

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 14, April 3 to 9, 2017

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During epidemiological week 14, 12 laboratories in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Zambia) contributed influenza data for this report. During this week 18 specimens tested positive (9% positivity) for influenza. Although 195 specimens were collected, 201 were tested due to spill over testing from the previous week. Compared to week 13 the influenza positivity rate has nearly doubled and is similar to the positivity rate recorded for this period in 2016 (10% positivity) (Figure 1). Influenza A/H1 pdm09 (4 specimens), influenza A/H3 (10 specimens) and influenza B (4 specimens) were detected during week 14.

Cumulatively, from epidemiological weeks 1 to 14, the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network has tested 7,407 specimens*, of which 7% (544 specimens) have tested positive for influenza virus.

* Adjusted number based on inclusion of additional data from previous weeks.

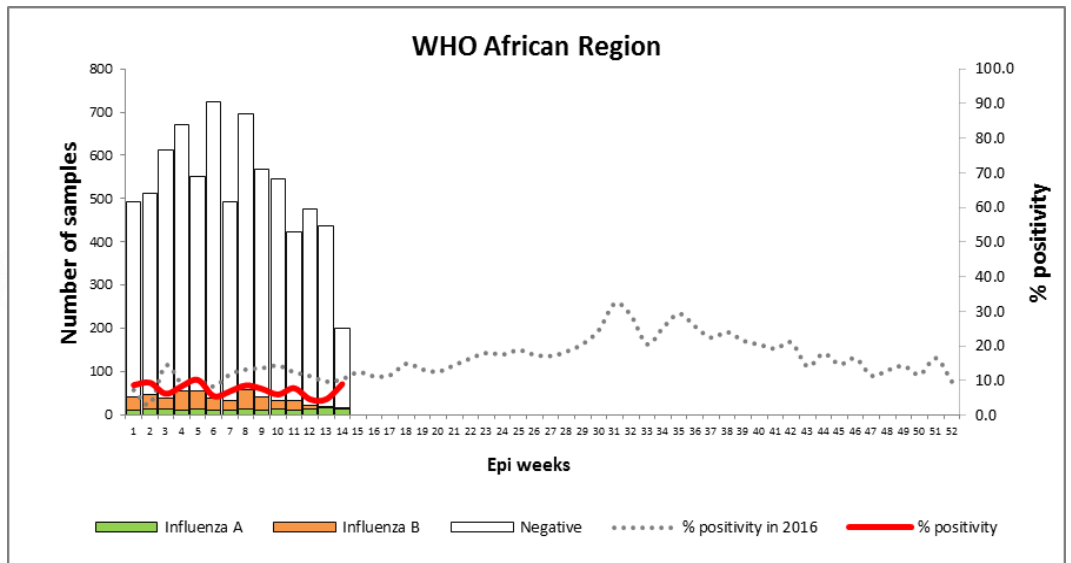
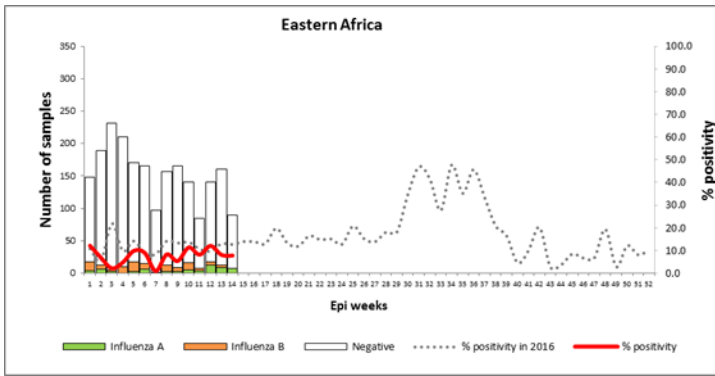


Figure 1 – Virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 14 2017

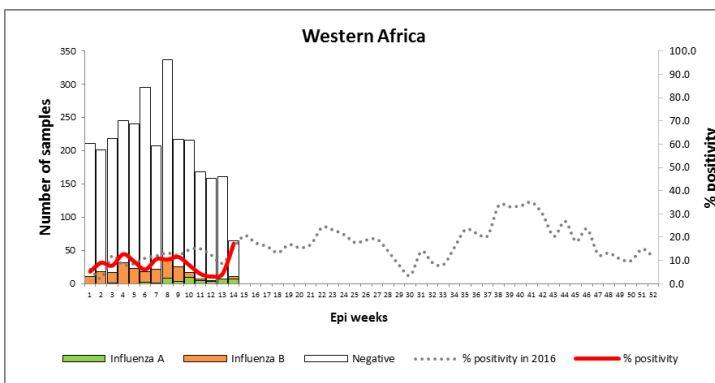
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 14



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

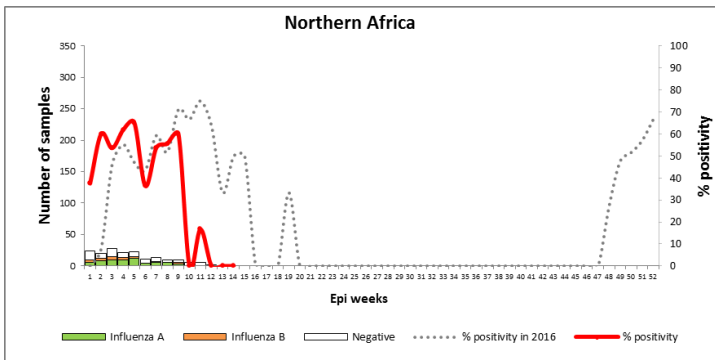
Influenza positivity rates in the 5 regional transmission zones ranged from 0% to 17% in week 14.

In the Eastern transmission zone the influenza positivity rate was 8.5% with the influenza A/H3 (5/7 specimens) being the most common influenza type detected. The only other influenza type detected was A/H1 pdm09 (2 specimens).



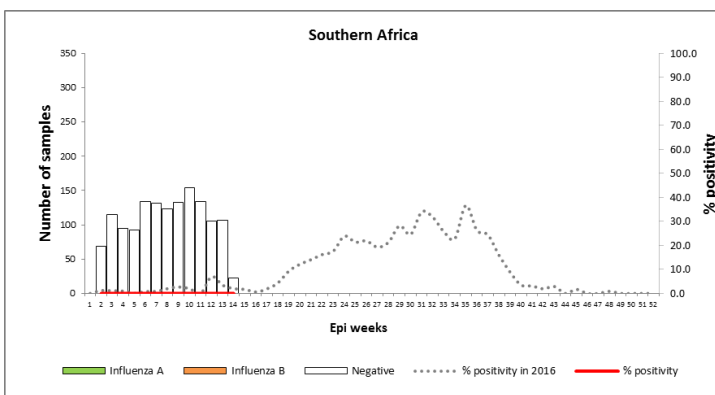
Western Africa: Benin, *Burkina Faso**, Cape Verde, *Côte d'Ivoire**, Gambia, *Ghana**, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, *Mali**, Mauritania, *Niger**, *Nigeria**, *Senegal**, Sierra Leone, *Togo**

In the Western transmission zone a sharp increase in influenza activity was observed, largely due to an influenza outbreak in Senegal (>50% of positive specimens). Influenza types detected in this zone during week 14 included: A/H3 5/11 specimens (46%), A/H1 pdm09 2/11 (18%) and influenza B 4/11 (36%).

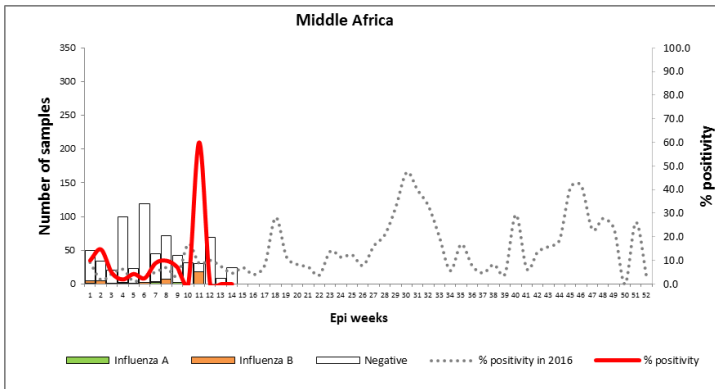


Northern Africa: *Algeria**

Despite more than 45 specimens being processed in the Southern and Middle transmission zones influenza virus was not detected. (Figure 2)



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

Regionally, influenza B is the predominant influenza type circulating in all zones except the northern transmission zone. However, in recent weeks other influenza types have been detected more frequently in the Western and Eastern transmission zones. (Figure 3).

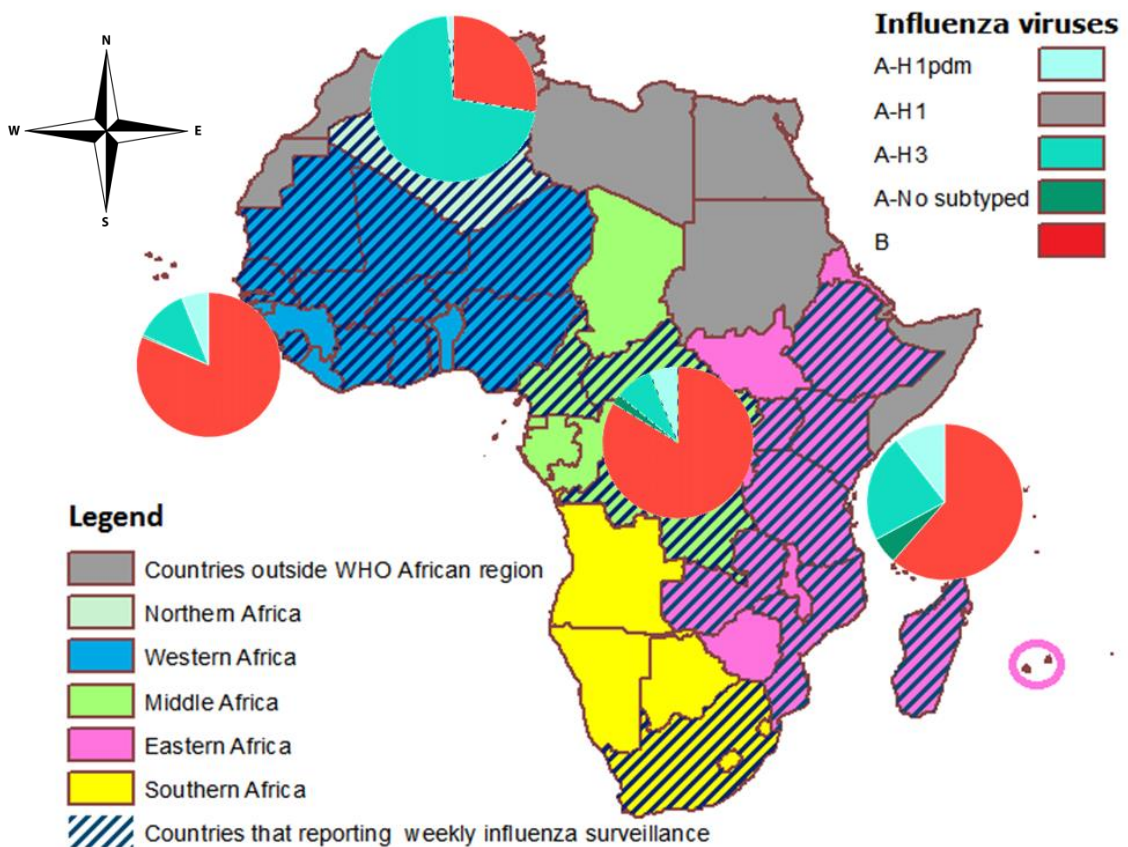


Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the AFR.

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