## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY - MAY 2009

During May (weeks 18 - 22), 420 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices (on average) in all 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for May was 23.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during May. Wellington had the highest consultation rate (61.9 per 100 000, 61 cases), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (50.9 per 100 000, 4 cases) and Central Auckland (36.6 per 100 000, 57 cases).



Figure 1: Average monthly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district, May 2009

A total of 156 swabs were sent for testing during May from sentinel surveillance. Two hundred and forty-six influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 10 influenza viruses were identified, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (4), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (3), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (2), and B (not antigenically typed) (1). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Tuble IV Schemer mitueliza (in uses by ficatori District								
Antigenic Strain	WK	TG	BE	WG	MW	WN	HU	Total
A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) - like virus	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Seasonal A H1N1 by PCR	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4
Seasonal A H3N2 by PCR	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	10

Table 1: Sentinel influenza viruses by Health District

In addition, 26 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (11), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (8), A (yet to be sub-typed) (4), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (2), and B (not antigenically typed) (1). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	СА	SA	WK	СВ	Total
A (not antigenically sub-typed)	4	0	0	0	4
A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus	0	0	1	1	2
B (not typed)	1	0	0	0	1
Seasonal A H1N1 by PCR	2	1	6	2	11
Seasonal A H3N2 by PCR	7	0	0	1	8
Total	14	1	7	4	26

Table 2:	Laboratory	-based i	influenza	viruses b	v Health	District
					•/	

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for May 2009. A total of  $36^1$  isolates were identified, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (15), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (10), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (5), A (yet to be sub-typed) (4) and B (not antigenically typed) (2).



Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, May 2009

Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 22, May 2009 and rates in 2008 and 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data based on date specimen taken.



Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2007, 2008 and 2009

Compiled by: Liza Lopez Population and Environmental Health ESR Kenepuru Science Centre PO Box 50 348, PORIRUA Tel : 04 914 0647 Fax: 04 978 6690 Email:liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz

Dr. Sue Huang WHO National Influenza Centre ESR Wallaceville Science Centre PO Box 40158, Upper Hutt