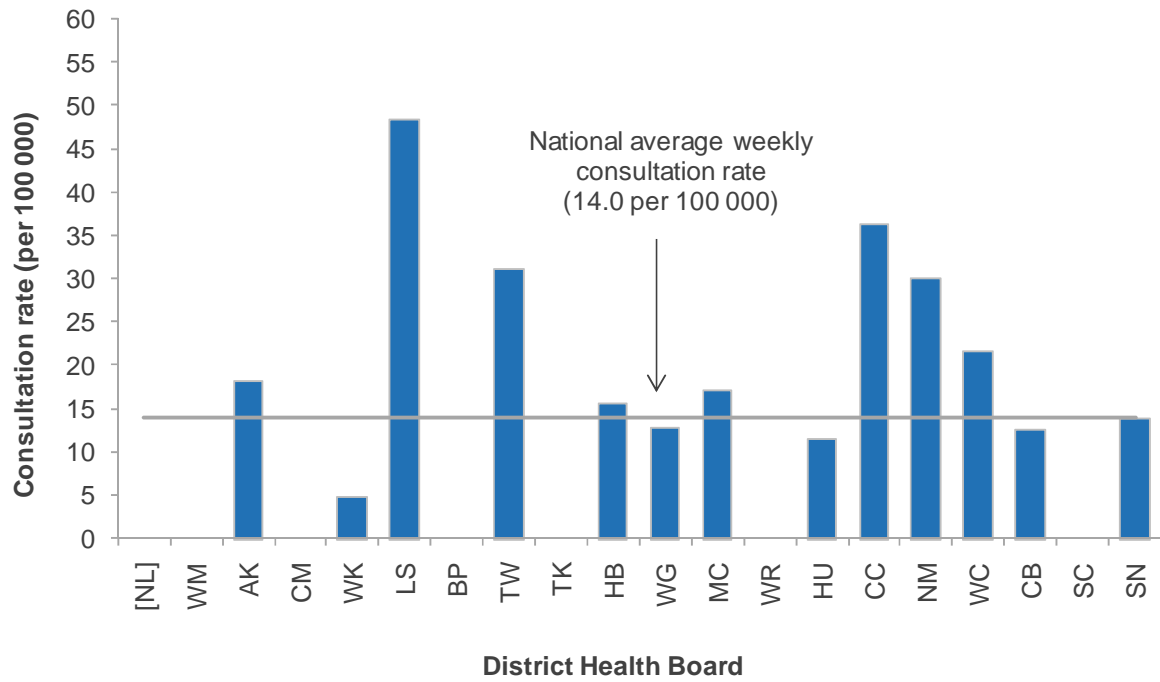
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010, 2011 and 2012



* 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.

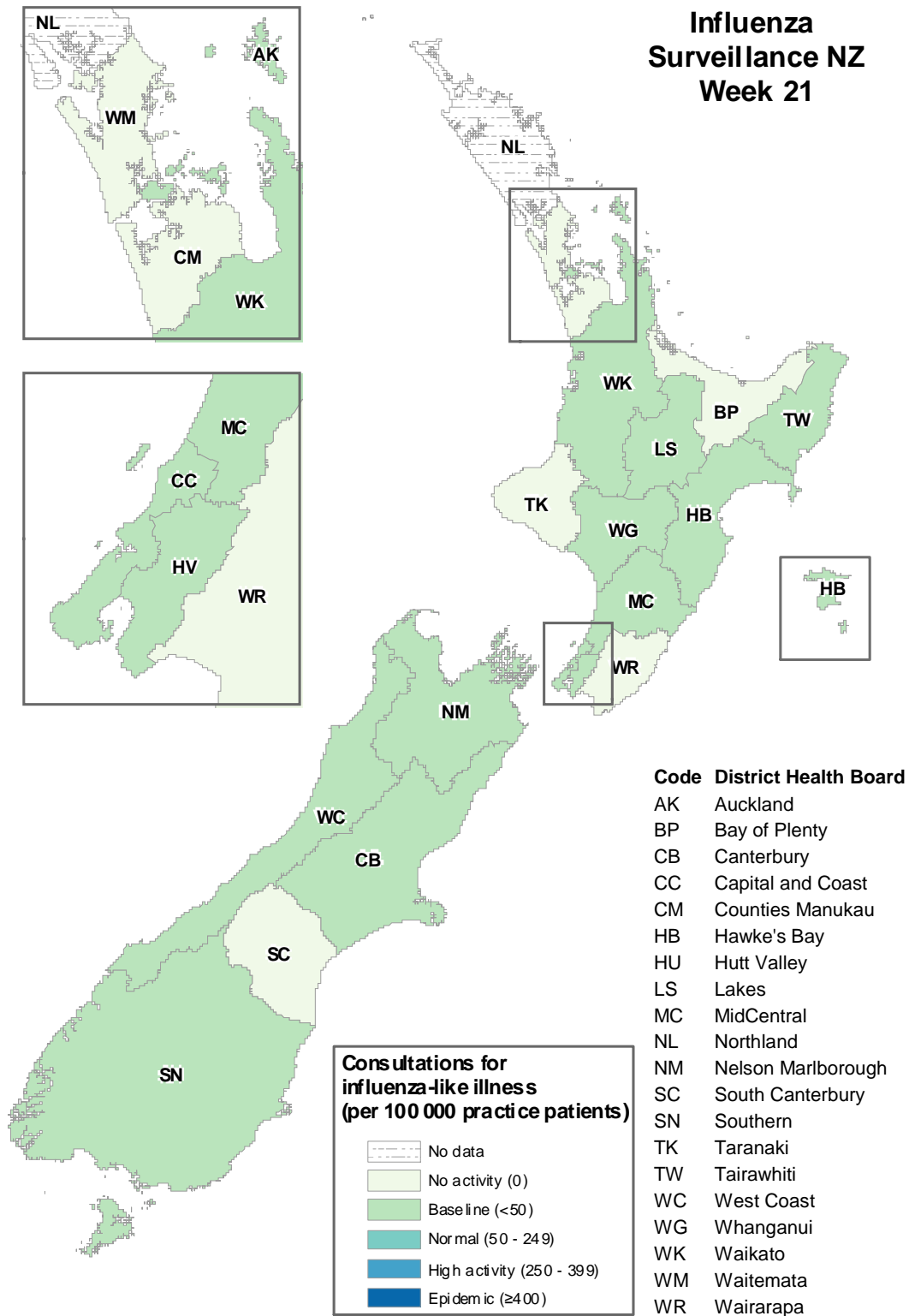
Figure 2 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Lakes DHB had the highest consultation rate (48.5 per 100 000, 2 cases), followed by Capital and Coast (36.3 per 100 000, 8 cases) and Tairarwhiti (31.1 per 100 000, 1 case).

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 27 May 2012



[] Not participating in the influenza surveillance

Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 21, 2012



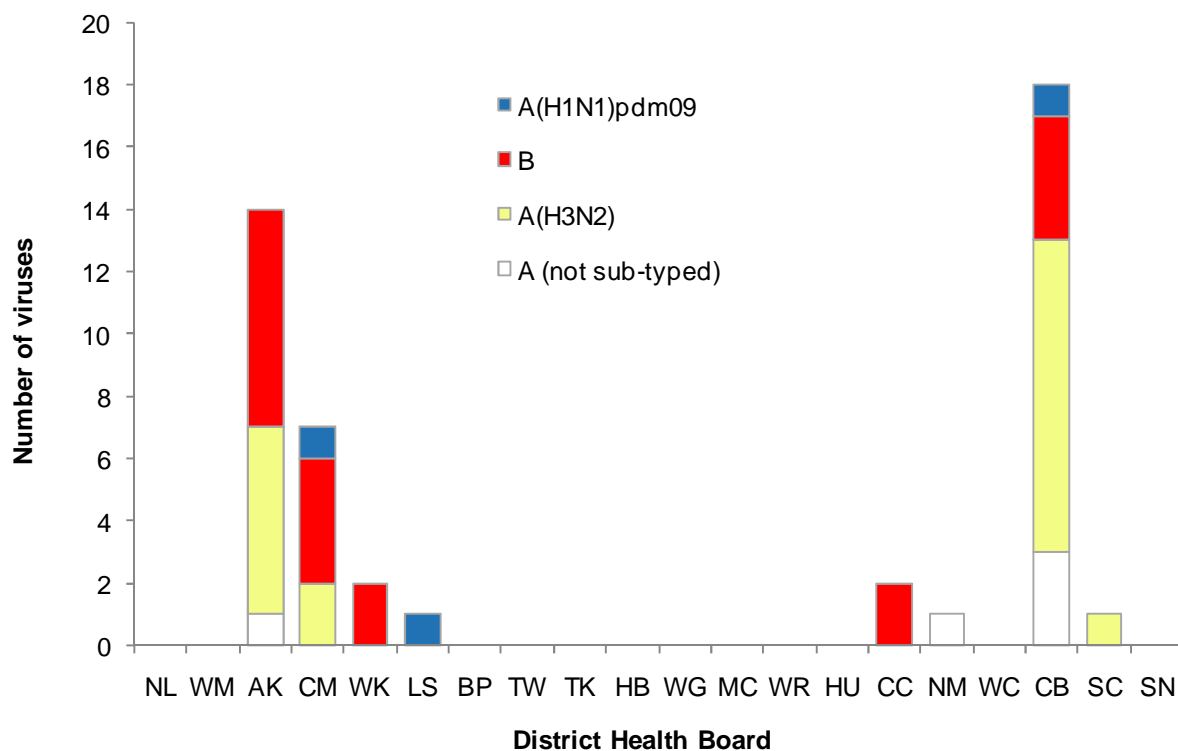
VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 34 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, three viruses were identified: A (not sub-typed) from Nelson Marlborough, A(H3N2) from Canterbury and B (not typed) from Auckland DHBs.

In addition, 89 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, four viruses were identified: B (not typed) (2) from Auckland, B/Wisconsin/1/2010 – like (1) from Counties Manukau and A (not sub-typed) from Canterbury DHBs.

Figure 4 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 21 (27 May 2012). A total of 46 influenza viruses were identified: influenza B (19) including four of B/Brisbane/60/2008 – like and one B/Wisconsin/1/2010 – like viruses, A(H3N2) (19) including three A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) – like viruses, A(H1N1)pdm09 (3) including one A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) - like virus, and A (not sub-typed) (5).

Figure 4: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 21, 27 May 2012



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