



6SSN 2324-4097

Community and Hospital Surveillance

ILI, SARI, Influenza and Respiratory Pathogens

2017 Influenza Season, Week 30, ending 30 July 2017

SUMMARY

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates increased 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 (~50%). Influenza rates were highest in those of Asian ethnicity.
- Severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) hospitalisation rates decreased significantly. Influenza hospitalisations were highest in infants (<1 year) and older people (80+ years).
- Influenza A(H3N2) are the predominant viruses in New Zealand this year.
- Influenza B/Victoria lineage viruses also co-circulated with B/Yamagata lineage viruses with more B/Yamagata viruses.
- 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 2 August 2017.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS and SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

During week 30, ending 30 July 2017, 204 patients with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 DHBs. The weekly ILI incidence was 49.6 per 100 000 patient population (Figures 1 and 2). Of the 157 tested ILI cases, 77 were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related influenza incidence (adjusted) of 24.3 per 100 000 patient population.

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

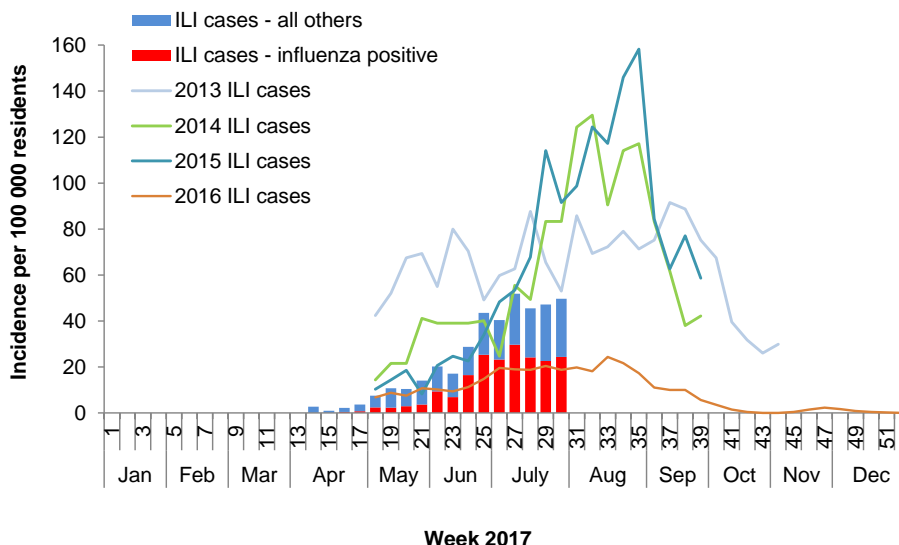
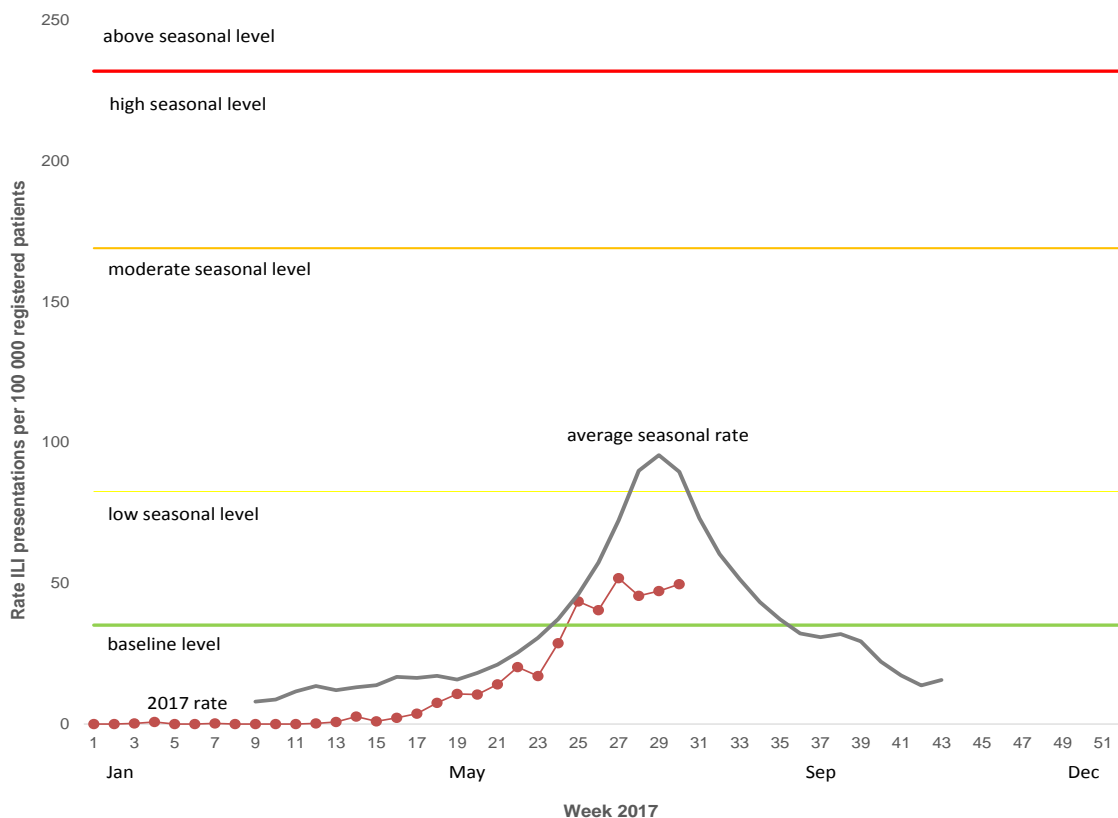


Figure 2. Comparison of 2017 rate with average seasonal rate, and historical thresholds



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

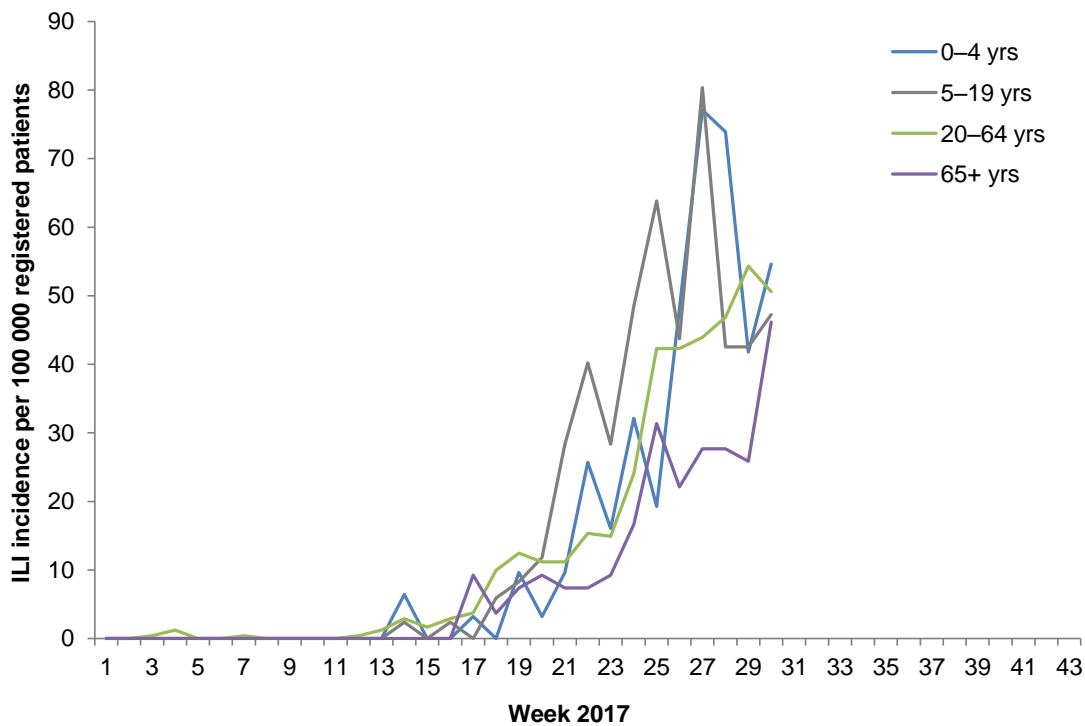


Figure 4. Weekly ILI incidence by ethnicity since 2 January 2017

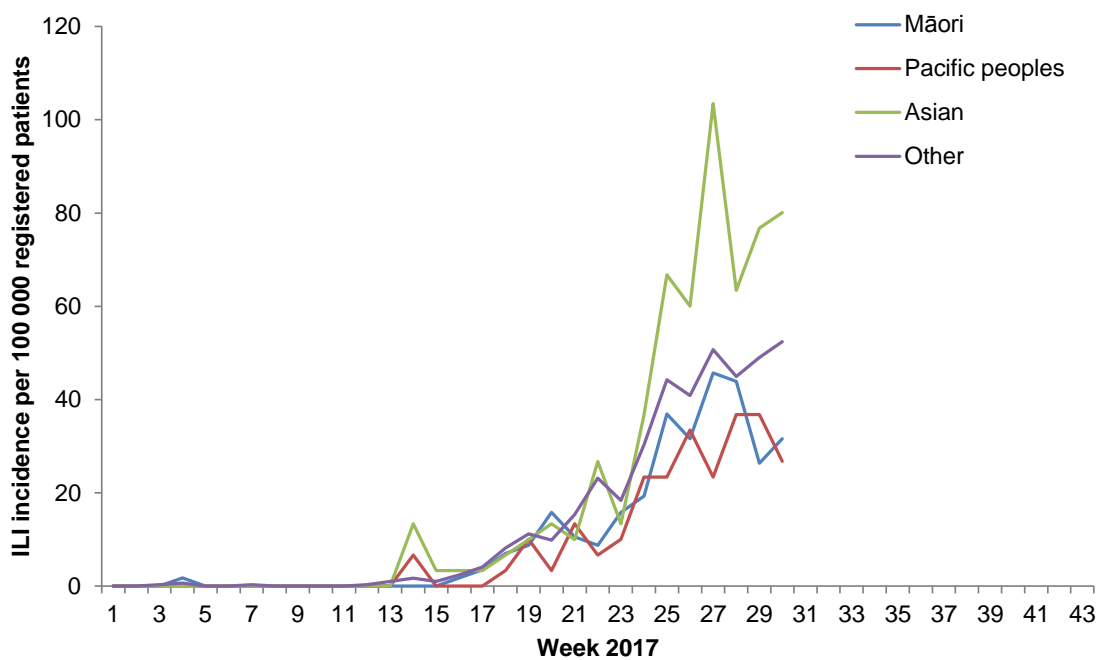
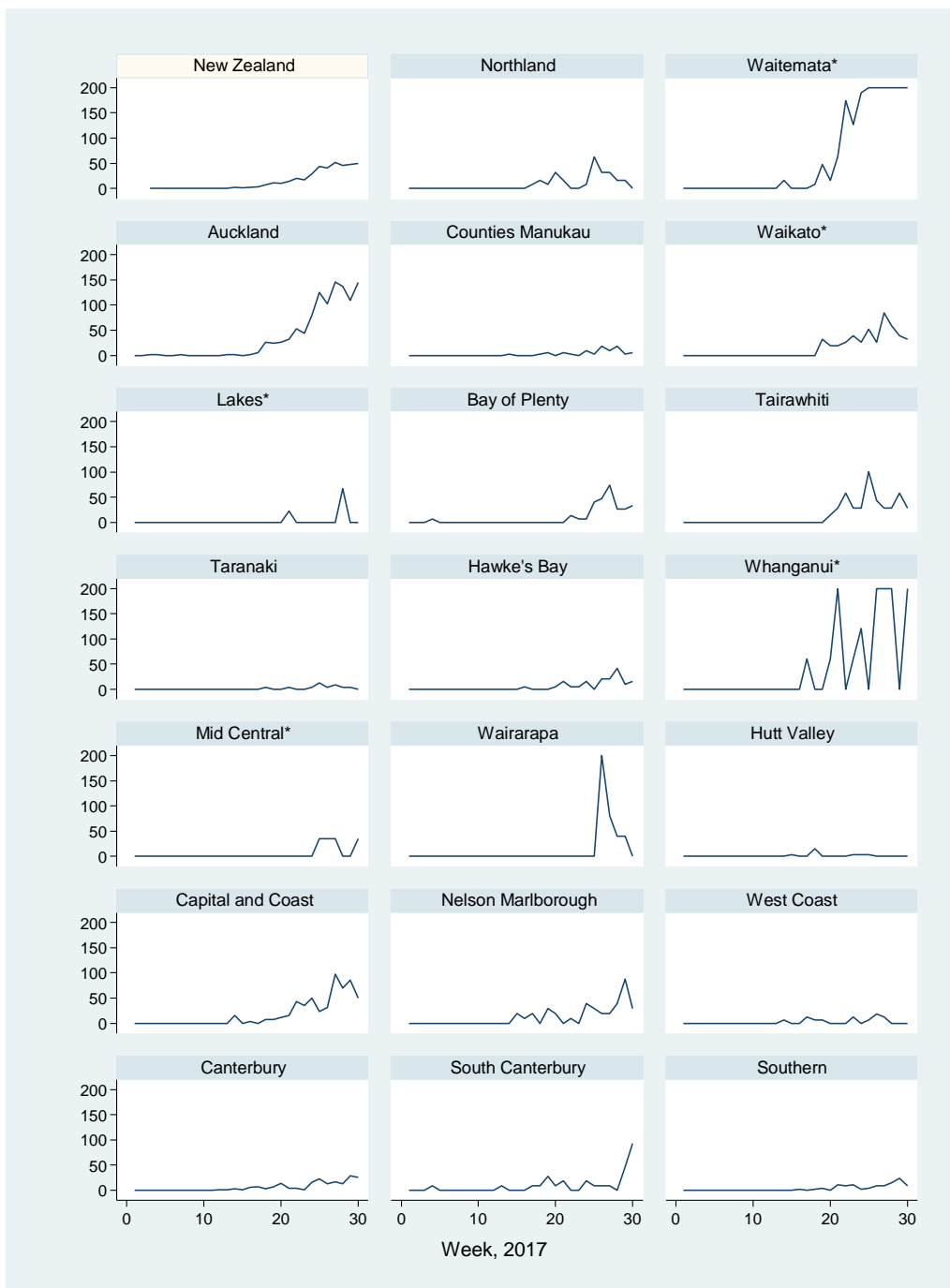


Figure 5 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Waitemata (395.5 per 100 000, 50 cases), Whanganui (361.4 per 100 000, 6 cases), and Auckland (144.4 per 100 000, 82 cases) DHBs had the highest consultation rates.

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 1638 ILI cases were identified. This gives a cumulative ILI incidence of 398.4 per 100 000 patient population (Table 1). Among the 1334 tested ILI cases, 662 (49.6%) were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related (adjusted) influenza incidence of 197.7 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	1638	662	49.6 (100.0)	398.4	197.7
Age group (years)					
<1	18	2	13.3 (0.3)	272.3	36.3
1–4	113	29	30.2 (4.4)	461.0	139.3
5–19	420	212	62.9 (32.0)	496.4	312.3
20–34	267	97	43.1 (14.7)	310.8	134.0
35–49	401	160	50.0 (24.2)	489.2	244.6
50–64	283	113	48.7 (17.1)	385.9	188.0
65–79	117	39	42.9 (5.9)	286.5	122.8
>80	19	10	55.6 (1.5)	142.2	79.0
Unknown	0	0	0.0		
Ethnicity					
Māori	176	66	46.2 (10.0)	309.3	142.7
Pacific peoples	77	33	53.2 (5.0)	257.5	137.1
Asian	177	96	59.6 (14.5)	590.7	352.2
European and Other	1206	467	48.3 (70.5)	410.7	198.3
Unknown	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Sex					
Female	900	356	49.3 (53.8)	421.7	207.9
Male	737	306	50.0 (46.2)	372.8	186.4
Unknown	1	0	0.0		

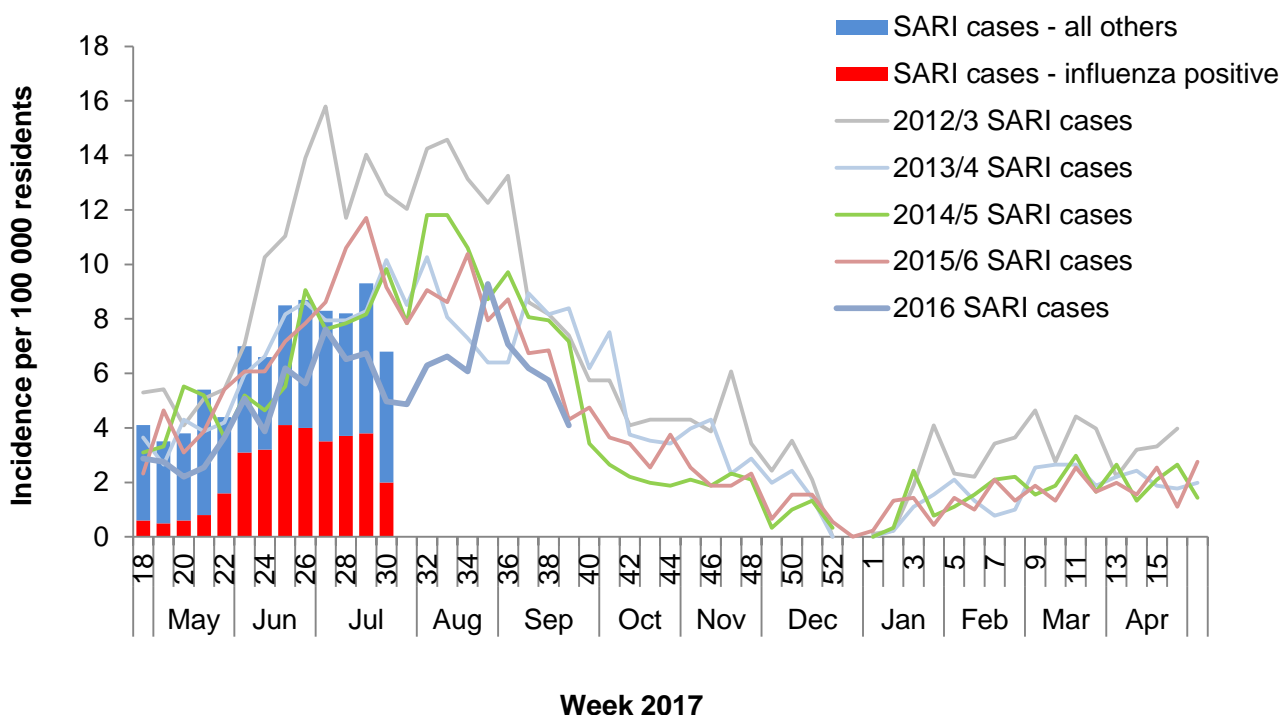
¹Proportion of cases tested which were positive for influenza viruses

²Adjusted to positivity of tested cases

Severe acute respiratory illness (SARI)

There were 2734 acute admissions to ADHB and CMDHB hospitals during week 30, ending 30 July 2017. A total of 131 patients with acute respiratory illness were assessed in these hospitals. Of these, 80 (61.1%) patients met the SARI case definition. Three cases were admitted to ICU and no SARI related deaths were reported this week. Of the 51 tested residents with SARI, 15 were positive for influenza viruses, giving a SARI related influenza incidence of 2.0 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 1003 SARI cases were identified. This gives a SARI proportion of 27.3 per 1000 acute hospitalisations (Table 2). Sixty-seven SARI cases have been admitted to ICU and 11 SARI related deaths were reported during this period.

Of the 1003 SARI cases, 766 were ADHB and CMDHB residents, giving a SARI incidence of 84.6 per 100 000 population (Table 2). Among the 701 tested SARI cases who were ADHB and CMDHB residents, 261 (37.2%) had positive influenza virus results. This gives a SARI (adjusted) related influenza incidence of 31.5 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	36786	1987	1003 (50.5)	27.3	279 (37.3)	766	84.6	261	31.5
Age group (years)									
<1	1348		153	113.5	16 (12.3)	140	1036.6	15	130.7
1–4	2583		108	41.8	21 (23.1)	100	189.1	20	45.0
5–19	4379		57	13.0	13 (28.3)	47	24.4	10	6.3
20–34	6870		53	7.7	23 (45.1)	52	24.9	23	11.5
35–49	5406		62	11.5	24 (41.4)	59	30.9	23	12.9
50–64	6299		117	18.6	62 (54.4)	114	75.7	60	40.9
65–79	5982		152	25.4	63 (43.2)	145	198.4	58	82.8
>80	3919		113	28.8	54 (50.0)	109	465.2	52	232.6
Unknown	0		188			0		0	
Ethnicity									
Māori	5048		156	30.9	33 (23.2)	138	138.7	31	34.4
Pacific peoples	7891		281	35.6	92 (36.4)	274	198.6	87	70.2
Asian	6072		71	11.7	28 (43.1)	68	32.3	27	13.6
European and Other	17536		307	17.5	123 (43.3)	286	71.2	116	31.1
Unknown	239		188	786.6		0		0	
Hospitals									
ADHB	21532	784	509 (64.9)	23.6	140 (43.5)	319	73.1	127	32.5
CMDHB	15254	1203	494 (41.1)	32.4	139 (32.6)	447	95.3	134	30.8
Sex									
Female	19463		445	22.9	153 (37.7)	413	88.8	145	34.0
Male	17320		368	21.2	122 (36.3)	351	79.7	115	28.6
Unknown	3		190			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 30, 157 ILI specimens were tested; 77 were positive for influenza viruses. In addition, 55 SARI specimens were tested; 15 were positive for influenza viruses.

Since 1 May 2017, 1318 ILI specimens were tested, 661 (50.2%) were positive for influenza with the following viruses. In addition, 849 SARI specimens were tested, 309 (36.4%) 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	1318	849	152	14
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	661 (50.2)	309 (36.4)	19 (12.5)	5 (35.7)
Influenza A	400	233	11	2
A (not subtyped)	16	90	5	1
A(H1N1)pdm09	40	20	1	0
A(H1N1)pdm09 by PCR	26	18	1	0
A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09 - like	14	2	0	0
A(H3N2)	344	123	5	1
A(H3N2) by PCR	317	123	5	1
A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2) - like	27	0	0	0
Influenza B	261	76	8	3
B (lineage not determined)	13	43	6	2
B/Yamagata lineage	236	33	2	1
B/Yamagata lineage by PCR	107	19	2	1
B/Phuket/3073/2013 - like	129	14	0	0
B/Victoria lineage	12	0	0	0
B/Victoria lineage by PCR	12	0	0	0
B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like	0	0	0	0
Influenza and non-influenza co-detection (% +ve)	32 (4.8)	13 (4.2)	2 (10.5)	1 (20.0)

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)

Note: Antigenic characterization of the current A(H3N2) viruses have been technically challenging because many viruses had low or undetectable haemagglutination activity. This phenomenon has been well recognized globally and documented in WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/254756/1/WER9211.pdf?ua=1>

Non-influenza respiratory pathogens

Since 1 May 2017, 1262 ILI specimens were tested for non-influenza viruses, 237 (18.8%) were positive with the following viruses. Six hundred and sixty-three SARI specimens were tested for non-influenza viruses, 192 (29.0%) 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	1262	663	95	16
No. of positive specimens (%) ¹	237 (18.8)	192 (29.0)	56 (58.9)	1 (6.3)
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	65	104	26	1
Parainfluenza 1 (PIV1)	3	0	0	0
Parainfluenza 2 (PIV2)	22	8	2	0
Parainfluenza 3 (PIV3)	27	9	4	0
Rhinovirus (RV)	87	70	28	0
Adenovirus (AdV)	25	21	6	0
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	10	10	2	0
Enterovirus	14	9	4	0
Single virus detection (% of positives)	223 (94.1)	157 (81.8)	42 (75.0)	0 (-)
Multiple virus detection (% of positives)	14 (5.9)	35 (18.2)	14 (25.0)	0 (-)

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

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

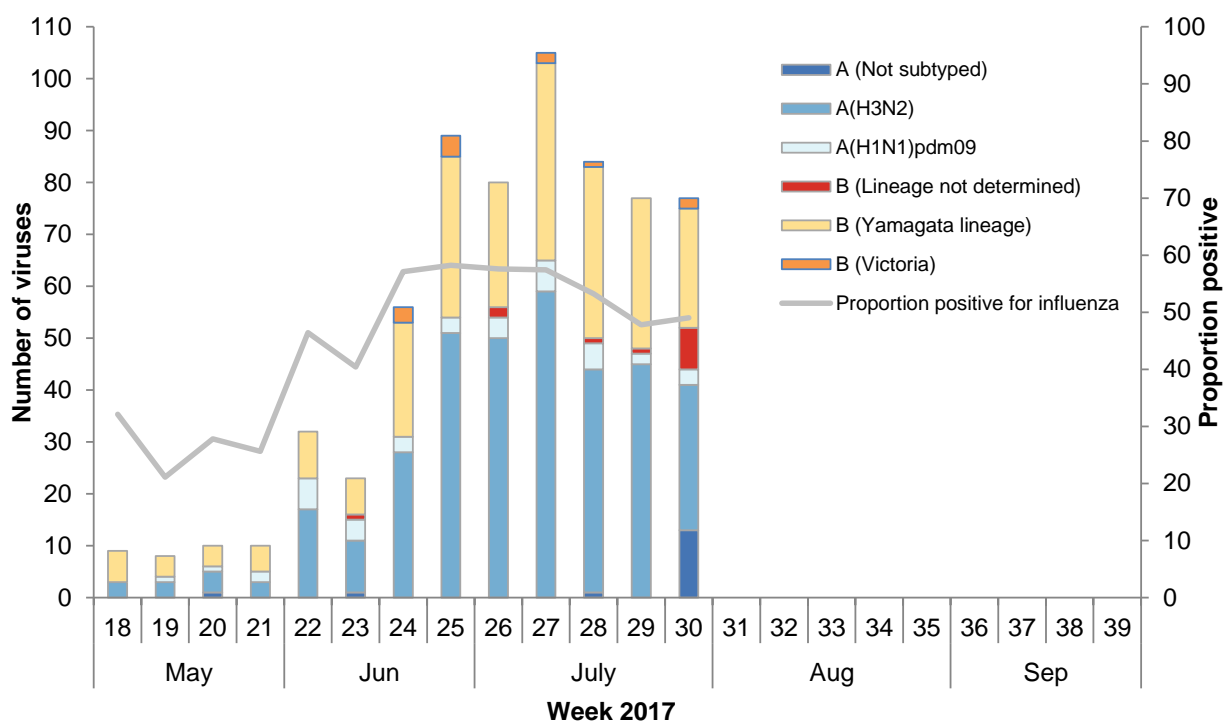


Figure 8. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of influenza viruses from SARI specimens by type and week¹

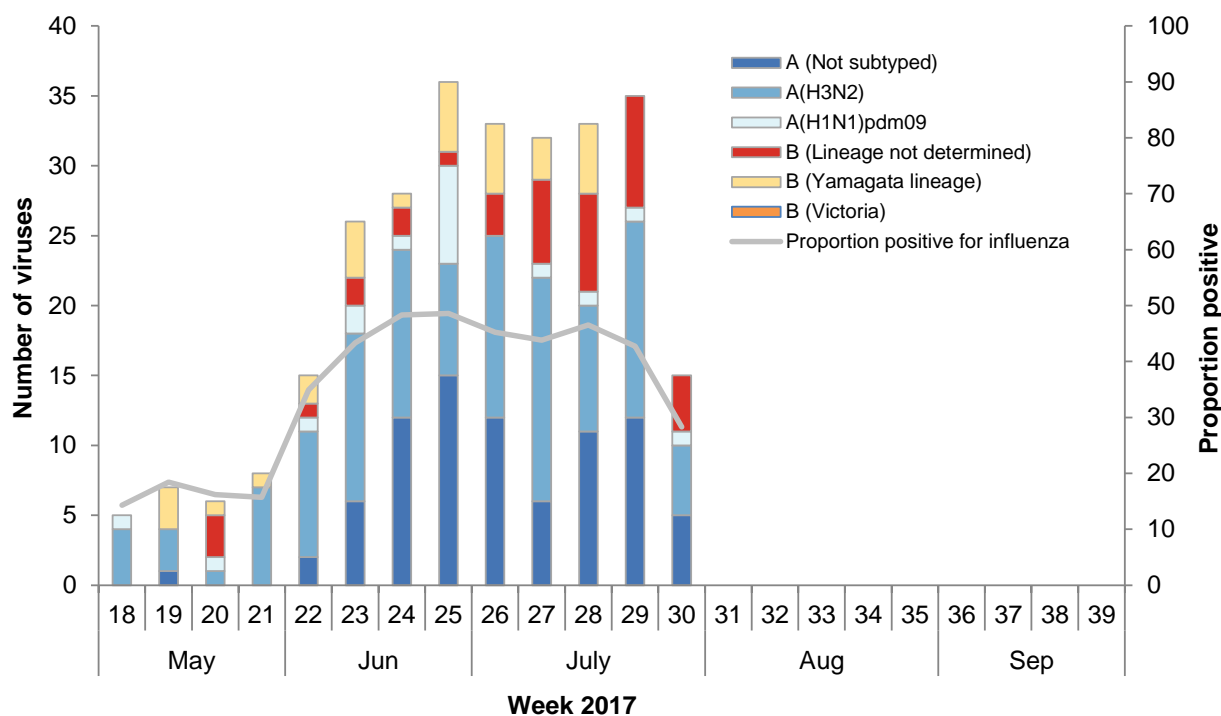




Figure 9. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of non-influenza viruses from ILI specimens by type and week¹

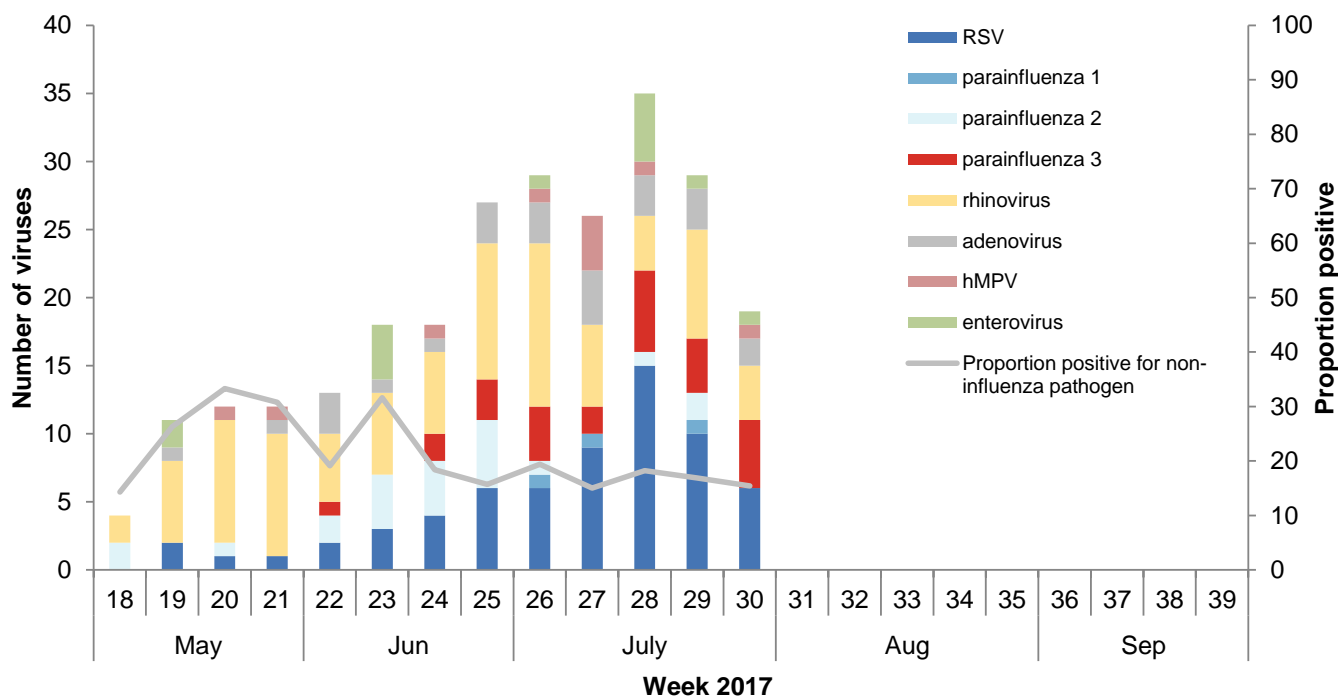
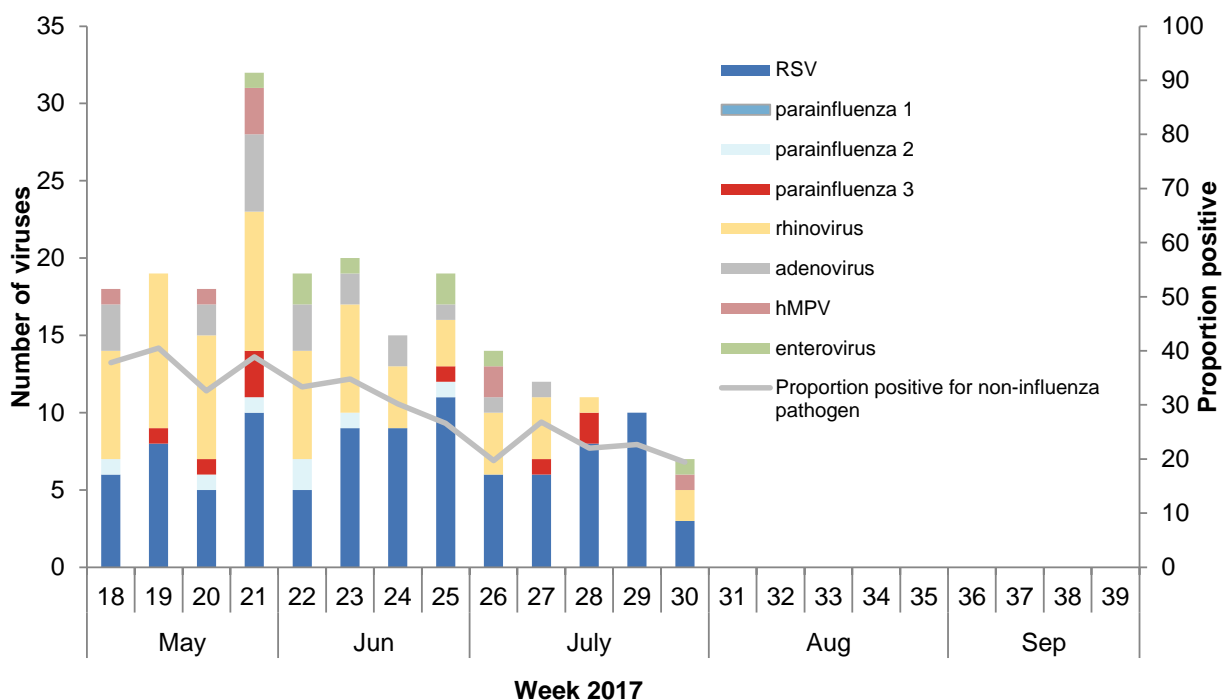


Figure 10. Temporal distribution of the number and proportion of non-influenza viruses from SARI specimens by type and week¹



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 1–30, 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	29	30	
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	62	82	
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	4	5	
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	20	18	
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	22	13	
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	1	2	
Hawke's Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	3	0	4	4	8	2	3
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	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	0	0	
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	0	1	
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	9	3	
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	2	0	
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	5	10	
Southern	0	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	11	4	
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	4	2	
Taranaki	0	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	1	0	
Waikato	0	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	6	5	
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	1	0	
Waitemata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	8	22	16	24	44	41	37	30	44	50	
West Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	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	0	6	
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	194	204	



Table 6. Influenza-like illness rate by DHB by week 1–30, 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	29	30	
Auckland	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	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	109.2	144.4	
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	0.0	13.5	6.7	6.7	40.4	47.1	74.1	26.9	26.9	33.7	
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	28.4	25.6	
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	85.7	50.6	
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	3.0	6.0	
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	10.4	15.7	
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	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	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	0.0	22.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.8	0.0	0.0
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	35.5	35.5	35.5	0.0	0.0	35.5	
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	87.7	29.2	
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	15.7	0.0	
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	46.4	92.8	
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	24.0	8.7	
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	0.0	14.4	28.9	57.7	28.9	28.9	101.0	43.3	28.9	28.9	57.7	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	4.4	0.0	
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	39.0	32.5	
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	40.0	0.0	
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	348.0	395.5	
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	0.0	6.3	19.0	12.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	0.0	361.4	
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	47.2	49.6	

*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.

This weekly report is compiled by ESR. For more information please contact:

Tim Wood: T:+64 4 529 0611; E: Tim.Wood@esr.cri.nz

Liza Lopez: T:+64 4 914 0647; E: Liza.Lopez@esr.cri.nz

Sue Huang: T:+64 4 529 0606; E: Sue.Huang@esr.cri.nz