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 (20–26 May 2013).

Summary
- ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 17 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 11.7 per 100 000 (42 ILI consultations).
- A total of 155 swabs were received from sentinel (17) and non-sentinel (138) surveillance.
- Four influenza B viruses (lineage not determined) were identified.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 42 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 65 general practices in 17 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 11.7 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.

* 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 (25.4 per 100 000, 5 cases), followed by Whanganui (21.2 per 100 000, 1 case) and Hutt Valley (20.4 per 100 000, 7 cases).

**Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 26 May 2013**

* No data for the week.
[ ] Not participating in the influenza sentinel surveillance.

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 21 were 19.9 per 100 000 and 33.0 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. No viruses were identified.

In addition, 138 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, four influenza B viruses (lineage not determined) were identified from Counties Manukau (3) and Auckland (1) DHBs.
Figure 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 21, 2013

Consultations for influenza-like illness (per 100,000 practice patients)

- No data
- No activity (0)
- Baseline (<50)
- Normal (50 - 249)
- High activity (250 - 399)
- Epidemic (≥400)

Code District Health Board
AK Auckland
BP Bay of Plenty
CB Canterbury
CC Capital and Coast
CM Counties Manukau
HB Hawke's Bay
HU Hutt Valley
LS Lakes
MC MidCentral
NL Northland
NM Nelson Marlborough
SC South Canterbury
SN Southern
TK Taranaki
TW Tairawhiti
WC West Coast
WG Whanganui
WK Waikato
WM Waitakere
WR Waikato

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