



6SSN 2324-4097

Community and Hospital Surveillance

ILI, SARI, Influenza and Respiratory Pathogens

2017 Influenza Season, Week 28, ending 16 July 2017

SUMMARY

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates decreased slightly compared to the previous week, and remained above the seasonal threshold level. The overall influenza positivity rate of tested samples has remained at a high level (~55%). Influenza rates were highest in young children (0–4 years) and school-aged children (5–19 years), and those of Asian ethnicity.
- Severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) hospitalisation rates dropped slightly, though with high proportions of influenza virus specimens (~40%). Influenza hospitalisations were highest in infants (<1 year), as well as those of Māori ethnicity.
- Influenza A(H3N2) and B/Yamagata lineage viruses were the two predominant co-circulating strains this week with more A(H3N2) than B/Yamagata lineage viruses detected. Small proportions of A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were also detected.
- Non-influenza respiratory viruses also circulated with rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) most commonly detected.

The surveillance for community-based influenza-like illness (ILI) and hospital-based severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) provides evidence to inform public health and clinical practice to reduce the impact of influenza virus infection and other important respiratory pathogens. This weekly report summarises data obtained from the ILI and SARI surveillance platforms. The report includes incidence, demographic characteristics, clinical outcomes and aetiologies for community ILI cases as well as hospital SARI cases including ICU admissions and deaths for the past week as well as the cumulative period since 2 January 2017.

Note: Data in this report are provisional and may change as more cases are assessed and information is updated. Data were extracted on 19 July 2017.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS and SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

During week 28, ending 16 July 2017, 187 patients with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 DHBs. The weekly ILI incidence was 45.5 per 100 000 patient population (Figures 1 and 2). Of the 145 tested ILI cases, 78 were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related influenza incidence (adjusted) of 24.5 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1. Weekly resident ILI and influenza incidence since 2 January 2017

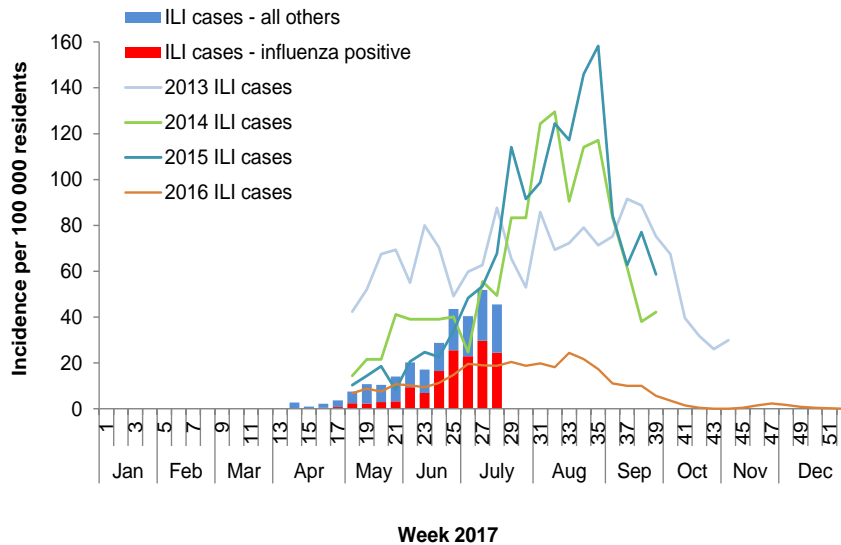
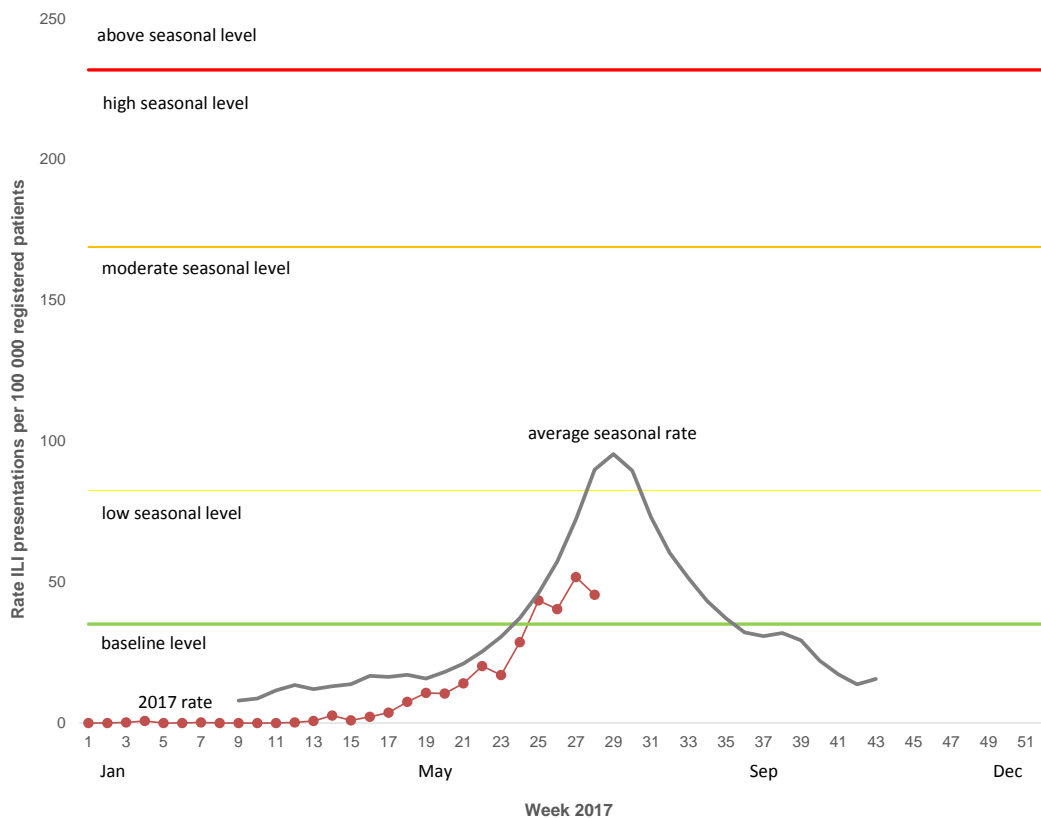


Figure 2. Comparison of 2017 rate with average seasonal rate, and historical thresholds



The weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by different age groups and ethnicities are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3. Weekly ILI incidence by age group since 2 January 2017

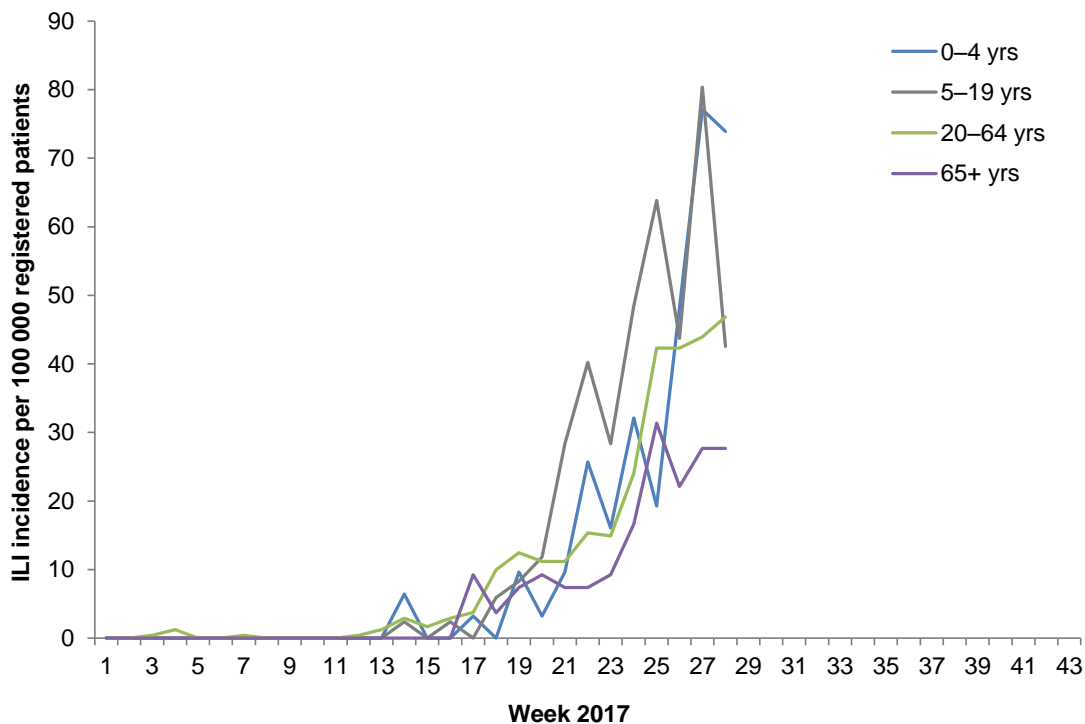


Figure 4. Weekly ILI incidence by ethnicity since 2 January 2017

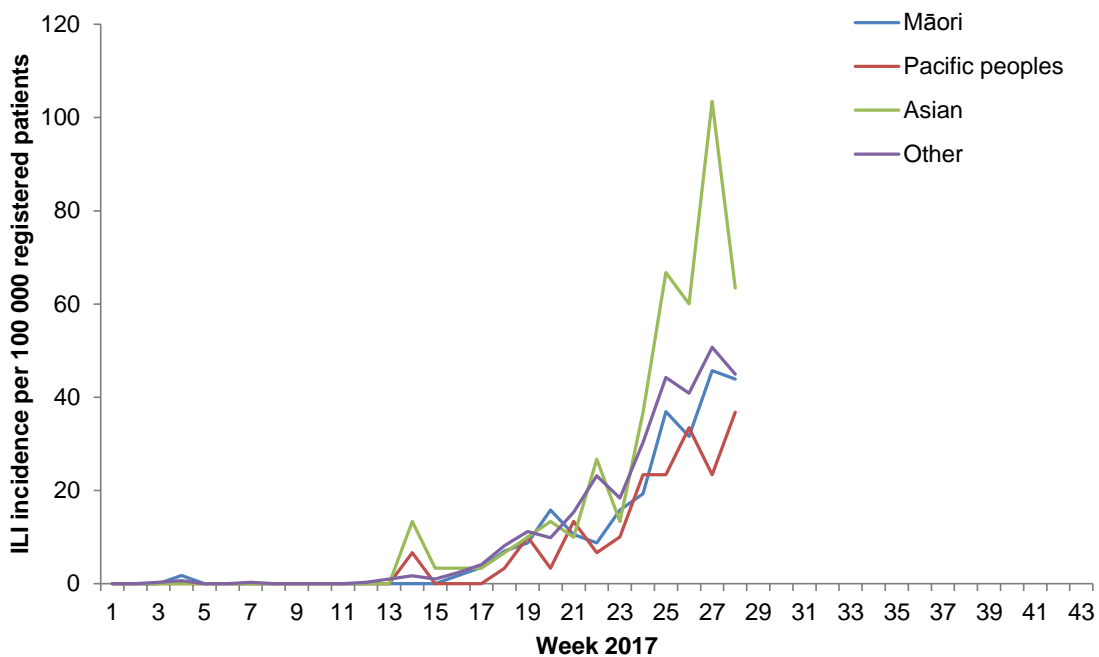
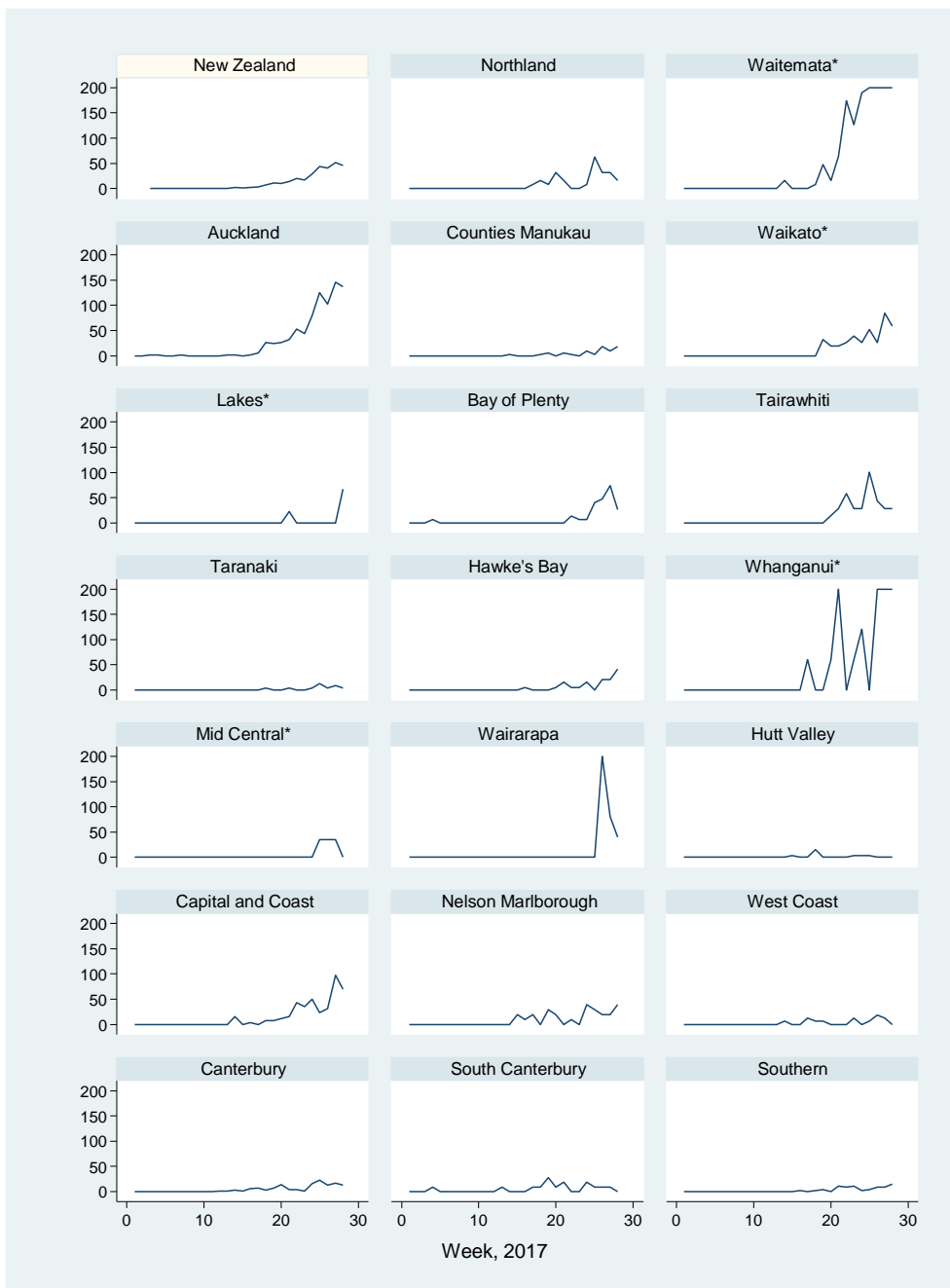


Figure 5 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Whanganui (301.2 per 100 000, 5 cases), Waitemata (237.3 per 100 000, 30 cases), and Auckland (137.4 per 100 000, 78 cases) DHBs had the highest consultation rates.

Figure 5. Rate of ILI consultations per 100 000 registered by DHB per week since 2 January 2017



*Results that have some uncertainty, with less than 5% of the DHB population covered (see Notes on Interpretation). Note: Outliers have been omitted from this graph.

ILI consultation rates for any particular DHB should be treated with caution as they may not be representative of the real situation for a particular community or setting, especially if the surveillance system has a small number of participating General Practices in the DHB, or the GP enrolled patient population is small, the calculated ILI rates are subject to greater fluctuation.

Since 2 January 2017, a total of 1240 ILI cases were identified. This gives a cumulative ILI incidence of 301.6 per 100 000 patient population (Table 1). Among the 1002 tested ILI cases, 500 (49.9%) were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related (adjusted) influenza incidence of 150.5 per 100 000 patient population.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of ILI and influenza cases, since 2 January 2017

Characteristics	ILI & influenza cases among sentinel practices				
	ILI cases	Influenza cases	Prop Influenza positive ¹ (%)	ILI incidence (per 100 000)	Influenza incidence ² (per 100 000)
Overall	1240	500	49.9 (100.0)	301.6	150.5
Age group (years)					
<1	11	2	25.0 (0.4)	166.4	41.6
1–4	90	23	29.5 (4.6)	367.2	108.3
5–19	344	179	63.9 (35.8)	406.6	259.9
20–34	199	65	40.9 (13.0)	231.6	94.7
35–49	297	119	51.1 (23.8)	362.3	185.0
50–64	202	76	45.5 (15.2)	275.5	125.4
65–79	82	28	44.4 (5.6)	200.8	89.2
>80	15	8	57.1 (1.6)	112.3	64.2
Unknown	0	0	0.0		
Ethnicity					
Māori	143	54	46.6 (10.8)	251.3	117.0
Pacific peoples	58	24	53.3 (4.8)	194.0	103.5
Asian	130	73	61.9 (14.6)	433.9	268.4
European and Other	908	349	48.3 (69.8)	309.2	149.5
Unknown	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Sex					
Female	671	269	51.0 (53.8)	314.4	160.5
Male	568	231	48.6 (46.2)	287.3	139.7
Unknown	1	0	0.0		

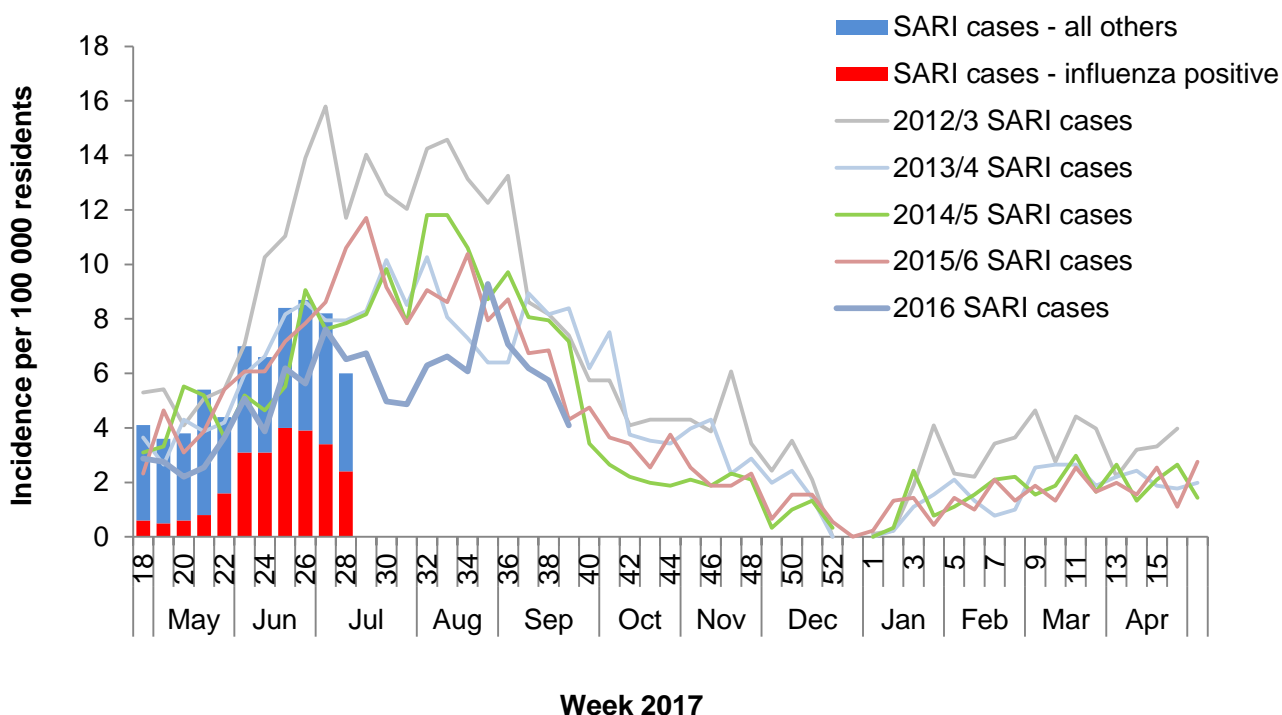
¹Proportion of cases tested which were positive for influenza viruses

²Adjusted to positivity of tested cases

Severe acute respiratory illness (SARI)

There were 2761 acute admissions to ADHB and CMDHB hospitals during week 28, ending 16 July 2017. A total of 131 patients with acute respiratory illness were assessed in these hospitals. Of these, 82 (62.6%) patients met the SARI case definition. Five cases were admitted to ICU and no SARI related deaths were reported this week. Of the 42 tested residents with SARI, 17 were positive for influenza viruses, giving a SARI related influenza incidence of 2.4 per 100 000 population this week.

Figure 6. Weekly resident SARI and influenza incidence since 2 May 2016 and previous seasons SARI incidence



Since 1 May 2017, a total of 793 SARI cases were identified. This gives a SARI proportion of 25.4 per 1000 acute hospitalisations (Table 2). Fifty SARI cases have been admitted to ICU and six SARI related deaths were reported during this period.

Of the 793 SARI cases, 599 were ADHB and CMDHB residents, giving a SARI incidence of 66.1 per 100 000 population (Table 2). Among the 548 tested SARI cases who were ADHB and CMDHB residents, 198 (36.1%) had positive influenza virus results. This gives a SARI (adjusted) related influenza incidence of 23.9 per 100 000 population.

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of SARI cases and related influenza cases, since 1 May 2017

Characteristics	Admissions	Assessed	SARI & influenza cases among all hospital patients			SARI & influenza cases among ADHB & CMDHB residents			
			SARI Cases (%)	Cases per 1000 hospitalisations	Influenza positive ¹ (%)	SARI cases	SARI incidence (per 100 000)	Influenza Cases	Influenza incidence (per 100 000)
Overall	31239	1651	793 (48.0)	25.4	211 (36.1)	599	66.1	198	23.9
Age group (years)									
<1	1085		122	112.4	13 (12.5)	110	814.5	12	104.0
1–4	2184		87	39.8	16 (22.2)	80	151.3	15	33.9
5–19	3794		50	13.2	10 (23.8)	41	21.3	7	4.3
20–34	5891		44	7.5	18 (42.9)	44	21.1	18	9.0
35–49	4638		49	10.6	19 (41.3)	47	24.6	19	10.6
50–64	5341		99	18.5	51 (52.6)	98	65.1	50	33.9
65–79	5015		108	21.5	46 (44.7)	101	138.2	41	59.0
>80	3291		80	24.3	37 (48.7)	78	332.9	36	162.0
Unknown	0		154			0		0	
Ethnicity									
Māori	4244		125	29.5	27 (23.7)	109	109.6	25	27.7
Pacific peoples	6685		228	34.1	76 (36.5)	222	160.9	72	57.3
Asian	5214		48	9.2	17 (38.6)	47	22.3	17	8.6
European and Other	14895		238	16.0	90 (41.7)	221	55.0	84	22.8
Unknown	179		154	860.3		0		0	
Hospitals									
ADHB	18369	688	411 (59.7)	22.4	102 (41.3)	248	56.8	92	24.0
CMDHB	12870	963	382 (39.7)	29.7	109 (32.3)	351	74.8	106	24.0
Sex									
Female	16517		340	20.6	117 (37.6)	314	67.5	111	25.9
Male	14720		297	20.2	92 (34.2)	283	64.3	86	21.5
Unknown	2		156			2		1	

¹Proportion of cases tested which were positive for influenza viruses

Note. A specimen may be positive for more than one virus; a patient may have more than one specimen tested.

RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE

Influenza virus

During week 28, 145 ILI specimens were tested; 78 were positive for influenza viruses. In addition, 51 SARI specimens were tested; 19 were positive for influenza viruses.

Since 1 May 2017, 986 ILI specimens were tested, 499 (50.6%) were positive for influenza with the following viruses. In addition, 669 SARI specimens were tested, 235 (35.1%) were positive for influenza viruses (see Table 3).

Table 3. Influenza viruses among ILI and SARI cases since 1 May 2017

<i>Influenza viruses</i>	ILI	SARI	SARI and non-SARI	
	Cases (%)	Cases (%)	ICU (%)	Deaths (%)
No. of specimens tested	986	669	126	12
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	499 (50.6)	235 (35.1)	11 (8.7)	3 (25.0)
Influenza A	301	178	7	2
A (not subtyped)	21	68	3	1
A(H1N1)pdm09	31	17	0	0
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	22	16	0	0
A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09 - like	9	1	0	0
A(H3N2)	249	93	4	1
A(H3N2) by PCR	249	93	4	1
A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2) - like	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	198	57	4	1
B (lineage not determined)	17	29	3	0
B/Yamagata lineage	172	28	1	1
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	96	16	1	1
B/Phuket/3073/2013 - like	76	12	0	0
B/Victoria lineage	9	0	0	0
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	9	0	0	0
B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like	0	0	0	0
Influenza and non-influenza co-detection (% +ve)	23 (4.6)	10 (4.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

¹Number of specimens positive for at least one of the listed viruses

Note. A specimen may be positive for more than one virus; a patient may have more than one specimen tested.

The recommended influenza vaccine formulation for trivalent vaccine for New Zealand in 2017 is:

- A(H1N1) an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A(H3N2) an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
- B a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (belonging to B/Victoria lineage)

Quadrivalent vaccines contain the above three viruses plus one more vaccine component: B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (belonging to B/Yamagata lineage)

Non-influenza respiratory pathogens

Since 1 May 2017, 893 ILI specimens were tested for non-influenza viruses, 174 (19.5%) were positive with the following viruses. Five hundred and nineteen SARI specimens were tested for non-influenza viruses, 147 (28.3%) were positive with the following viruses (see Table 4).

Table 4. Non-influenza viruses among ILI and SARI cases since 1 May 2017¹

<i>Non-influenza respiratory viruses</i>	ILI	SARI	SARI and non-SARI	
	Cases (%)	Cases (%)	ICU (%)	Deaths (%)
No. of specimens tested	893	519	72	13
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	174 (19.5)	147 (28.3)	42 (58.3)	0 (0.0)
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	40	75	18	0
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	2	0	0	0
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	19	6	1	0
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	13	6	2	0
Rhinovirus (RV)	73	60	24	0
Adenovirus (AdV)	18	15	4	0
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	8	6	1	0
Enterovirus	7	5	3	0
Single virus detection (% of positives)	168 (96.6)	123 (83.7)	32 (76.2)	0 (-)
Multiple virus detection (% of positives)	6 (3.4)	24 (16.3)	10 (23.8)	0 (-)

¹Number of specimens positive for at least one of the listed viruses; note a specimen may be positive for more than one virus

Figure 7. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of influenza viruses from ILI specimens by type and week¹

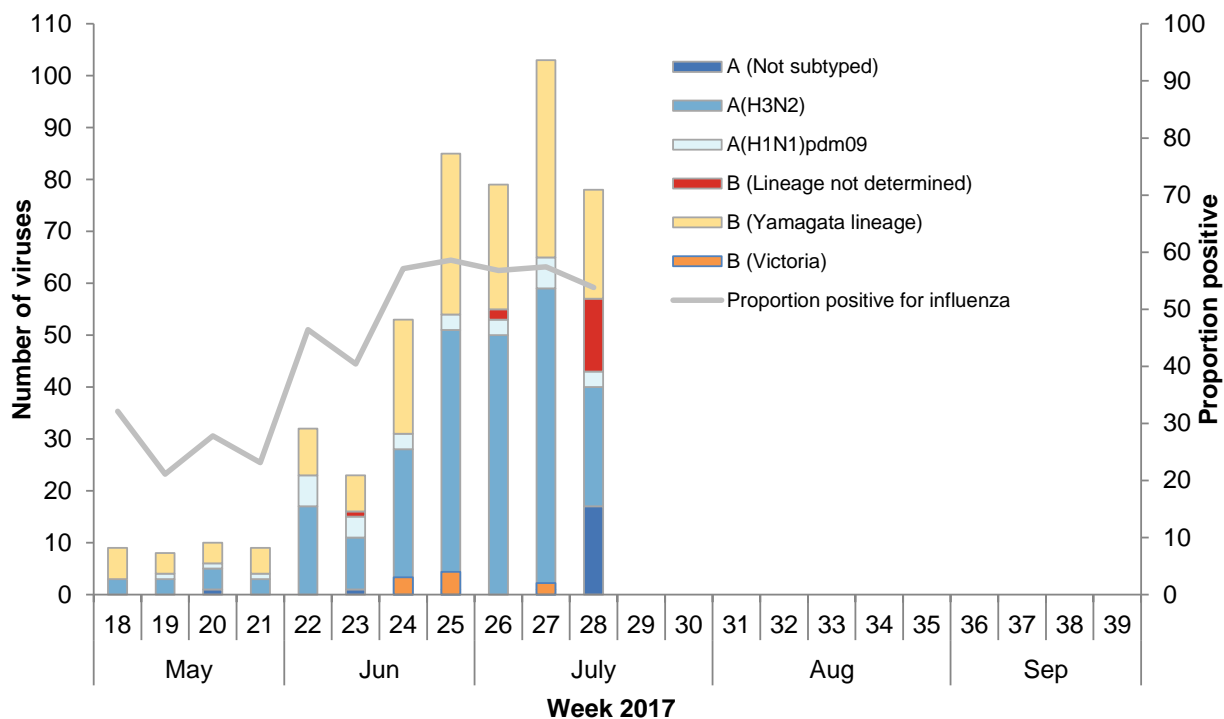


Figure 8. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of influenza viruses from SARI specimens by type and week¹

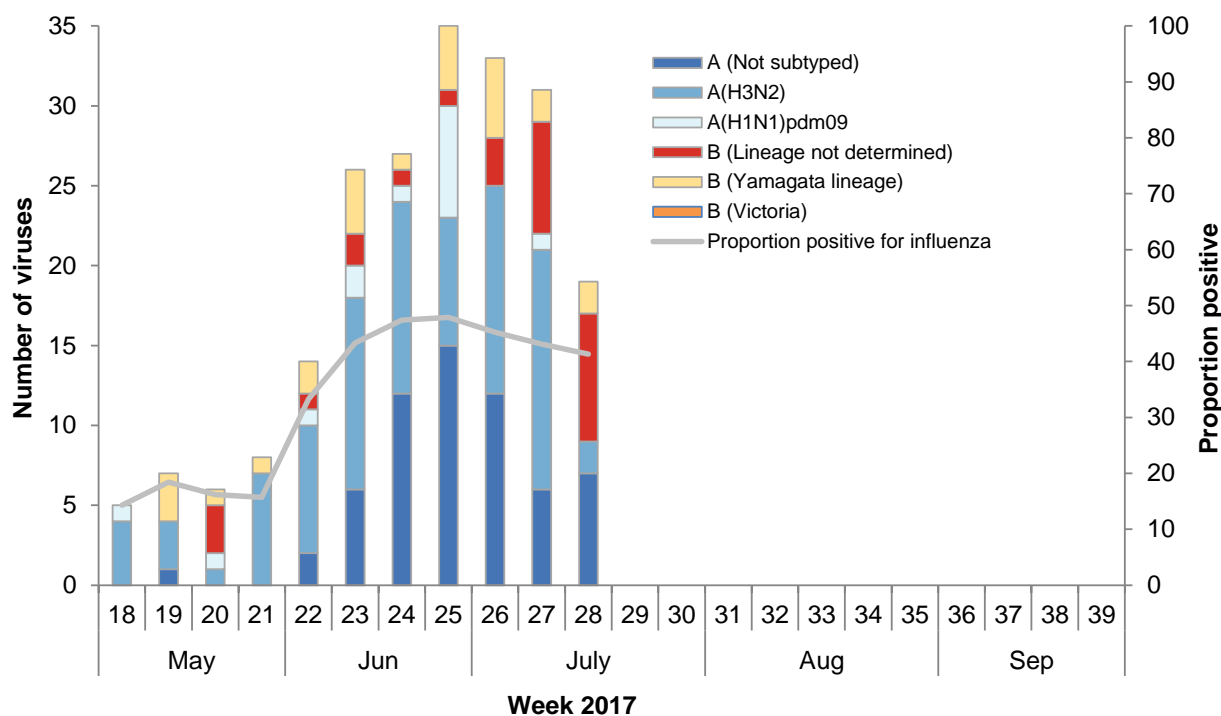




Figure 9. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of non-influenza viruses from ILI specimens by type and week¹

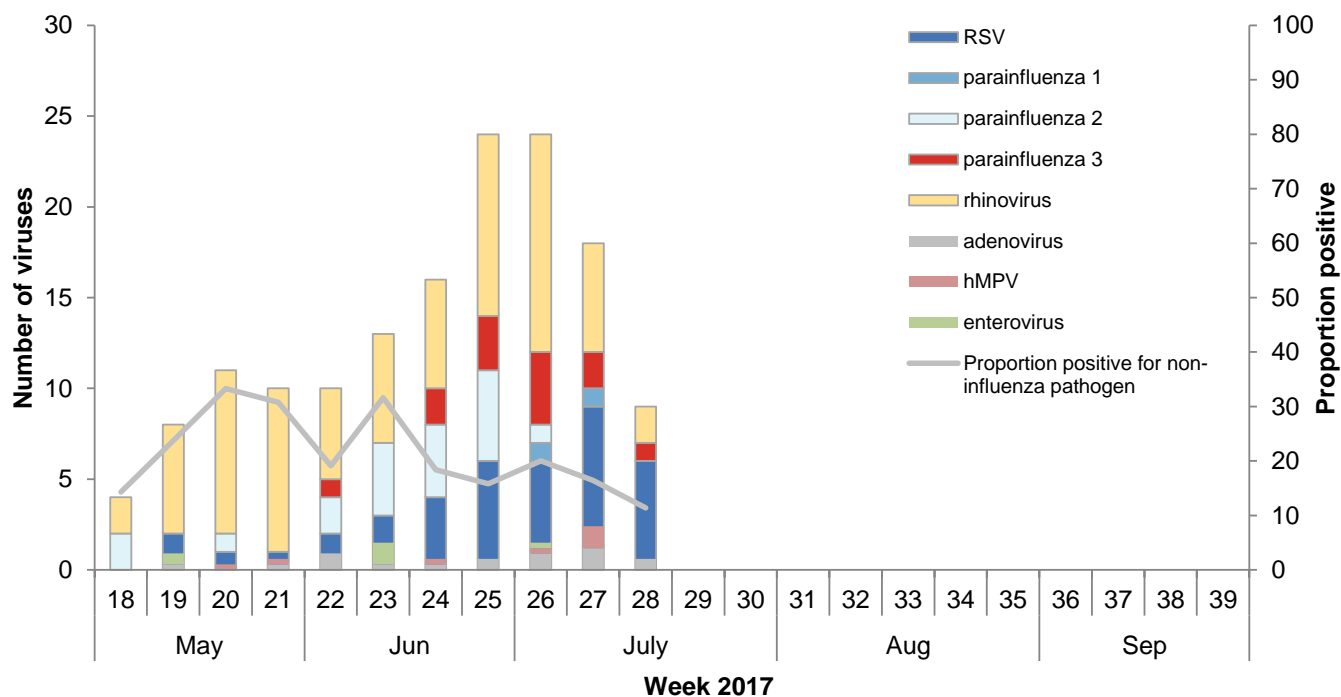
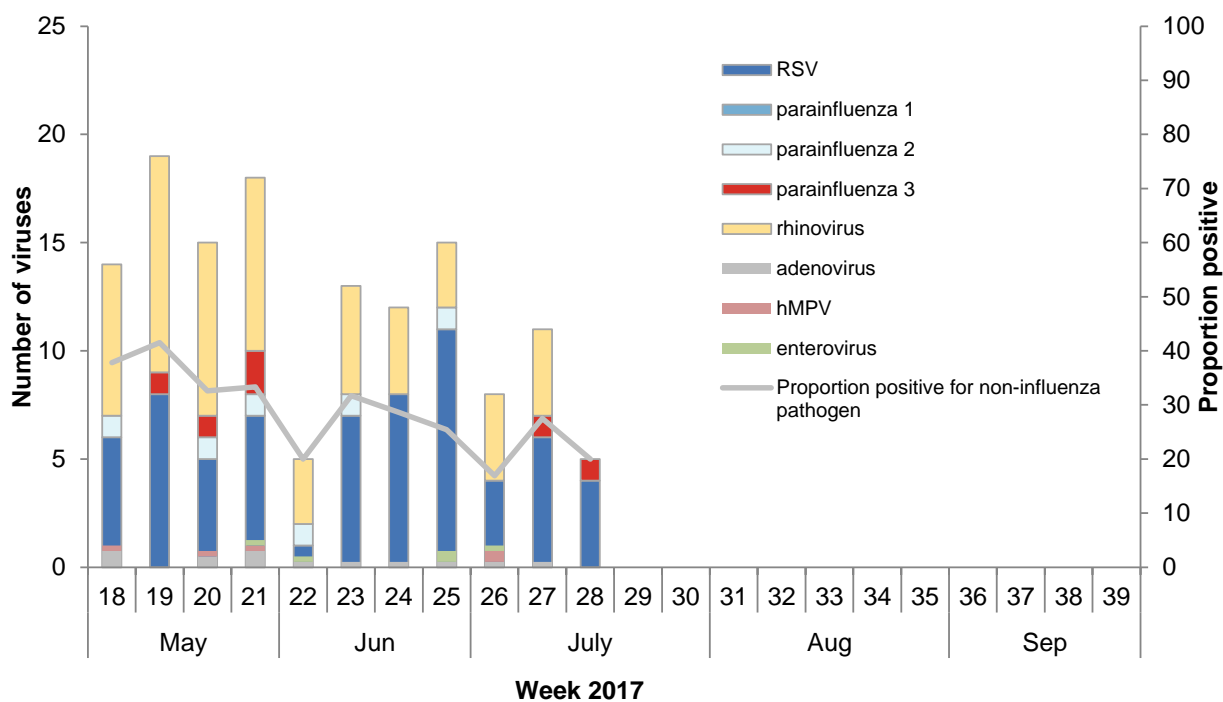


Figure 10. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of non-influenza viruses from SARI specimens by type and week¹



¹Figures for recent weeks will be underestimates due to time lag in receiving laboratory test results.



APPENDIX

Table 5. Influenza-like illness count by DHB by week 1–28, 2017

DHB	Week																											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Auckland	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	15	14	15	18	30	25	45	71	58	83	78
Bay of Plenty	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	6	7	11	4
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	5	10	3	3	1	11	16	9	12	9
Capital and Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	2	2	3	4	11	9	13	6	8	25	18
Counties Manukau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	3	1	6	3	6
Hawke's Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	3	0	4	4	8
Hutt Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Lakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MidCentral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	0	4	3	2	2	4
Northland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	8	4	4	2
South Canterbury	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	4	5	1	2	4	4	7	
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	2	2	7	3	2	2
Taranaki	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	
Waikato	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	4	6	4	8	4	13	9	
Wairarapa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1
Waitemata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	2	8	22	16	24	44	41	37	30
West Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	0
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	1	2	0	5	5	5
New Zealand	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	11	4	9	15	31	44	43	58	83	70	118	179	166	213	187



Table 6. Influenza-like illness rate by DHB by week 1–28, 2017

DHB	Rate per 100 000																												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Auckland	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.0	1.8	5.3	26.4	24.7	26.4	31.7	52.8	44.0	79.2	125.0	102.1	146.2	137.4		
Bay of Plenty	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	6.7	6.7	40.4	47.1	74.1	26.9		
Canterbury	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.4	2.8	1.4	5.7	7.1	2.8	7.1	14.2	4.3	4.3	1.4	15.6	22.8	12.8	17.1	12.8	
Capital and Coast	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.6	0.0	3.9	0.0	7.8	7.8	11.7	15.6	42.8	35.0	50.6	23.4	31.2	97.3	70.1	
Counties Manukau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	3.0	0.0	9.0	3.0	18.0	9.0	18.0	
Hawke's Bay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	15.7	5.2	5.2	15.7	0.0	20.9	20.9	41.7	
Hutt Valley	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lakes*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.8	
MidCentral*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.5	35.5	35.5	0.0
Nelson Marlborough	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5	9.7	19.5	0.0	29.2	19.5	0.0	9.7	0.0	39.0	29.2	19.5	19.5	39.0	
Northland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9	15.7	7.9	31.5	15.7	0.0	0.0	7.9	62.9	31.5	31.5	15.7	
South Canterbury	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	9.3	27.8	9.3	18.6	0.0	0.0	18.6	9.3	9.3	9.3	0.0	
Southern	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.2	4.4	0.0	10.9	8.7	10.9	2.2	4.4	8.7	8.7	15.3	
Tairāwhiti	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.4	28.9	57.7	28.9	28.9	101.0	43.3	28.9	28.9	
Taranaki	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	4.4	13.1	4.4	8.7	4.4	
Waikato*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.5	19.5	19.5	26.0	39.0	26.0	52.1	26.0	84.6	58.6	
Wairarapa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200.0	80.0	40.0	
Waitematā*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9	47.5	15.8	63.3	174.0	126.6	189.8	348.0	324.3	292.7	237.3	
West Coast	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	12.7	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	0.0	6.3	19.0	12.7	0.0	
Whanganui*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.2	0.0	0.0	60.2	241.0	0.0	60.2	120.5	0.0	301.2	301.2	301.2	
New Zealand	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	2.7	1.0	2.2	3.6	7.5	10.7	10.5	14.1	20.2	17.0	28.7	43.5	40.4	51.8	45.5	

*Results that have some uncertainty, with less than 5% of the DHB population covered (see Notes on Interpretation).



Recent global experience with pandemic influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 highlights the importance of monitoring severe and mild respiratory disease to support pandemic preparedness as well as seasonal influenza prevention and control. Two active, prospective, population-based surveillance systems were used to monitor influenza and other respiratory pathogens: 1) among those registered patients seeking consultations with influenza-like illness (ILI) at sentinel general practices nation-wide; 2) among those hospitalized patients with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in Auckland and Counties Manukau District Health Boards (ADHB and CMDHB).

The aims of ILI and SARI surveillance are: 1) to measure the burden of severe and moderate disease caused by influenza and other respiratory pathogens; 2) to monitor trends in severe and moderate disease caused by influenza and other respiratory pathogens; 3) to identify high risk groups that should be prioritized for prevention and treatment; 4) to monitor antigenic, genetic and antiviral characteristics of influenza viruses associated with severe and mild disease. 5) to provide a study base to estimate the effectiveness of influenza vaccine.

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DESCRIPTION OF ILI ACTIVITY THRESHOLDS

The values for the different intensity levels for 2017 are listed in the table below. This is based on New Zealand’s consultation rates from 2000–2015 (excluding the pandemic year, 2009) and WHO’s interim guidance severity assessment

Below seasonal level (baseline, per 100,000)	Seasonal level (per 100,000)			Above seasonal level (per 100,000)
	low	moderate	high	
<35.1	35.1-82.5	82.5-168.9	168.9-231.8	>231.8

- The baseline threshold indicates the level of influenza activity that signals the start and end of the annual influenza season and it is based on the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) (*Vega et al. Influenza and other respiratory viruses 2013;7(4):546-558*).
- Seasonal levels (low, moderate and high) are estimated as the upper limits of the 40%, 90% and 97.5% one-sided confidence intervals of the geometric mean of 30 highest epidemic weekly rates using the MEM method. As many other countries use this method, it allows the NZ data to be interpreted not just at the country level but also comparable with other countries.
- The average seasonal curve indicates the usual seasonal activity that may occur during a typical year using the method described in “*Global epidemiological surveillance standards for influenza*” (http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/WHO_Epidemiological_Influenza_Surveillance_Standards_2014.pdf).

NOTES ON INTERPRETATION

- SARI case definition: “An acute respiratory illness with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, AND cough, AND onset within the past 10 days, AND requiring inpatient hospitalisation (defined as a patient who is admitted under a medical team and to a hospital ward or assessment unit)”. A non-SARI case is a hospitalised respiratory patient who does not meet the SARI case definition.
- ILI case definition: “An acute respiratory illness with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, AND cough, AND onset within the past 10 days, AND requiring GP consultation”.
- ILI sentinel general practices: a total of 74 sentinel general practices have agreed to participate in community ILI surveillance. These practices have ~400 000 registered patients, covering roughly 9% of the NZ population.
- SARI sentinel hospitals serving a population of 906 000 people: Auckland City Hospital and the associated Starship Children’s Hospital (ADHB), and Middlemore Hospital and the associated Kidz First Children’s Hospital (CMDHB).
- The real-time PCR assay for influenza virus uses CDC’s protocol (http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh_docs/pdf8/k080570.pdf);
- The real-time PCR assay for non-influenza respiratory viruses (respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus types 1-3, human metapneumovirus, rhinovirus and adenovirus) uses CDC’s protocol. Note: The rhinovirus PCR detects mostly rhinovirus with slight cross-reactivity against enterovirus.
- The surveillance week is Monday to Sunday inclusive, and data are extracted on the subsequent Tuesday. Results from previous weeks will be revised as data are updated (laboratory test results in particular may be delayed).
- ILI consultation rates for any particular DHB should be treated with caution. If the surveillance system has a small number of participating General Practices in the DHB, or the GP enrolled patient population is small, the calculated ILI rates are subject to greater fluctuation.

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