

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2013/20: 13–19 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 20 (13–19 May 2013).

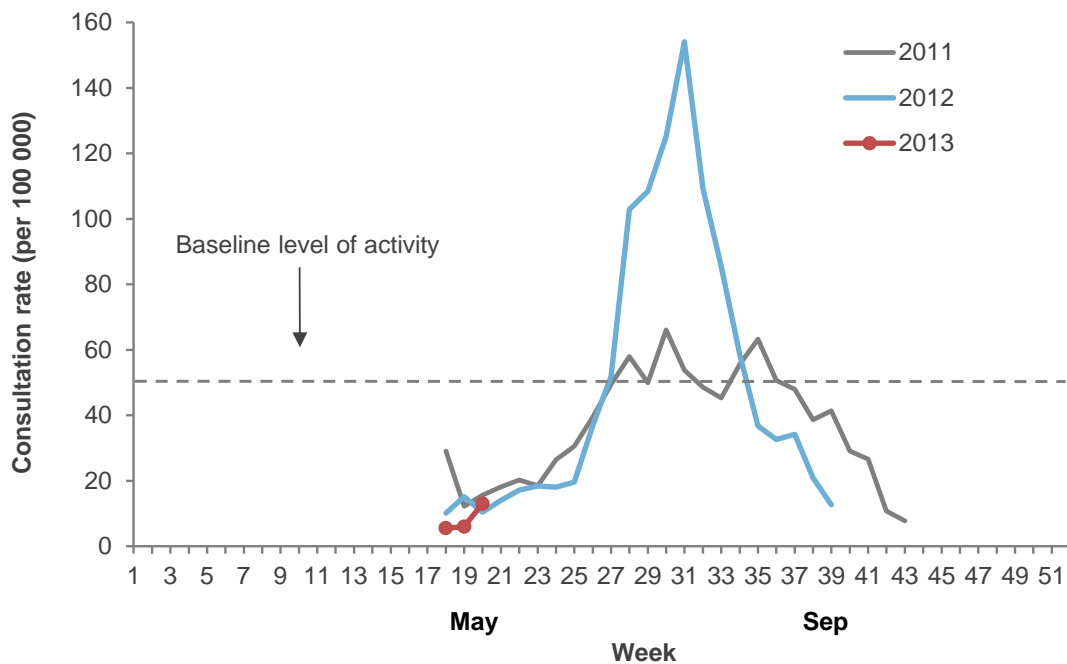
Summary

- ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 17 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 13.0 per 100 000 (45 ILI consultations).
- A total of 172 swabs were received from sentinel (17) and non-sentinel (155) surveillance.
- 8 viruses were identified: B (lineage not determined) (6) and A (not subtyped) (2).

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 45 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 62 general practices in 17 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 13.0 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.

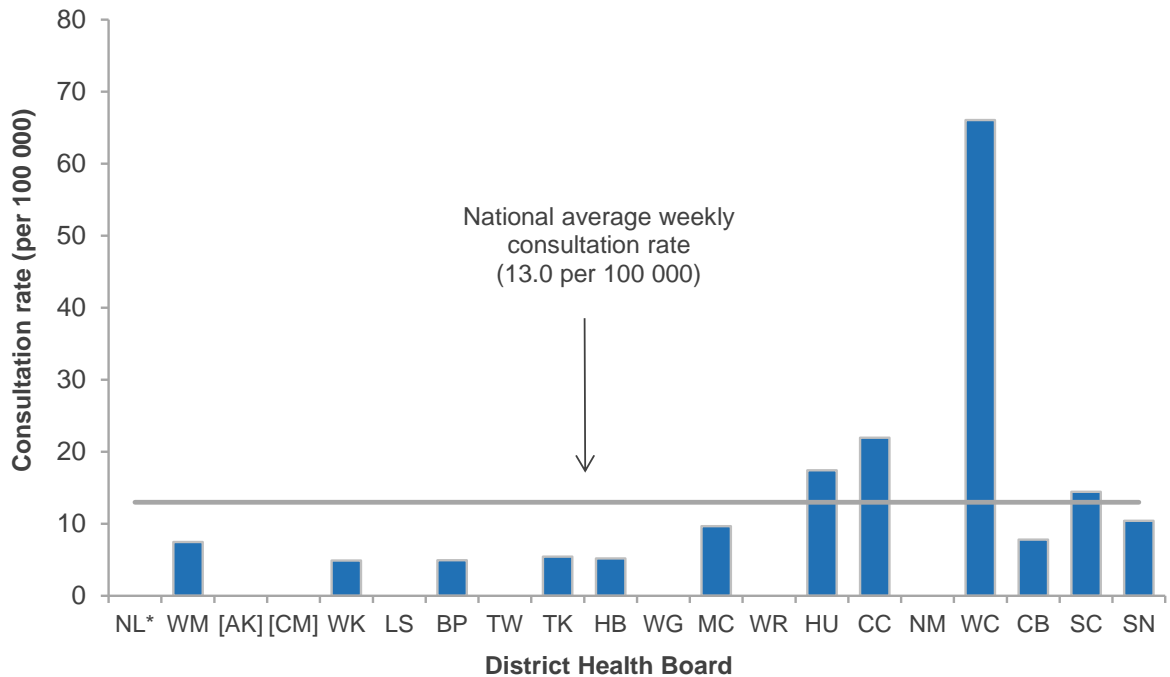
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2011, 2012 and 2013



* 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. West Coast DHB had the highest consultation rate (66.1 per 100 000, 13 cases), followed by Capital and Coast (22.0 per 100 000, 7 cases) and Hutt (17.5 per 100 000, 6 cases).

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 19 May 2013



[] Not participating in the influenza sentinel surveillance.

* No data for the week.

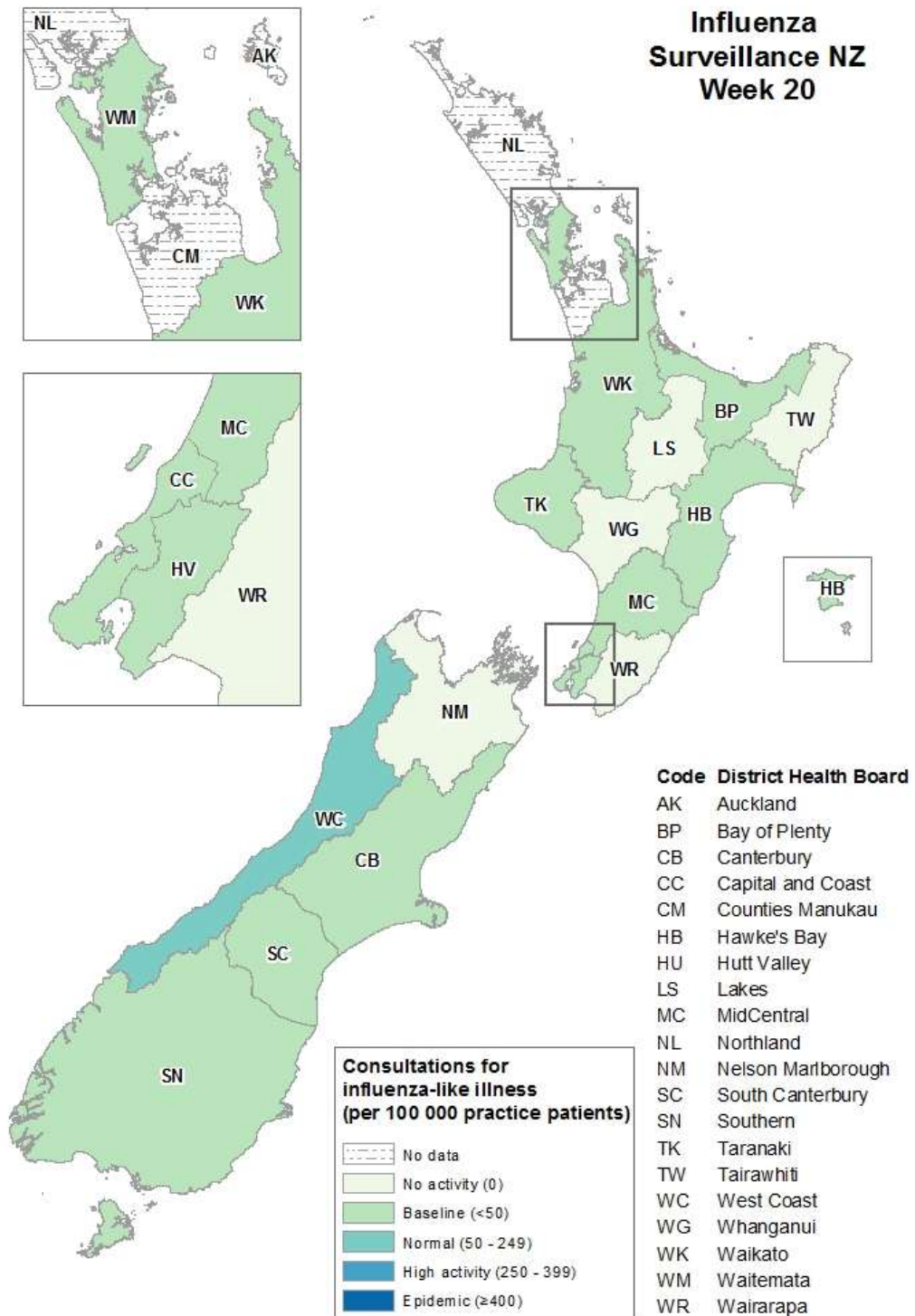
Note: Auckland (AK) and Counties Manukau (CM) DHBs follow the Southern Hemisphere Influenza and Vaccine Effectiveness Research and Surveillance (SHIVERS) case definition which is different from this sentinel surveillance. Based on the SHIVERS weekly report, the ILI incidence for Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs for week 20 were 4.8 per 100 000 and 76.9 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 17 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these, two influenza B viruses (lineage not determined) were identified from Capital & Coast and Canterbury and DHBs.

In addition, 155 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, six viruses were identified: B (lineage not determined) (4) and A (not subtyped) (2). Three of the influenza B viruses were reported from Counties Manukau and one was reported from Auckland DHB. Both influenza A viruses were reported from Auckland DHB.

Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 20, 2013



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