

VIROLOGY Quarterly report (October to December 2004)

RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

Influenza virus

In October 2004, A total of 117 influenza viruses were reported from sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance. Of these, 61 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 28 as influenza B (not typed), 19 as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), and 9 as B/Sichuan/379/99. In November 2004, seven influenza A and 14 influenza B isolations were reported. No influenza viruses were isolated in December 2004. The 2004 annual influenza report can be accessed at

http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_annual_report.php

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Rhinoviruses and parainfluenza viruses

During October to December 2004, 23 cases of respiratory syncytial virus were reported. This is lower compared with 76 cases of RSV infections during the same period in 2003. Forty-one rhinoviruses were reported which is higher than 19 isolations during the same period in 2003. A total of 49 parainfluenza viruses were reported with parainfluenza type 1 (12), type 2 (2) and type 3 (35).

ADENOVIRUSES AND ENTEROVIRUSES

Adenoviruses

During October to December 2004, a total of 119 adenoviruses were reported. This was much higher than 58 adenovirus isolations during the same period in 2003. Using adenovirus antisera 1-31 and 41, a total of 113 adenoviruses were serotyped as adenovirus type 1 (5), type 2 (18), type 3 (28), type 4 (2), type 5 (4), type 8 (3), type 10 (18), type 11 (2), type 14 (2), type 15 (1), type 19 (1), type 23 (1), type 25 (1), type 41 (3) and untypeable (24). The number of untypeable adenoviruses (24) in 2004 is much higher, compared with 4 during the same period in 2003. Among these isolates, 11 out of 24 showed partial neutralisation with adenovirus antisera 10, 13 and 19. Some of these isolates were forwarded to CDC-Atlanta for further characterisations. The molecular typing results from CDC indicated that they were adenovirus type 37 (Ad 37). Ad 37 can cause epidemic keratoconjunctivitis (EKC) that is a highly contagious and more serious disease. Ad 37 was first isolated in 1976 in the Netherlands as a newly identified serotype and has been recognised as an important causative agent of keratoconjunctivitis. The Ad 37 outbreak is still ongoing and a summary report on this outbreak will be issued in the future.

Enteroviruses

During October to December 2004, a total of 90 enteroviruses were reported. This is much higher than 30 enteroviruses reported during the same period in 2003. A total of 36 enteroviruses were forwarded to ESR for further serotyping. The serotypes were Coxsackie B1 (5), Coxsackie B4 (1), Coxsackie B5 (6), Coxsackie B6 (1), Coxsackie A8 (2), Coxsackie A16 (1), Echovirus 5 (8), Echovirus 11 (1), and Echovirus 30 (11). Echovirus 30 was the predominant serotype among the typed isolates.