

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2013/19: 5–12 May 2013

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 (5–12 May 2013).

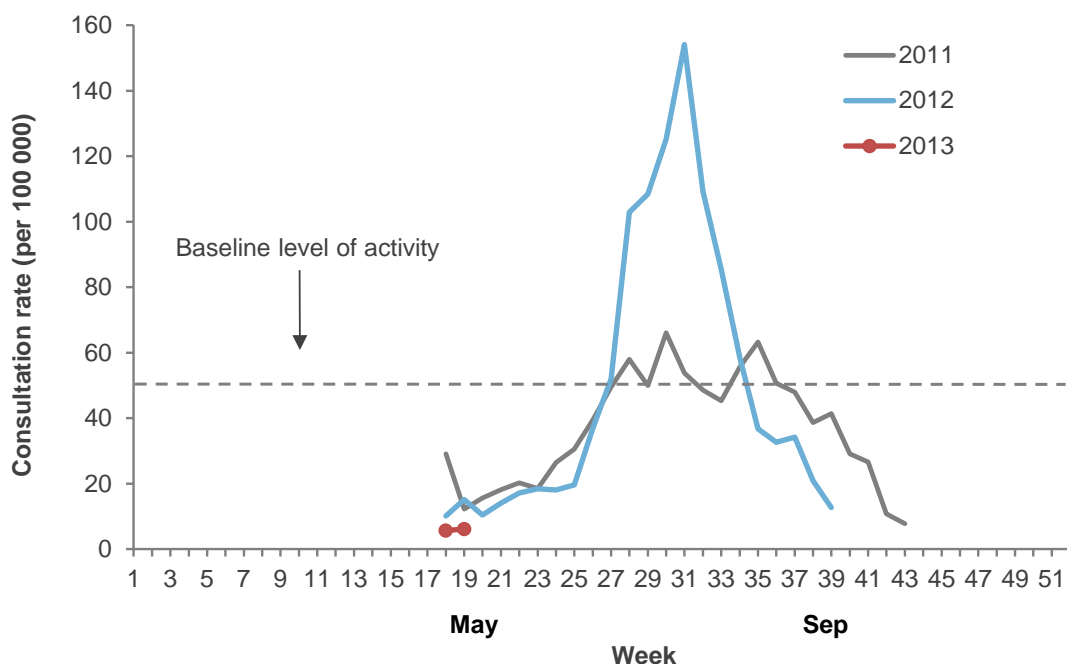
## Summary

- ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 16 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 6.1 per 100 000 (21 ILI consultations).
- A total of 149 swabs were received from sentinel (17) and non-sentinel (132) surveillance.
- 7 viruses were identified: B (not typed) (3), A(H3N2) (2), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) (1), and A (not sub-typed) (1).

## INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 21 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 62 general practices in 16 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 6.1 per 100 000 patient population. Figure 1 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2011, 2012 seasons, and 2013 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

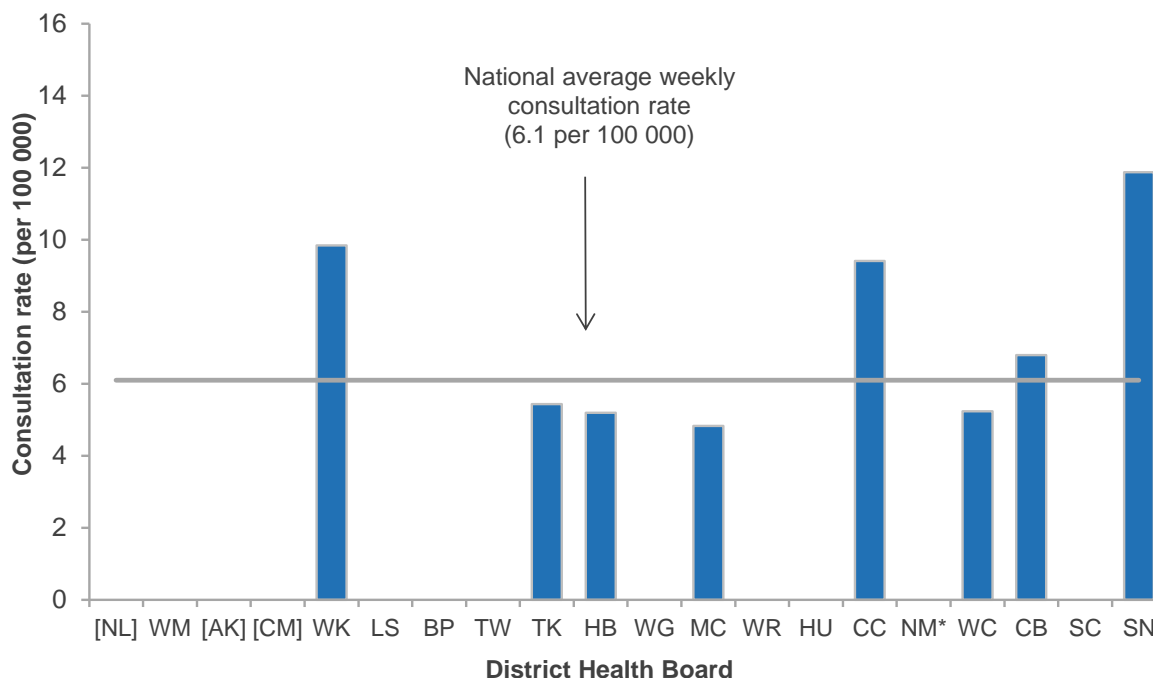
**Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2011, 2012 and 2013**



\* 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. Southern DHB had the highest consultation rate (11.9 per 100 000, 7 cases), followed by Waikato (9.8 per 100 000, 2 cases) and Capital and Coast (9.4 per 100 000, 3 cases).

**Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 12 May 2013**



[ ] Not participating in the influenza sentinel surveillance.

\* No data for the week.

Note: Auckland (AK) and Counties Manukau (CM) DHBs follow the Southern Hemisphere Influenza and Vaccine Effectiveness Research and Surveillance (SHIVERS) case definition which is different from this sentinel surveillance. Based on the SHIVERS weekly report, the ILI incidence for Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs for week 19 were 15.9 per 100 000 and 52.3 per 100 000 patient populations, respectively. For more details, please refer to the website:

<http://www.esr.cri.nz/competencies/shivers/Pages/SHIVERSReports.aspx>

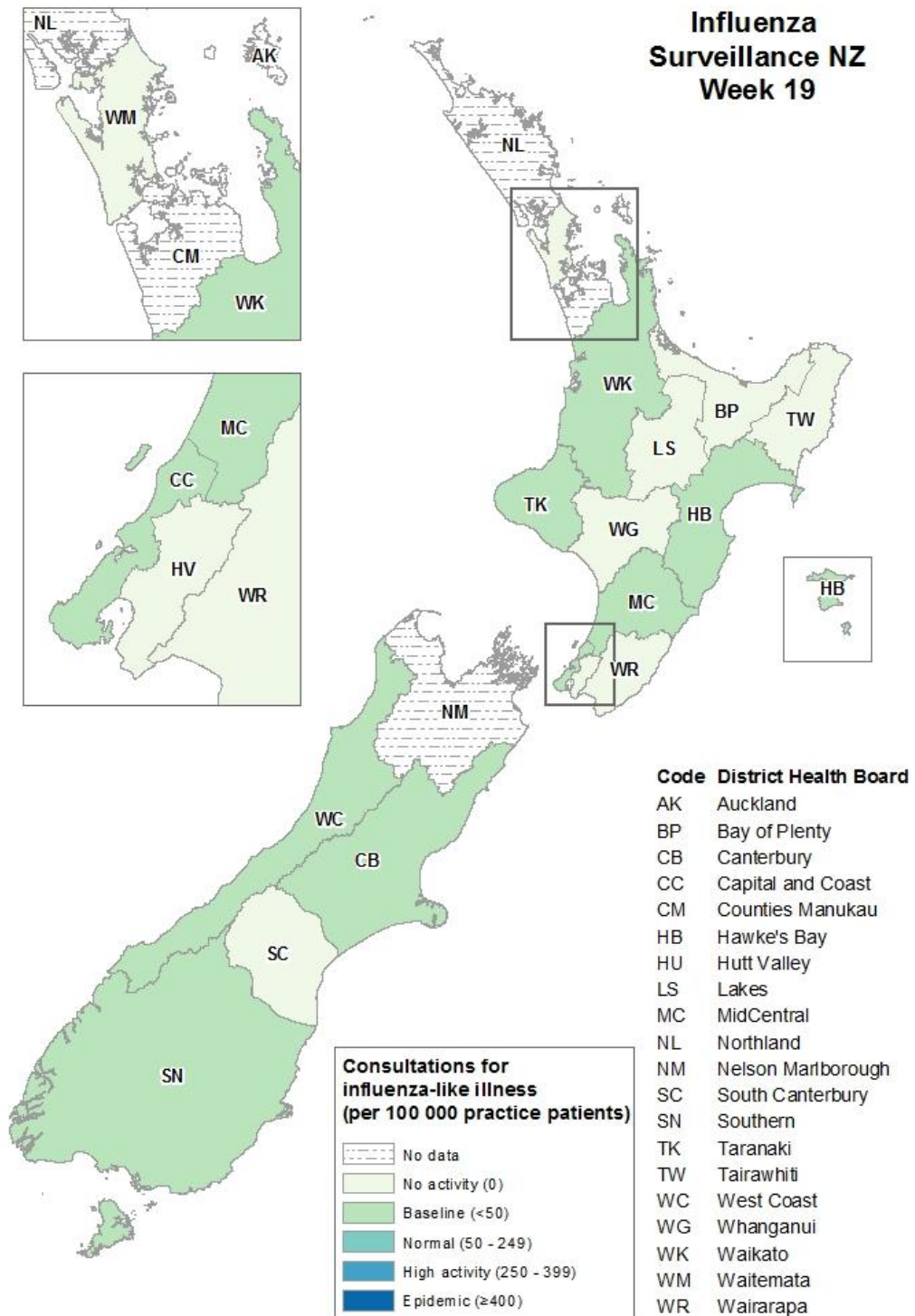
## VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 149 swabs were received from sentinel (17) and non-sentinel (132) surveillance. Seven influenza viruses were identified from the non-sentinel surveillance: B (not typed) (3), A(H3N2) (2), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) (1), and A (not sub-typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 19 by DHB**

Antigenic strain	DHB					Total
	AK	CM	WK	CB	SN	
A (not sub-typed)	1	0	0	0	0	1
A(H3N2)	0	1	0	0	1	2
A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) - like virus	0	0	1	0	0	1
B (not typed)	0	2	0	1	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

**Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 19, 2013**



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