

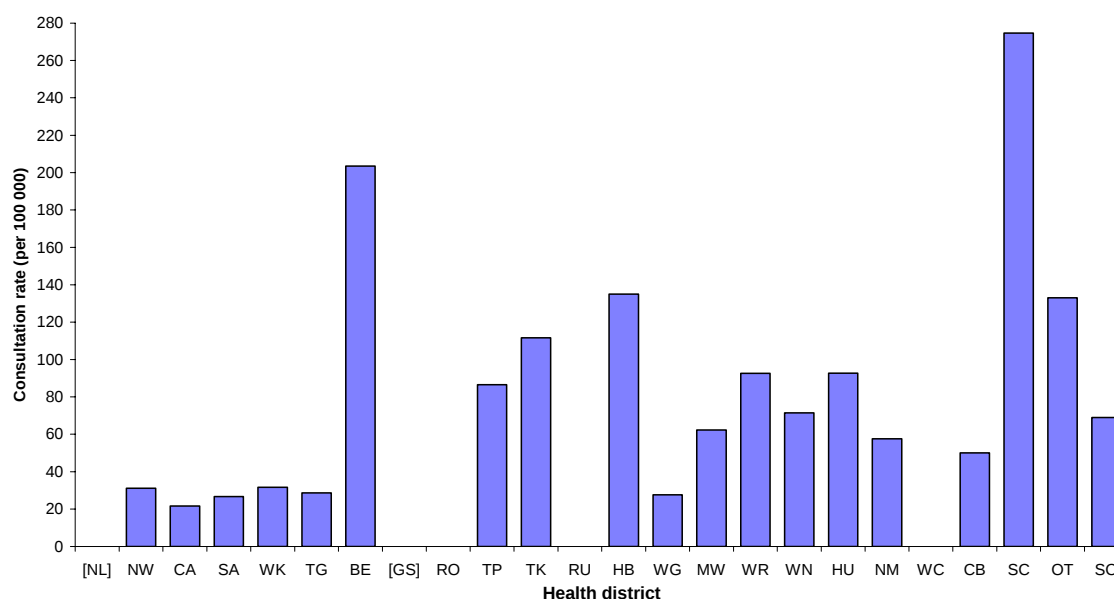
INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/31: 28 July - 03 August 2007

In the past week, a total of 254 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 83 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 69.9 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (274.7 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (203.5 per 100 000).

Figure 1. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 3 August 2007



*Health districts not participating in the influenza surveillance

Fifty swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Sixty-four swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 18 influenza viruses were isolated, six as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), five as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, five as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, and two as B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Antigenic Strain	WK	TG	HB	WR	WN	CB	SC	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	6
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	5
A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) -like	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	5
B (not antigenically typed)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	1	1	5	1	3	6	1	18

In addition, 35 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Twenty nine were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as B/Shanghai/361/2002- like and five as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	CA	WK	HB	CB	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	3	5	21	29
B (not antigenically typed)	0	0	0	5	5
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	1	0	0	0	1
Total	1	3	5	26	35

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 31, 03 August 2007. A total of 257 influenza viruses were identified, 113 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 85 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, two as A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) – like two as A(H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed, 16 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 29 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), seven as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and one as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

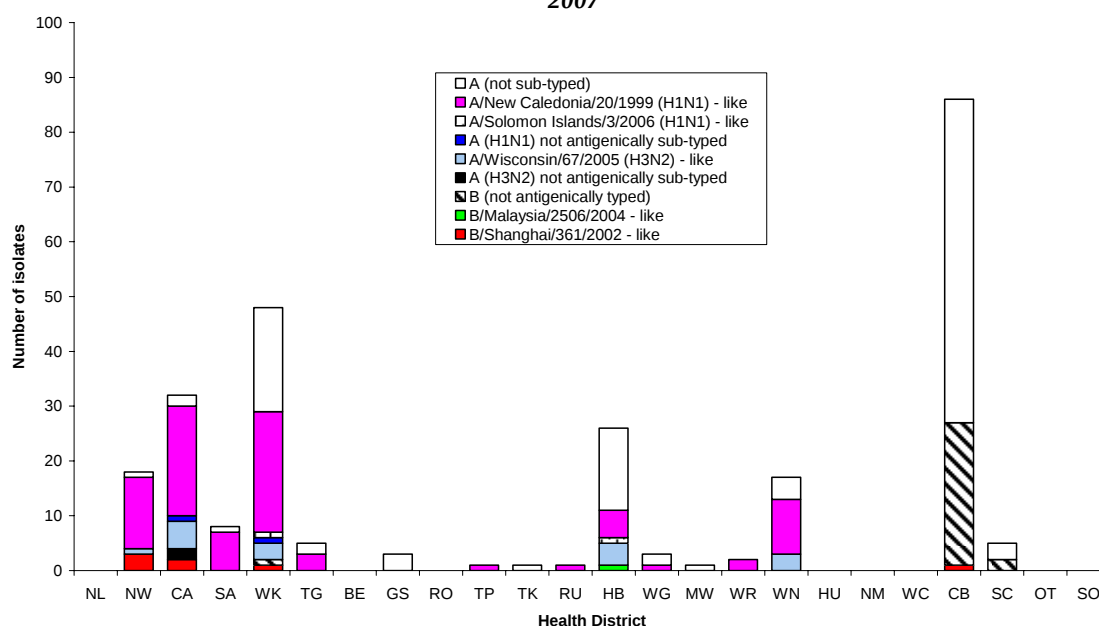
Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 03 August 2007

Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2005, 2006 and 2007

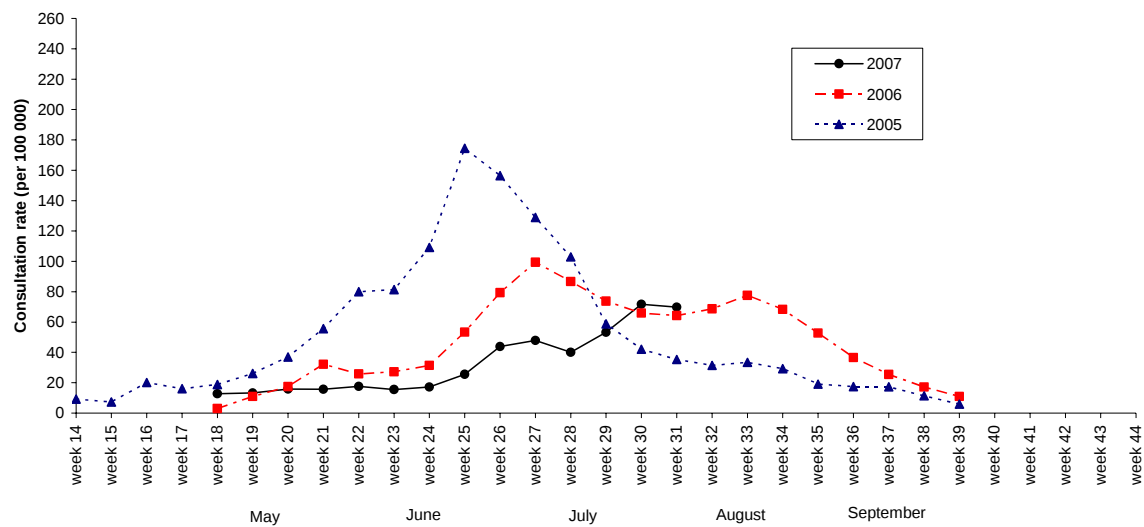
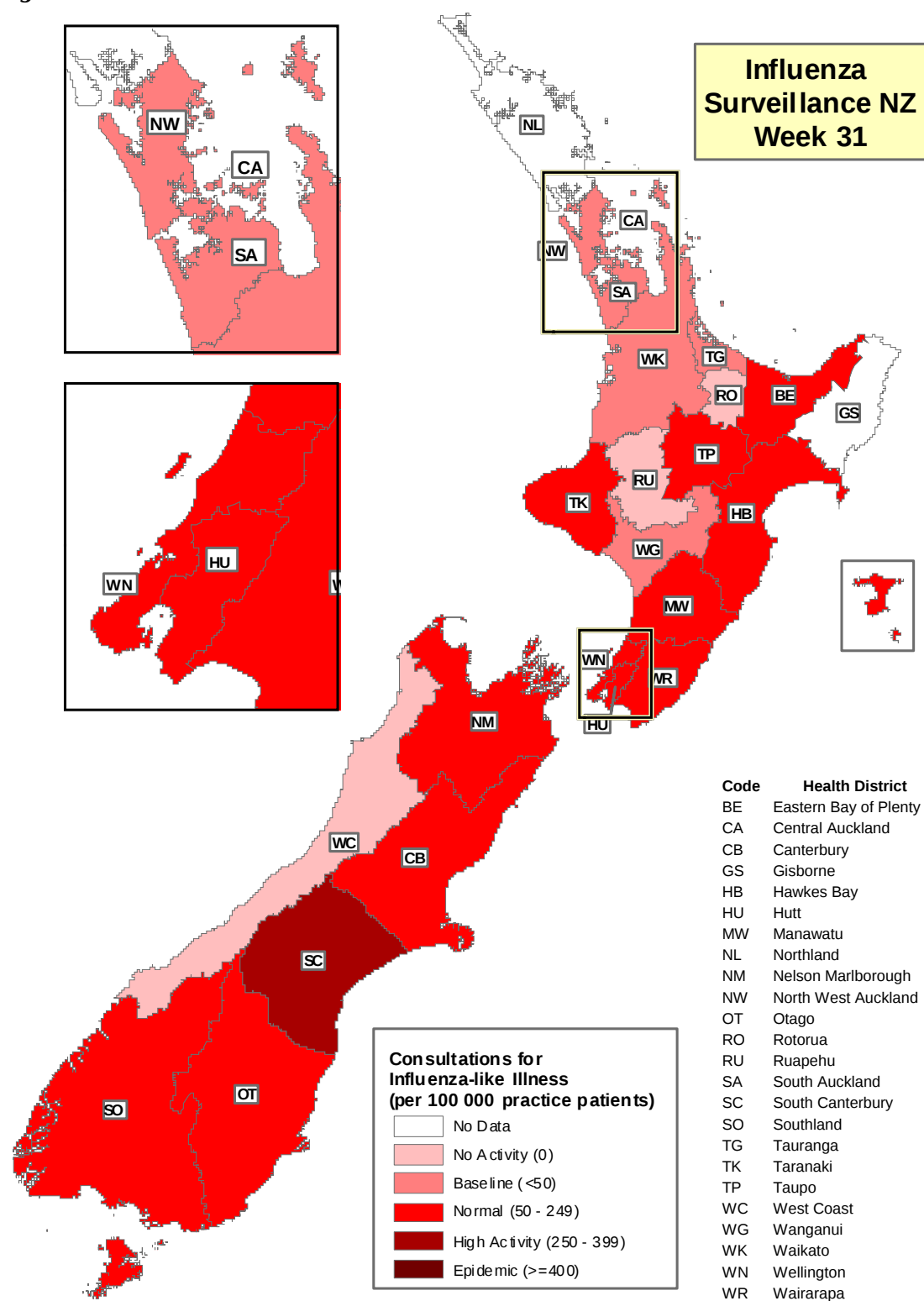


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 31, 2007.

Figure 4



The threshold used to describe the influenza-like activity can be referred in New Zealand Public Health Report 2001, 8 (1): 9-12 "Influenza surveillance and immunisation in New Zealand, 1990-1999"

Compiled by: Lisa McCallum
Population and Environmental Health
ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
PO Box 50 348
PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0700
fax: 04 914-0770
email: lisa.mccallum@esr.cri.nz