

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2011/18: 2-8 May 2011

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 18 (2-8 May 2011).

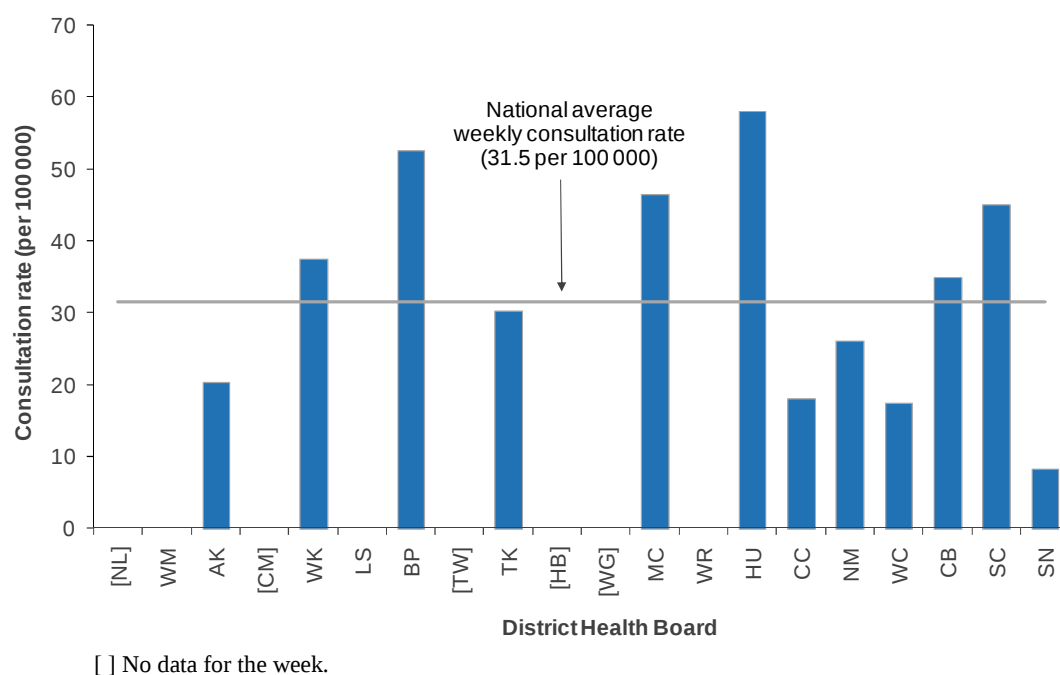
SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT:

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) through sentinel surveillance was reported from 15 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 31.5 per 100 000 (70 ILI consultations). Seventy-nine swabs were received from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance. One influenza B virus was identified from the non-sentinel surveillance.

In the past week, a total of 70 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 53 general practices in 15 out of 20 DHBs. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 31.5 per 100 000 patient population.

The graph below compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each DHB over the past week. Hutt Valley DHB had the highest consultation rate (58.0 per 100 000, 9 cases), followed by Bay of Plenty (52.7 per 100 000, 2 cases) and MidCentral (46.4 per 100 000, 8 cases).

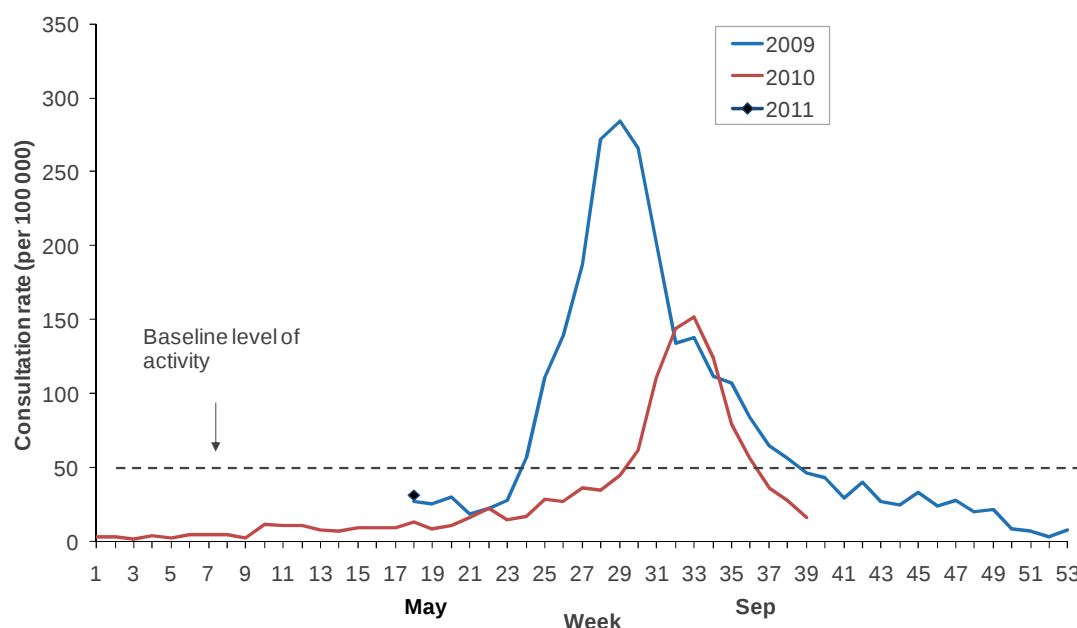
Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by DHB week ending 8 May 2011



Seventy-nine swabs were received by the virology laboratories from sentinel surveillance (22) and the non-sentinel surveillance (57). One influenza B virus was identified from Auckland DHB through the non-sentinel surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2009, 2010 seasons, and 2011 so far. The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the baseline.

Figure 2: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2009, 2010 and 2011



Note: There is only one value for 2011 (31.5 per 100 000).

* 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 3: Consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by DHB for week 18, 2011

