

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2013/34: 19–25 August 2013

The national influenza surveillance system in New Zealand is an essential public health component for assessing and implementing strategies to control influenza. This report summarises the data collected from sentinel general practice (GP) surveillance and non-sentinel surveillance for week 34 (19–25 August 2013).

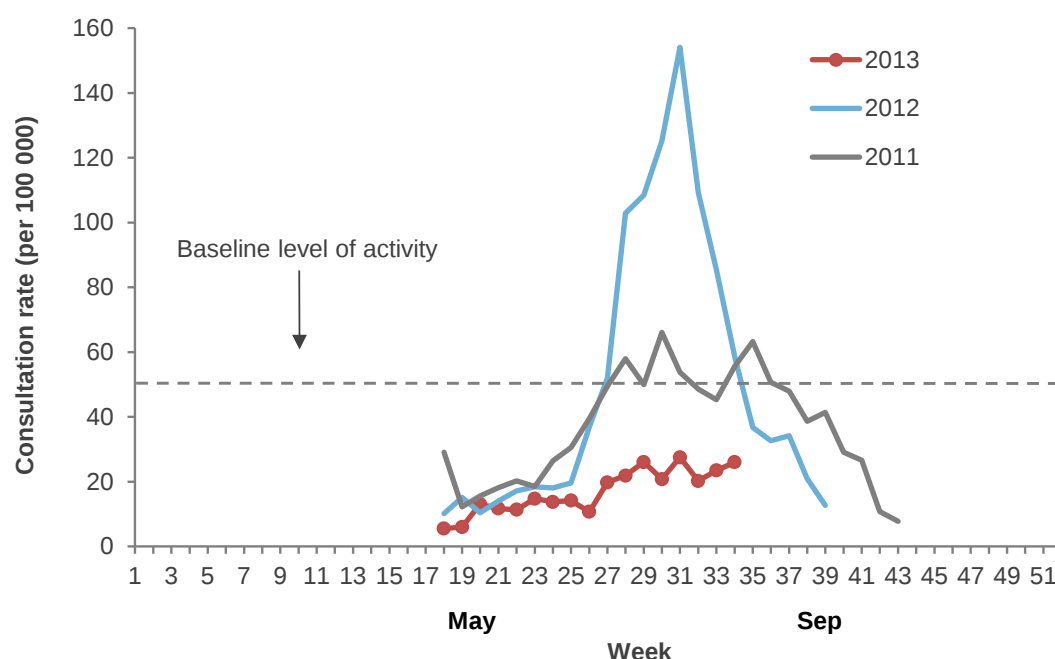
Summary

- ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 18 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 26.0 per 100 000 (97 ILI consultations).
- A total of 301 swabs were received from sentinel (15) and non-sentinel (286) surveillance.
- 87 influenza viruses were identified: B (46) including 12 B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like viruses, A (not sub-typed) (25), A(H3N2) (9) including two A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like viruses, and A(H1N1)pdm09 (7) including two A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like viruses.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

In the past week, a total of 97 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 67 general practices in 18 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 26.0 per 100 000 patient population. Figure 1 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2011, 2012 seasons, and 2013 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

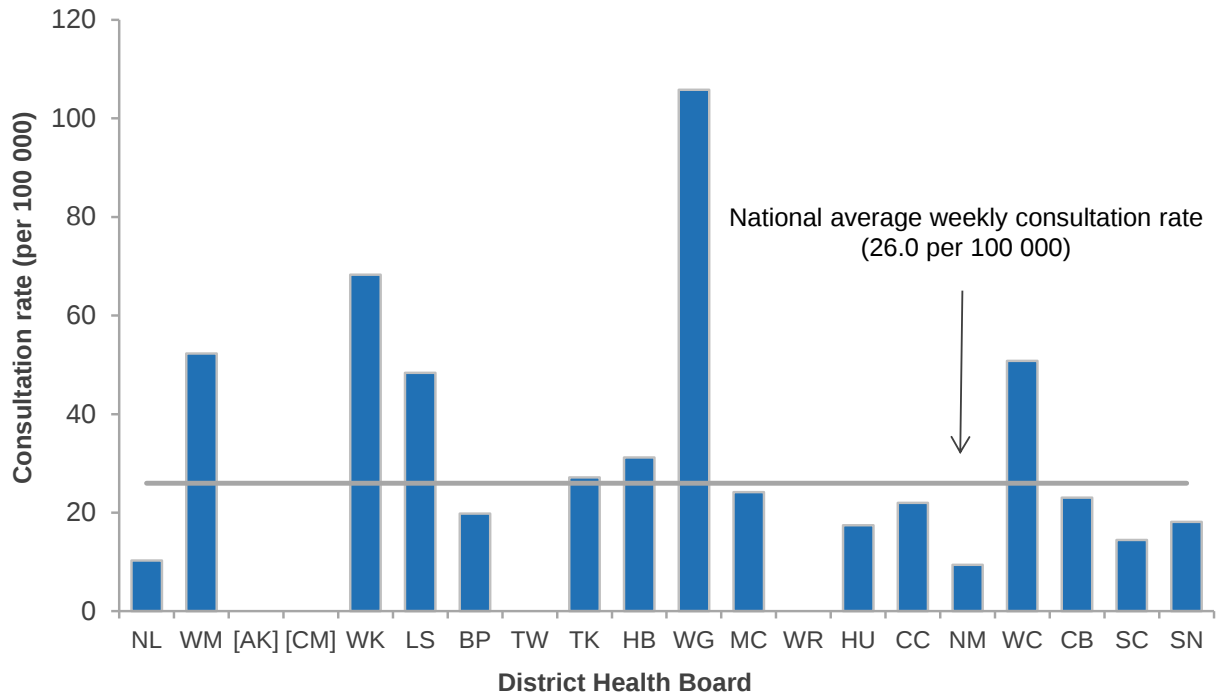
Figure 1. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2011, 2012 and 2013



* A weekly rate <50 ILI consultations per 100 000 patient population is considered baseline activity. A rate of 50–249 is considered indicative of normal seasonal influenza activity, and a rate of 250–399 indicative of higher than expected influenza activity. A rate >400 ILI consultations per 100 000 patient population indicates an epidemic level of influenza activity.

Figure 2 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Whanganui DHB had the highest consultation rate (105.8 per 100 000, 5 cases), followed by Waikato (68.3 per 100 000, 8 cases), and Waitemata (52.3 per 100 000, 7 cases).

**Figure 2. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB
week ending 25 August 2013**

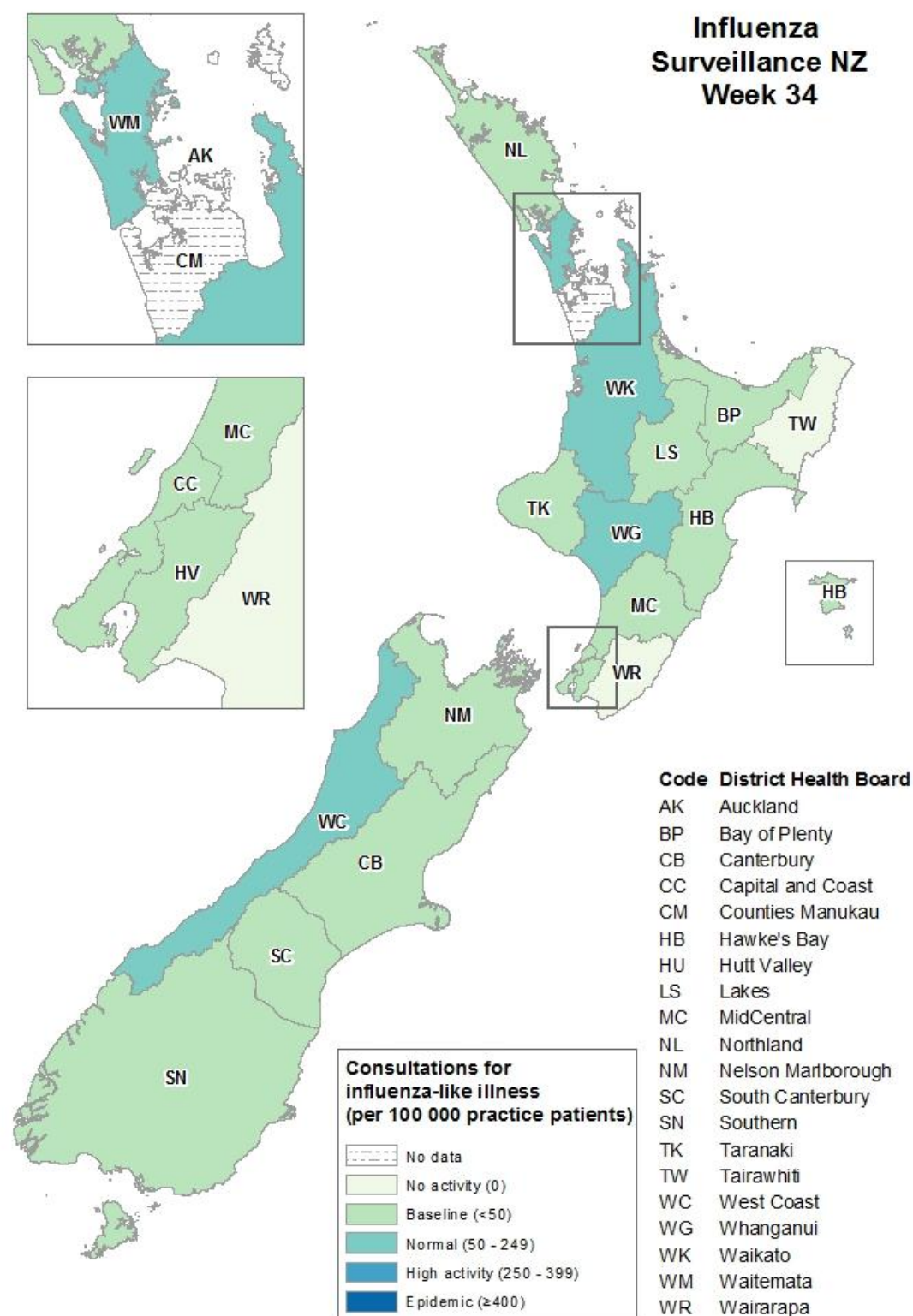


[] Not participating in the influenza sentinel surveillance.

Note: Auckland (AK) and Counties Manukau (CM) DHBs follow the Southern Hemisphere Influenza and Vaccine Effectiveness Research and Surveillance (SHIVERS) case definition which is different from this sentinel surveillance. Based on the SHIVERS weekly report, the ILI incidence for Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs for week 34 were 126.5 per 100 000 and 41.2 per 100 000 patient populations, respectively. For more details, please refer to the website:

<http://www.esr.cri.nz/competencies/shivers/Pages/SHIVERSReports.aspx>

Figure 3. Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 34, 2013



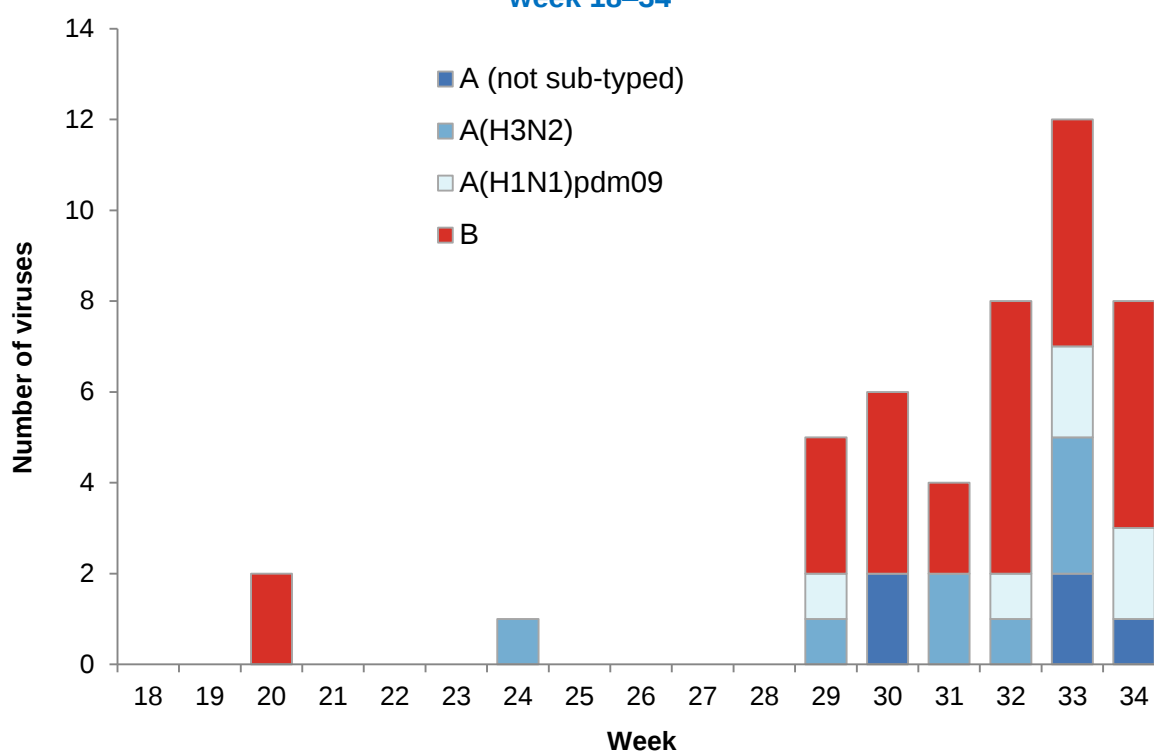
VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

A total of 15 swabs were received by virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance. Of these eight viruses were identified (Figure 4): B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (3), B (lineage not determined) (2), A(H1N1)pdm09 (2), and A (not sub-typed) (1). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance for week 34 by DHB

Antigenic strain	DHB					Total
	WK	TK	WG	MC	CB	
A (not sub-typed)	0	1	0	0	0	1
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	0	0	0	2	2
B (lineage not determined)	0	0	1	1	0	2
B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	1	1	1	2	8

Figure 4. Total influenza viruses from sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–34



In addition, 286 swabs were received by virology laboratories from non-sentinel surveillance. Of these, 79 influenza viruses were identified (Figure 5): B (lineage not determined) (32), A (not sub-typed) (24), B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (9), A(H3N2) (7), A(H1N1)pdm09 (5), and A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like (2). The distribution by DHB is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance for week 34 by DHB

Antigenic strain	DHB								Total
	WM	AK	CM	WK	BP	TK	CC	CB	
A (not sub-typed)	1	20	0	1	0	0	2	0	24
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	5
A(H3N2)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
B (lineage not determined)	0	13	1	5	0	2	10	1	32
B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
Total	1	49	1	6	2	2	12	6	79

Figure 5. Total influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance by type and week reported, week 18–34

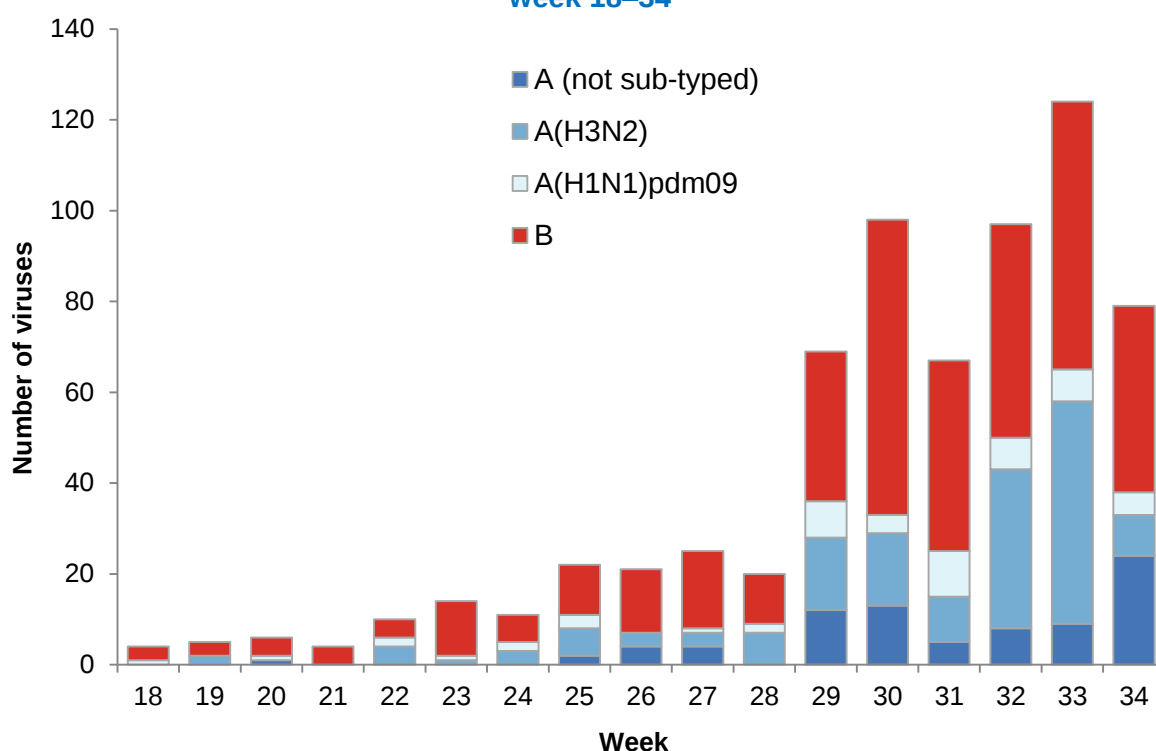
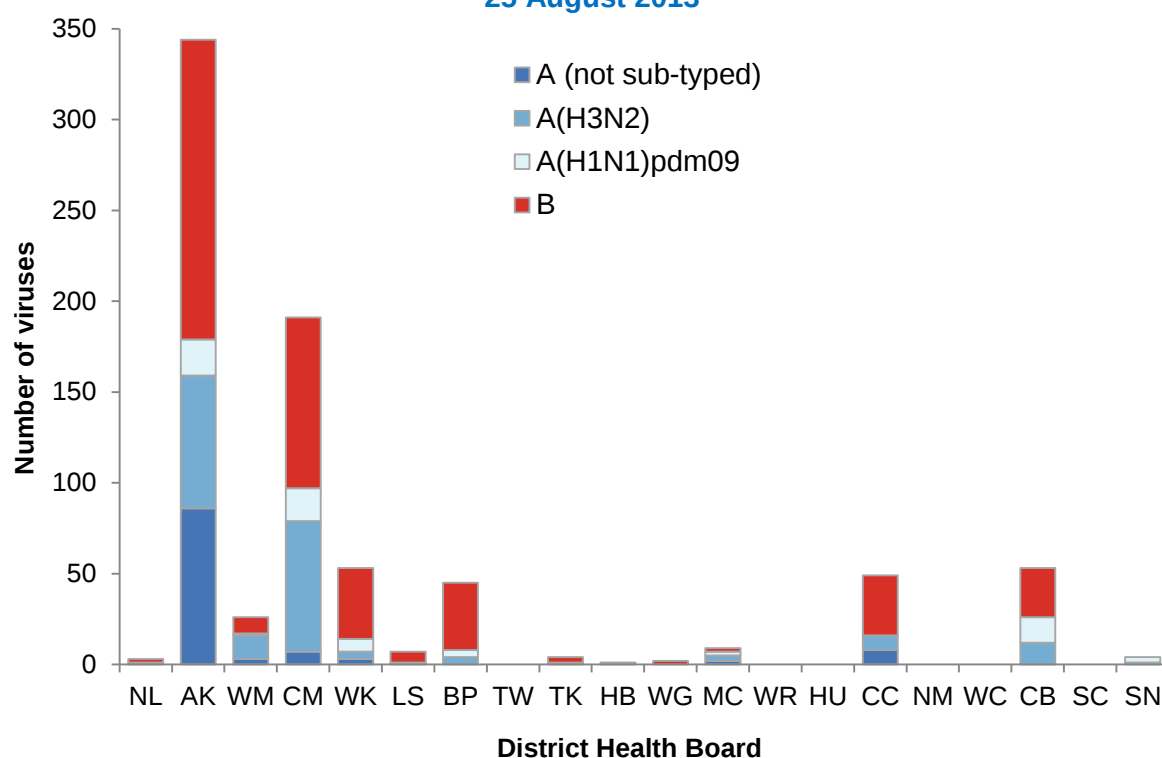


Figure 6 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance) from week 1 to the end of week 34 (25 August 2013). A total of 791 influenza viruses were identified: B (419) including 98 B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like and three of B/Brisbane/60/2008-like viruses, A(H3N2) (191) including 31 A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like viruses, A (not sub-typed) (110), and A(H1N1)pdm09 (71) including 24 A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like viruses.

The 2013 southern hemisphere winter influenza vaccine has the following composition: A/California/7/2009(H1N1)-like, A/Victoria/361/2011(H3N2)-like and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like strains.

*Note: A/California/7/2009 is an influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 strain

Figure 6. Cumulative laboratory-confirmed viruses by DHB from week 1 to week 34, 25 August 2013



Compiled by:

Liza Lopez

Health Intelligence Team

ESR Kenepuru Science Centre

PO Box 50 348, Porirua

T: 04 914 0647 F: 04 978 6690 E: liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz

Dr. Sue Huang

WHO National Influenza Centre

ESR Wallaceville Science Centre

PO Box 40158, Upper Hutt