

# Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 12, March 20 to 26, 2017

### Editor

Dr Ibramima Socé-Fall  
Director, WHE Programme

### Editorial Board

Dr B. Impouma  
Dr Y. Zabulon  
Dr M.D. Harouna  
Dr A.A. Yahaya

### Authors

Dr. S. Rajatotonirina  
Dr. B. Herring  
Mr. C. Massidi  
Mr. A. Moussongo

During epidemiological week 12, nine laboratories in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network (Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania Mozambique and South Africa) reported influenza data. During this week 7 specimens tested positive (2.7% positivity) for influenza out of the 254 tested (261 collected), representing a significant decrease in influenza activity compared to that observed in week 11 (10% positivity) and to the same period in 2016 (11% positivity) (Figure 1). Influenza B (3 specimens) and the pandemic influenza A subtype (4 specimens) were detected during week 12. A similar distribution of circulating influenza types was observed in the region during epi week 12 in 2016.

Cumulatively, from epi weeks 1 to 12, the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network has tested 5,310 specimens, of which 8% (420 specimens) were positive for influenza virus.

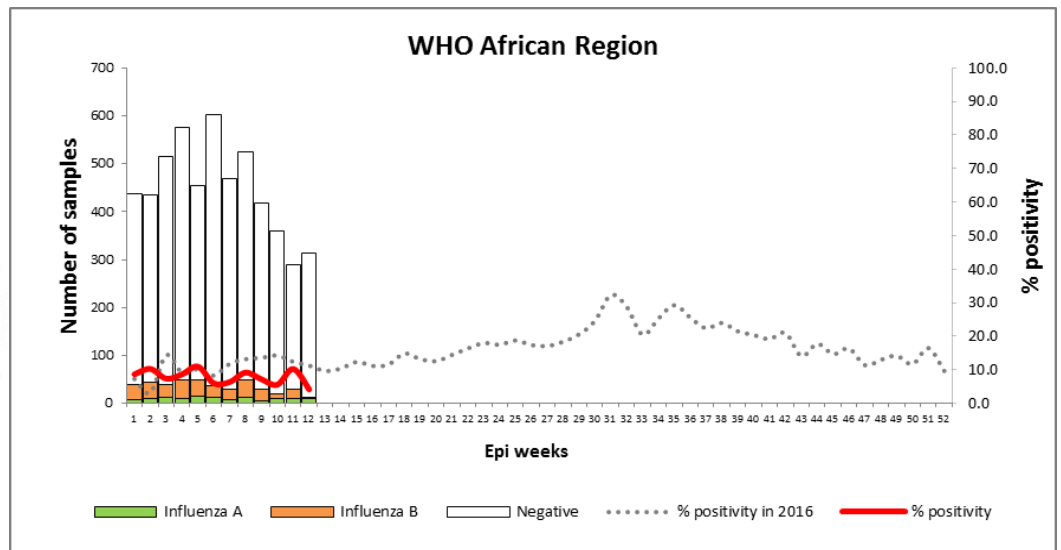
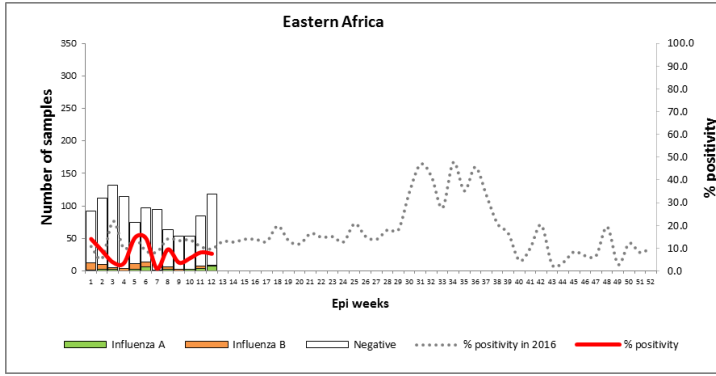


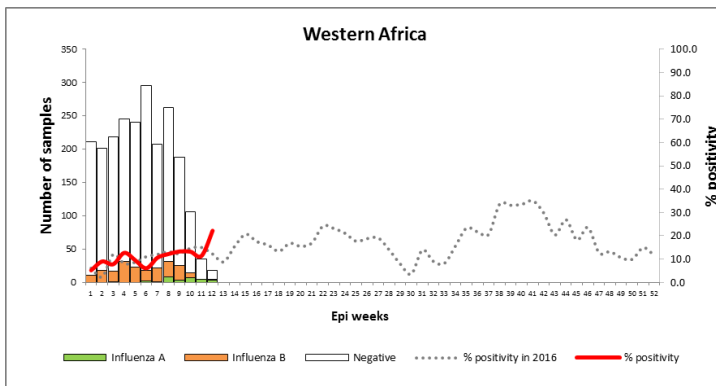
Figure 1 – Virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 12, 2017

**Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 12**



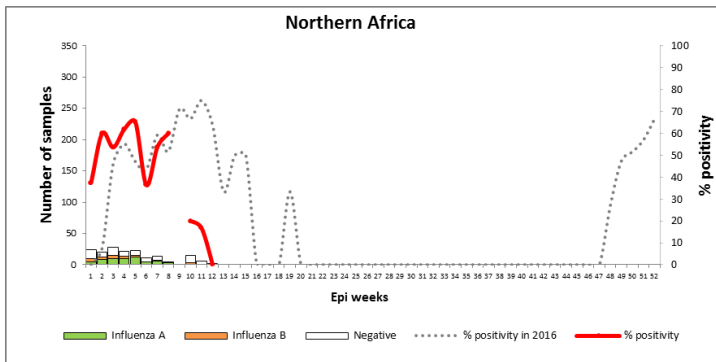
**Eastern Africa:** Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia\*, Kenya\*, Madagascar\*, Malawi, Mauritius\*, Mayotte, Mozambique\*, Rwanda\*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda\*, United Republic of Tanzania\*, Zambia\*, Zimbabwe

In week 12 influenza positivity rates in the transmission zones ranged from 0% in the Southern and Central transmission zones to over 20% in the Western transmission zone. In the Western transmission zone the positivity rate was 22% (4/18). Influenza A/H3 (3 positives) and influenza B (1 positive) constituted the positive specimens from the Western zone. In the Eastern zone the positivity rate was 4.9% (3/61). In the Eastern zone all positive specimens were influenza B.

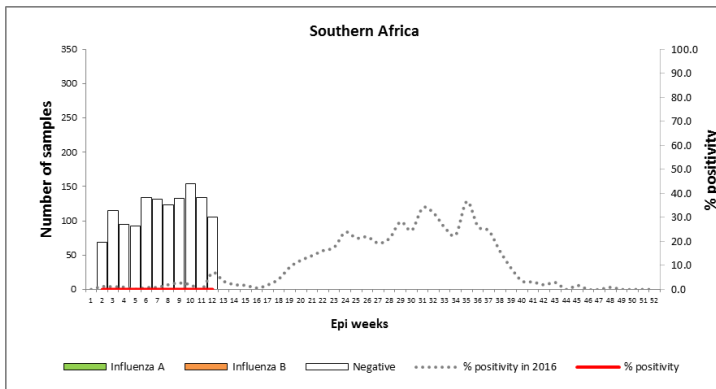


**Western Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso\*, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire\*, Gambia, Ghana\*, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali\*, Mauritania, Niger\*, Nigeria\*, Senegal\*, Sierra Leone, Togo\*

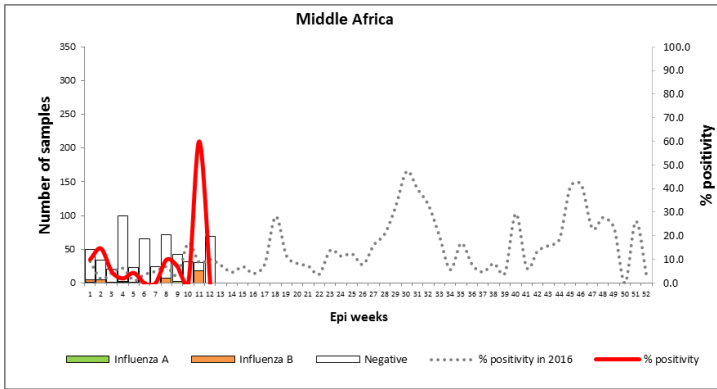
Despite over 60 specimens being tested in the Central zone none were positive for influenza.



**Northern Africa:** Algeria\*



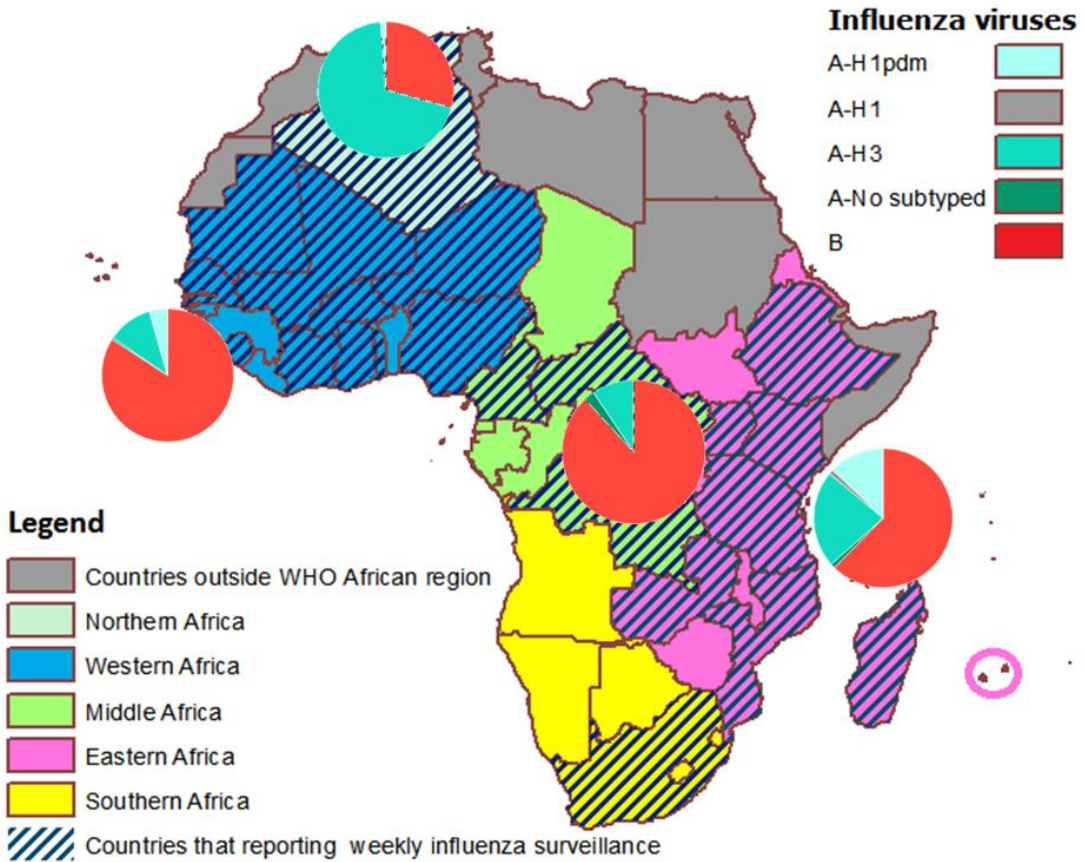
**Southern Africa :** Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa\*, Swaziland



\* Countries that report virological influenza data.

**Middle Africa:** Angola, Cameroon\*, Central African Republic\*, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo\*, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Influenza B continues to be the predominant influenza type circulating in all transmission zones except the Northern zone where influenza A/H3 is the predominant influenza type. (Figure 3)



**Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the AFR.**

*The information presented in this report are subject to change following completeness and verification Member States.*