

VIROLOGY Quarterly report (January to March 2004)

RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

Influenza virus

During January to March 2004, seven isolations of influenza viruses were reported from Auckland (4), Canterbury (2) and Wellington (1). Influenza isolations in 2004 were lower compared with 4 isolations of influenza viruses during the same period in 2003. All influenza viruses were typed as A. Of these, four influenza A isolates were further subtyped as A/Moscow/10/99 (H3N2)-like viruses. The 2003 influenza vaccines should provide reasonable protection against current circulating influenza strains.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Rhinoviruses

During January to March 2004, seven cases of respiratory syncytial viruses were reported from Auckland (1), Waikato (1), Wellington (2) and Christchurch (3). The RSV infections in 2004 were higher compared with one case of RSV infection during the same period in 2003. Two isolations of rhinoviruses were reported from Auckland (1) and Waikato (1). The rhinovirus isolations in 2004 were lower compared with 11 isolations of rhinoviruses during the same period in 2003.

ADENOVIRUSES AND ENTEROVIRUSES

Adenoviruses

During January to March 2004, a total of 29 adenoviruses were reported. This was lower than 46 adenovirus isolations during the same period of 2003. Adenovirus type 2 (7) and type 3 (7) were co-predominant serotypes. In addition, 14 adenoviruses were serotyped as adenovirus type 1 (2), type 4 (1), type 5 (2), type 6 (1), type 7 (1), type 8 (2), type 9 (1), type 11 (1), type 15 (1) and type 29 (2).

Enteroviruses

During January to March 2004, a total of 29 enteroviruses were reported. This is slightly higher than 27 enterovirus isolations during the same period of 2003. Eleven isolations of coxsackie A type 9 were reported from Waikato (5), Auckland (3), Northland (1) and Canterbury (2). The first isolation was from a nasal swab taken from 6 month old boy from the Waikato region. The patients ranged in age from 1 month to 41 years old (mean 10 years). The male to female ratio was 1.75. The clinical symptoms ranged from respiratory illness, gastroenteritis, fever, lesion and aseptic meningitis. In addition, 12 enteroviruses were serotyped as Coxsackie B3 (1), Coxsackie A8 (2), Echovirus 6 (3), Echovirus 9 (4), Echovirus 30 (1) and enterovirus 71 (1).