

VIROLOGY Quarterly report (April to June 2004)

RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

Influenza virus

During April to June 2004, 10 isolations of influenza viruses were reported. This is significantly lower compared with 184 isolations of influenza viruses during the same period in 2003. Nine influenza viruses were typed as A and one as B. Of these influenza A, seven were further subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like viruses. The 2004 influenza vaccines should provide good protection against current circulating influenza strains.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Rhinoviruses and parainfluenza viruses

During April to June 2004, 110 cases of respiratory syncytial viruses were reported. This is much higher compared with 53 cases of RSV infections during the same period in 2003. Twenty-three isolations of rhinoviruses were reported which is higher than 14 isolations of rhinoviruses during the same period in 2003. A total of 15 parainfluenza viruses were reported with parainfluenza type 1 (12), type 2 (1) and type 3 (2).

ADENOVIRUSES AND ENTEROVIRUSES

Adenoviruses

During April to June 2004, a total of 57 adenoviruses were reported. This was higher than 45 adenovirus isolations during the same period of 2003. Adenovirus type 4 was the predominant serotype. A total of 29 adenoviruses were serotyped as adenovirus type 1 (4), type 2 (4), type 3 (4), type 4 (6), type 5 (1), type 8 (1), type 10 (2), type 13 (1), type 14 (1), type 17 (2), type 19 (2), type 26 (1).

Enteroviruses

During April to June 2004, a total of 42 enteroviruses were reported. This is higher than 21 enterovirus isolations during the same period of 2003. Five isolations of enterovirus type 71 were reported from Auckland (5) (Virology weekly report, Week 18, 2004, available at <http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/virology/php>). In addition, 21 enteroviruses were serotyped as Coxsackie B4 (3), Coxsackie B5 (2), Coxsackie A9 (2), Coxsackie A10 (1), Coxsackie A24 (1), Echovirus 9 (1), Echovirus 11 (4), Echovirus 24 (1) and Echovirus 30 (6).