

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2012/26: 25 June – 1 July 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 26 (25 June – 1 July 2012).

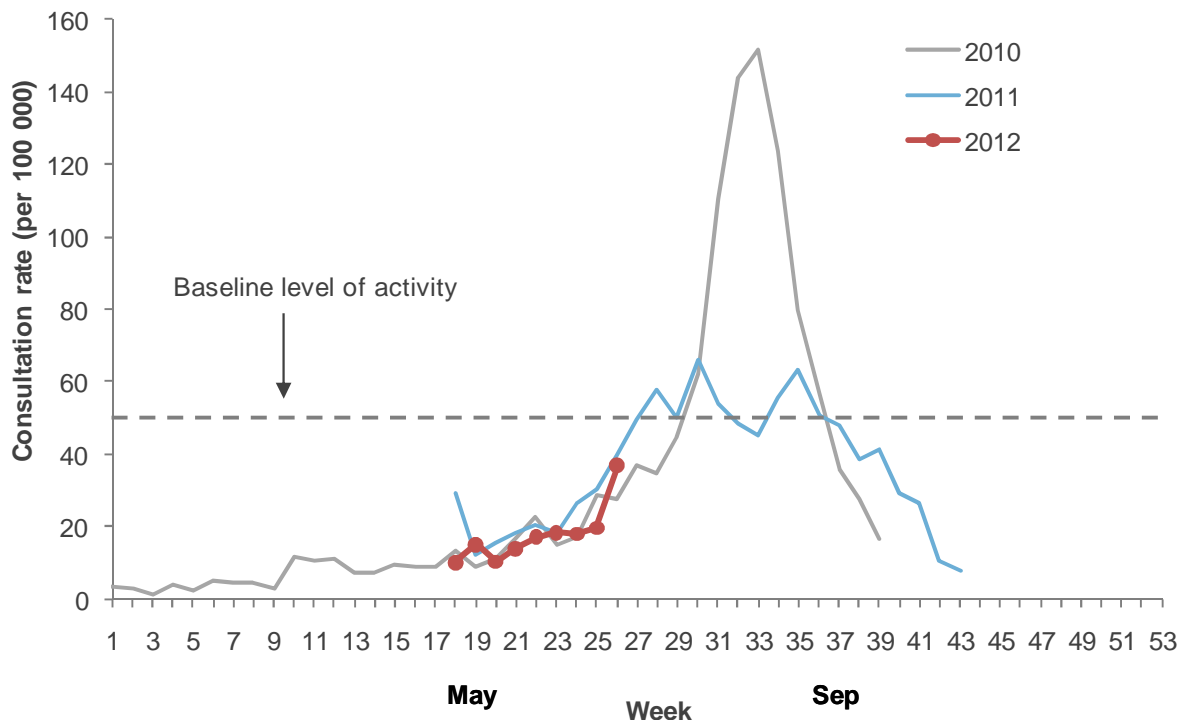
Summary

Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 19 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 36.9 per 100 000 (131 ILI consultations). Three hundred and eighty-three swabs were received from sentinel (38) and non-sentinel (345) surveillance. Ninety-four viruses were identified: A(H3N2) (48), A (Not subtyped) (21), A(H1N1)pdm09 (14), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like (4), B (Lineage not determined) (3), A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like (2), and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (2).

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 131 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 19 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 36.9 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.

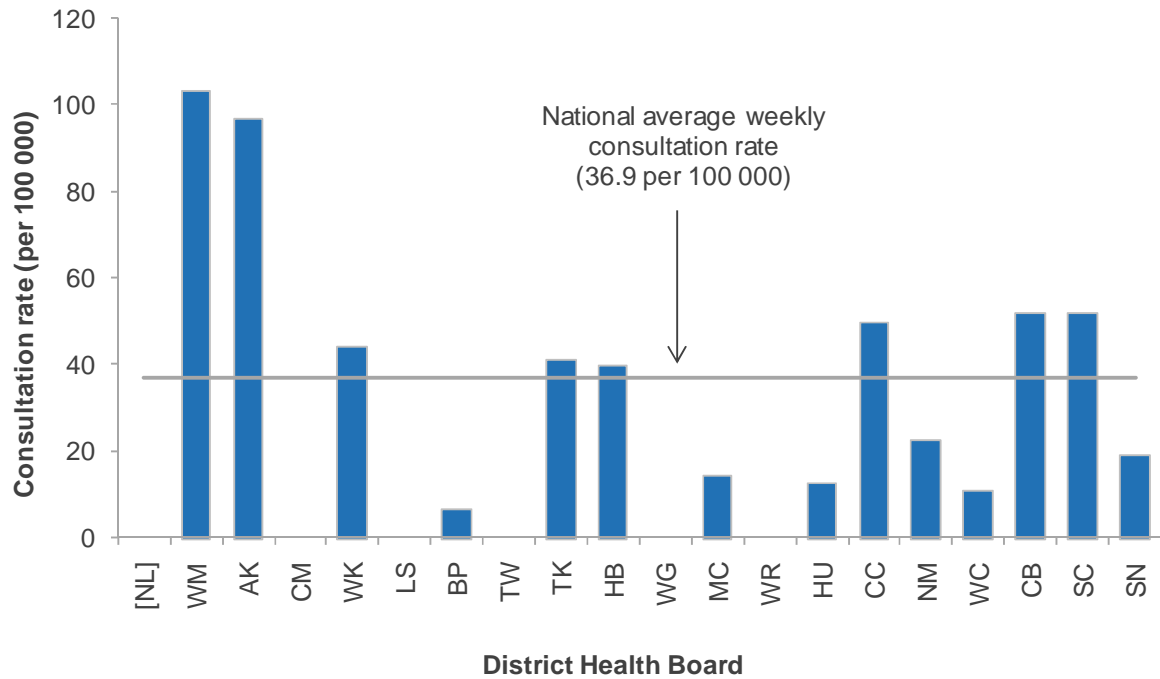
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010, 2011 and 2012



* 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.

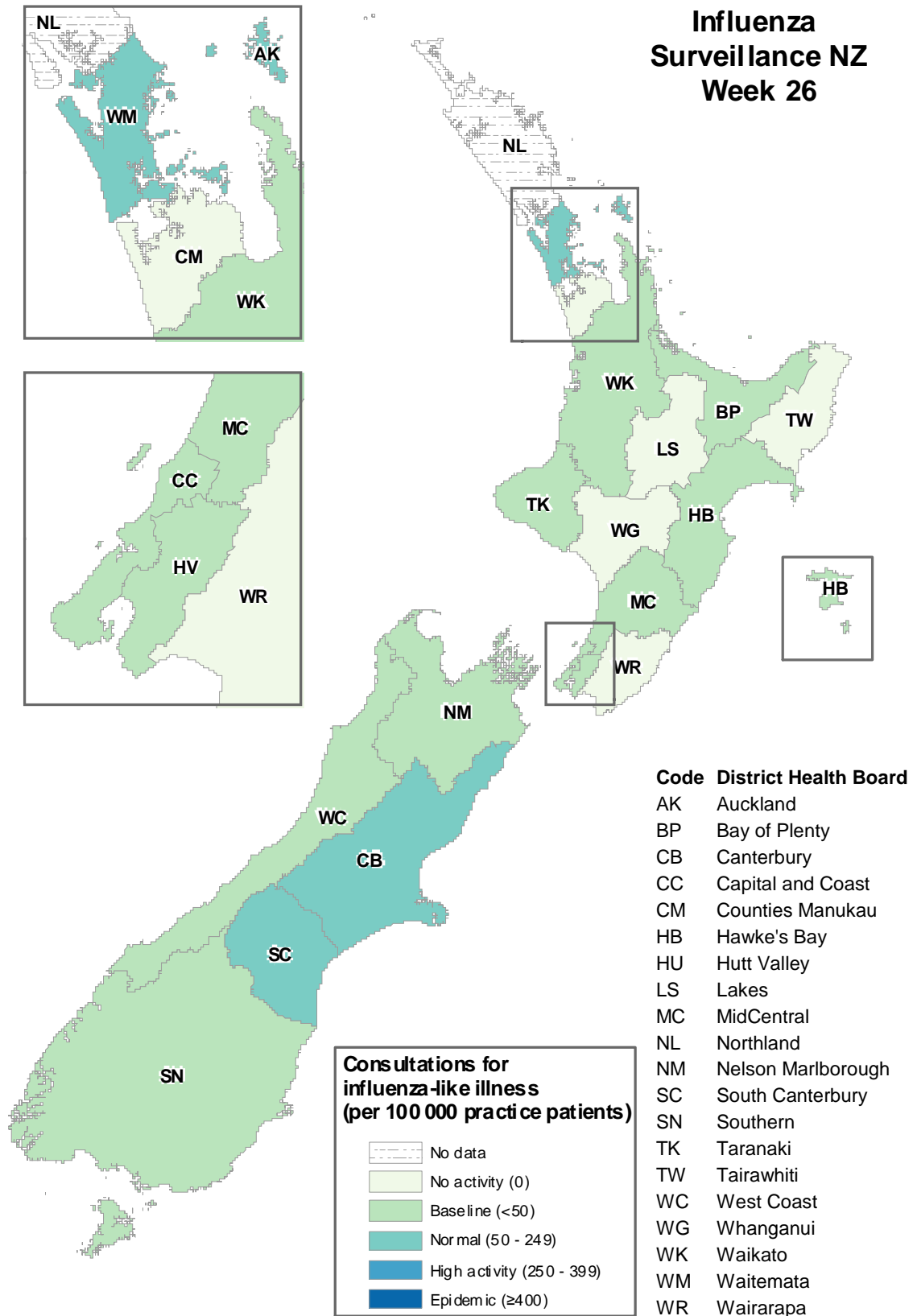
Figure 2 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Waitemata DHB had the highest consultation rate (103.2 per 100 000, 10 cases) followed by Auckland (96.8 per 100 000, 20 cases). The following DHBs also had rates above the national average of 36.9 per 100 000: Canterbury, South Canterbury, Capital and Coast, Waikato, Taranaki and Hawke’s Bay.

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 1 July 2012



[] Not participating in the influenza surveillance

Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 26, 2012



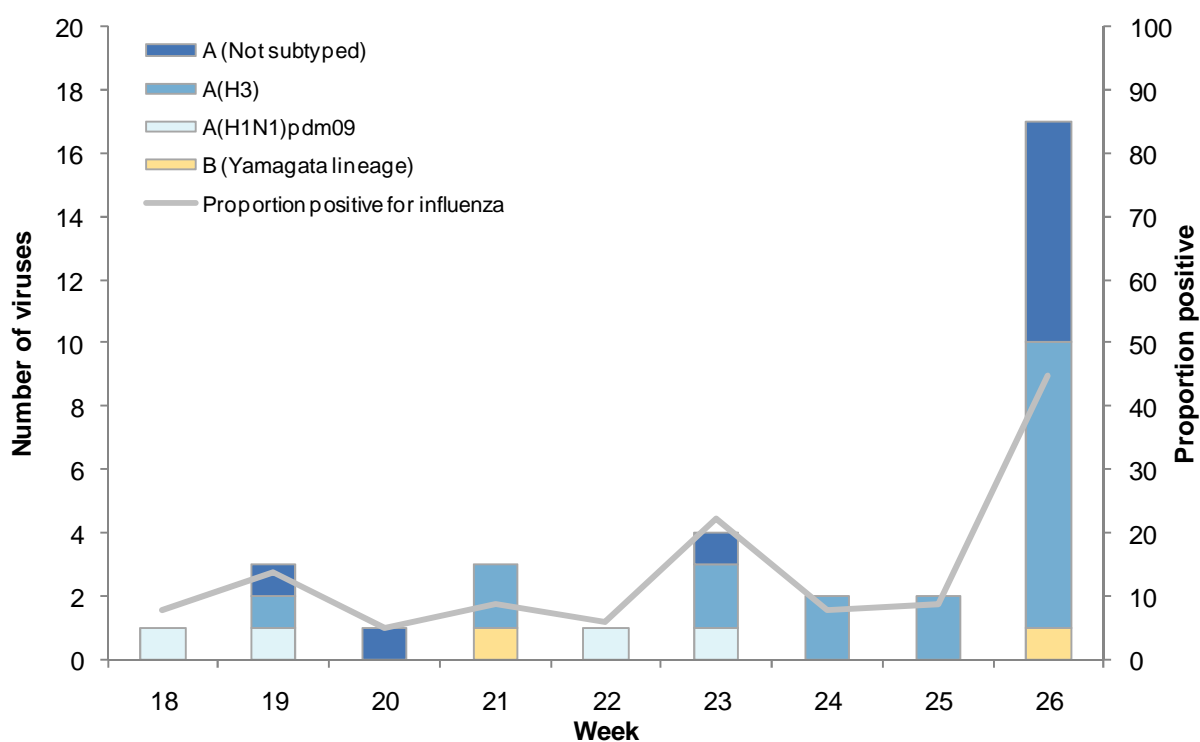
VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 38 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, 17 viruses were identified (Figure 4): A(H3N2) (9), A (Not subtyped) (7) and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 26 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	DHB					Total
	AK	WK	TK	CC	CB	
A (Not subtyped)	0	1	2	2	2	7
A(H3N2)	0	0	0	0	9	9
B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	1	2	2	11	17

Figure 4: Total influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–26 and the total percentage positive from the swabs received



In addition, 345 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 77 viruses were identified (Figure 5): A(H3N2) (39), A (Not subtyped) (14), A(H1N1)pdm09 (14), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like (4), B (Lineage not determined) (3), A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like (2), and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 26 by DHB

Antigenic Strain	DHB					Total
	AK	CM	CC	CB	SN	
A (Not subtyped)	2	0	6	6	0	14
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	12	0	2	0	14
A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like	0	2	0	0	0	2
A(H3N2)	3	1	1	33	1	39
A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like	0	3	0	1	0	4
B (Lineage not determined)	2	1	0	0	0	3
B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	7	20	7	42	1	77

Figure 5: Total influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–26 and the total percentage positive from the swabs received

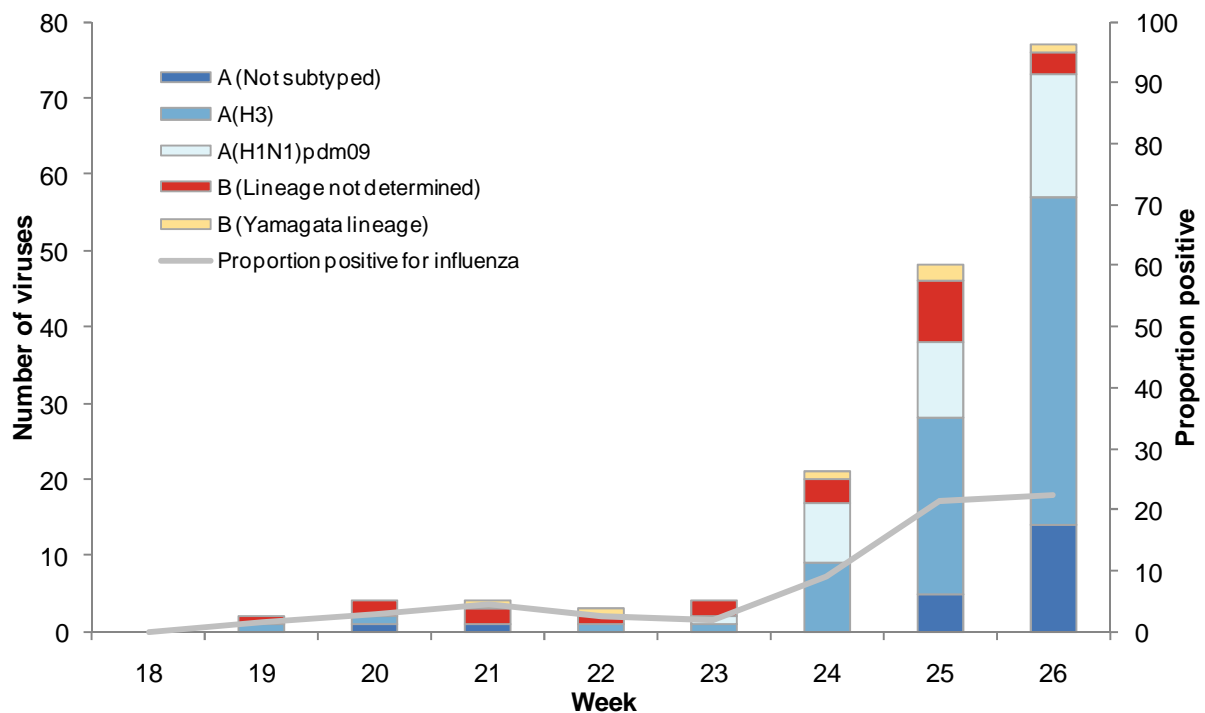
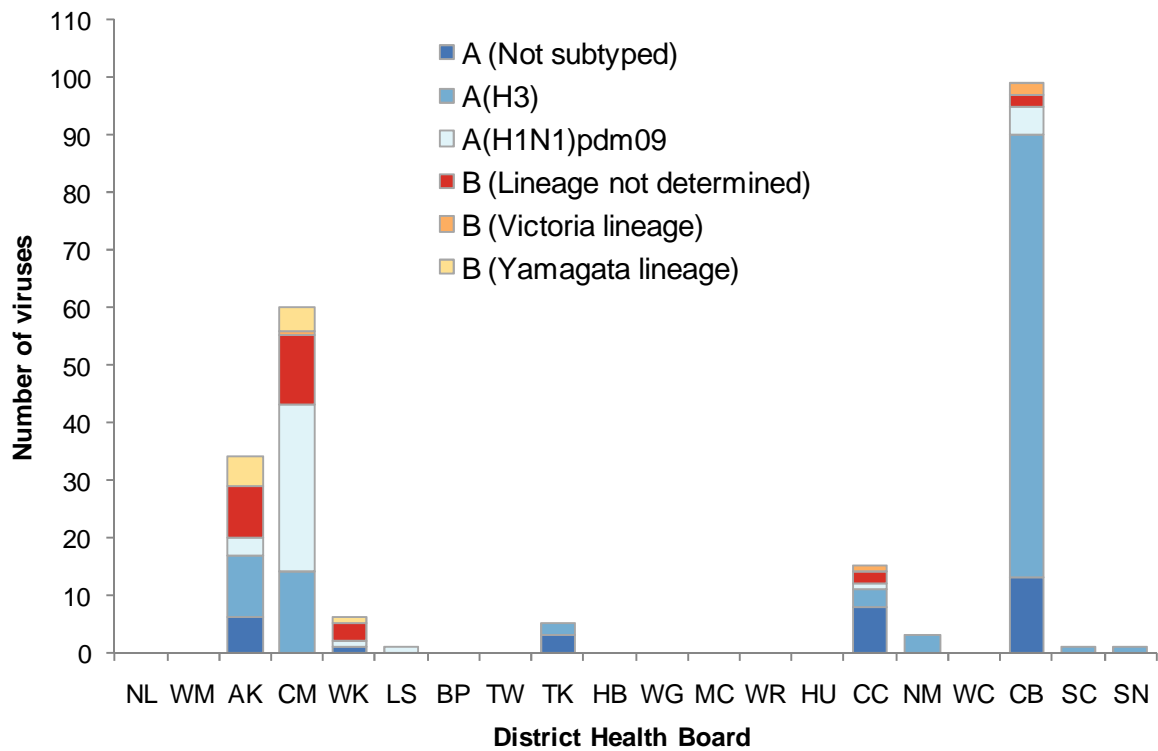


Figure 6 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 26 (1 July 2012). A total of 225 influenza viruses were identified: influenza A(H3N2) (112) including 14 A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like viruses, B (42) including four of B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (belonging to the B/Victoria lineage) and 10 B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like viruses (belonging to the B/Yamagata lineage), A(H1N1)pdm09 (40) including eight A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, and A (Not subtyped) (31). The 2012 southern hemisphere winter influenza vaccine has the following composition: A/California/7/2009(H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009(H3N2)-like and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like strains.

Figure 6: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 26, 1 July 2012



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