

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 13, March 27 to April 2, 2017

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During epidemiological week 13, eleven laboratories in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger and South Africa) contributed influenza data. During the week 308 specimens were processed with a positivity rate of 5% (15/308), representing a slight increase in activity compared to week 12 (4% positivity, rate adjusted for additional country data). In comparison to the same period in 2016 (9.5% positivity) there has been almost a 50% decrease in influenza activity. In week 13, 86% of influenza positive specimens were influenza type A in contrast to weeks 1 to 11 where influenza type B was the predominant influenza type detected (Figure 1).

To date laboratories in the AFR Influenza Network have tested 5,702 specimens, of which 443 (8%) have tested positive for influenza virus.

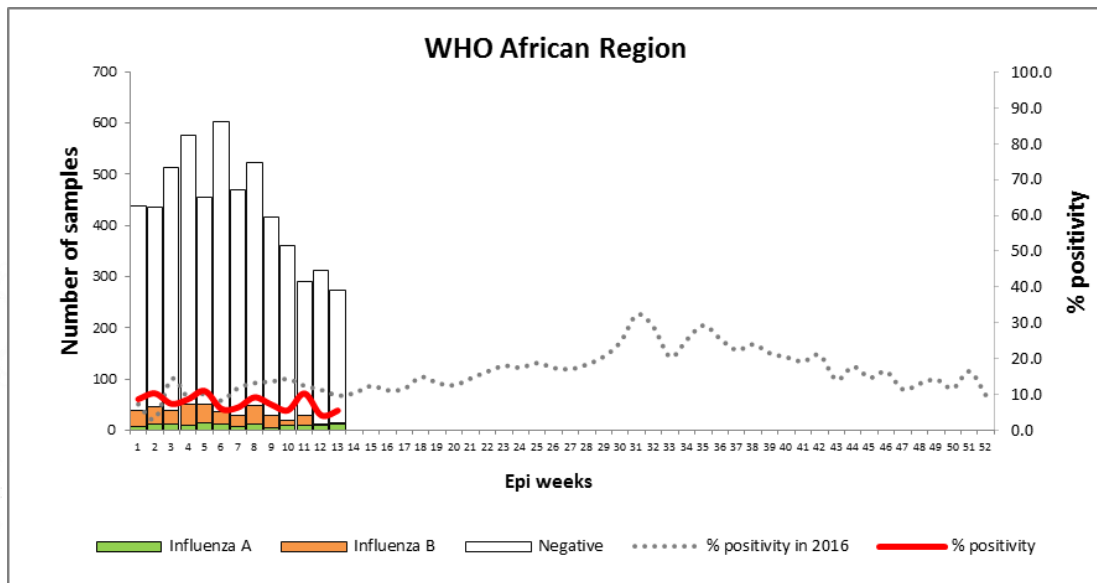
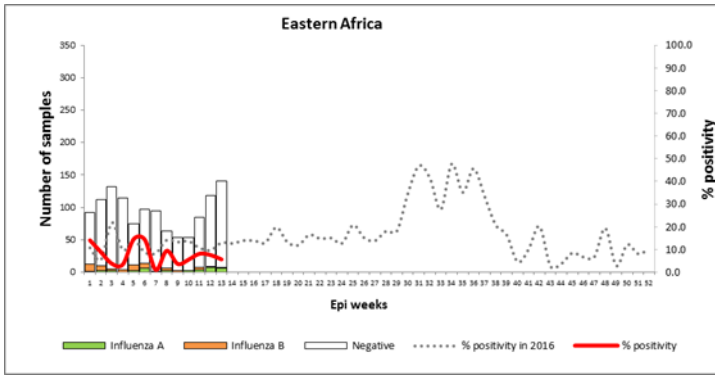
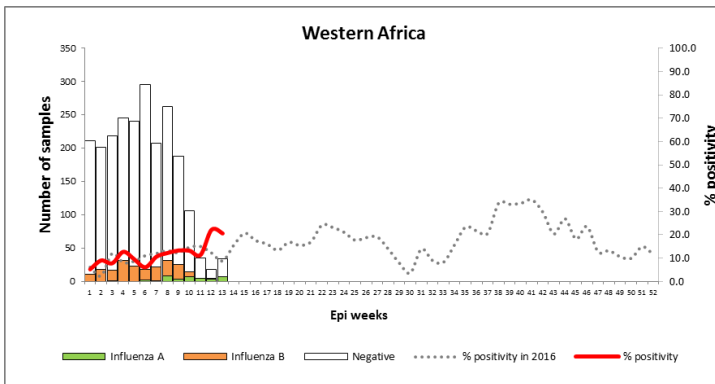


Figure 1 – Virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 12, 2017

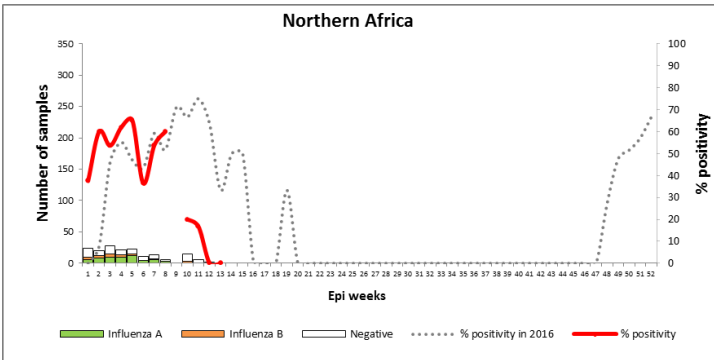
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 13



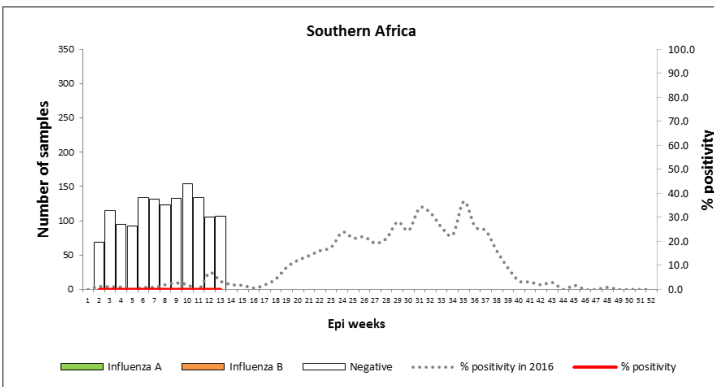
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe



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



Northern Africa: Algeria*

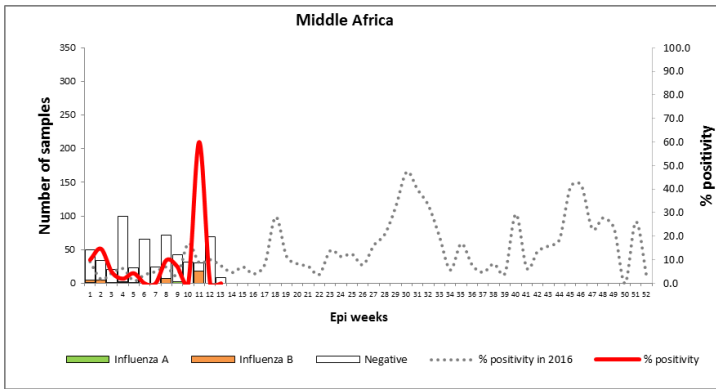


Southern Africa : Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa*, Swaziland

During week 13 influenza activity was only reported in the Western and Eastern transmission zones with positivity rates of 13.5% (7/52) and 5.7% (8/141) respectively (Figure 2).

In the Eastern transmission zone influenza A/H1 pdm09 (50% of positive specimens), A/H3 and influenza B were reported where as only a single influenza type A/H3 was reported in the Western transmission zone (Figure 2).

Cumulatively over 100 specimens were tested in the southern, northern and middle transmission zones yet no positive were reported (Figure 2).



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

Influenza B remains the predominant influenza type circulating in 3 of the 5 transmission zones in the AFR with an overall positivity rate of 70% (309/443 positive specimens). Influenza A also circulates in the region but to a lesser extent with A/H3 (24% of positive specimens) and influenza A/H1 pandemic strain (5% of positive specimens) being detected. In recent weeks the presence of influenza A subtypes has increased in the region. Influenza A/H3 is the predominant influenza type circulating in the northern transmission zone. One percent of all specimens tested were reported as untypable (Figure 3).

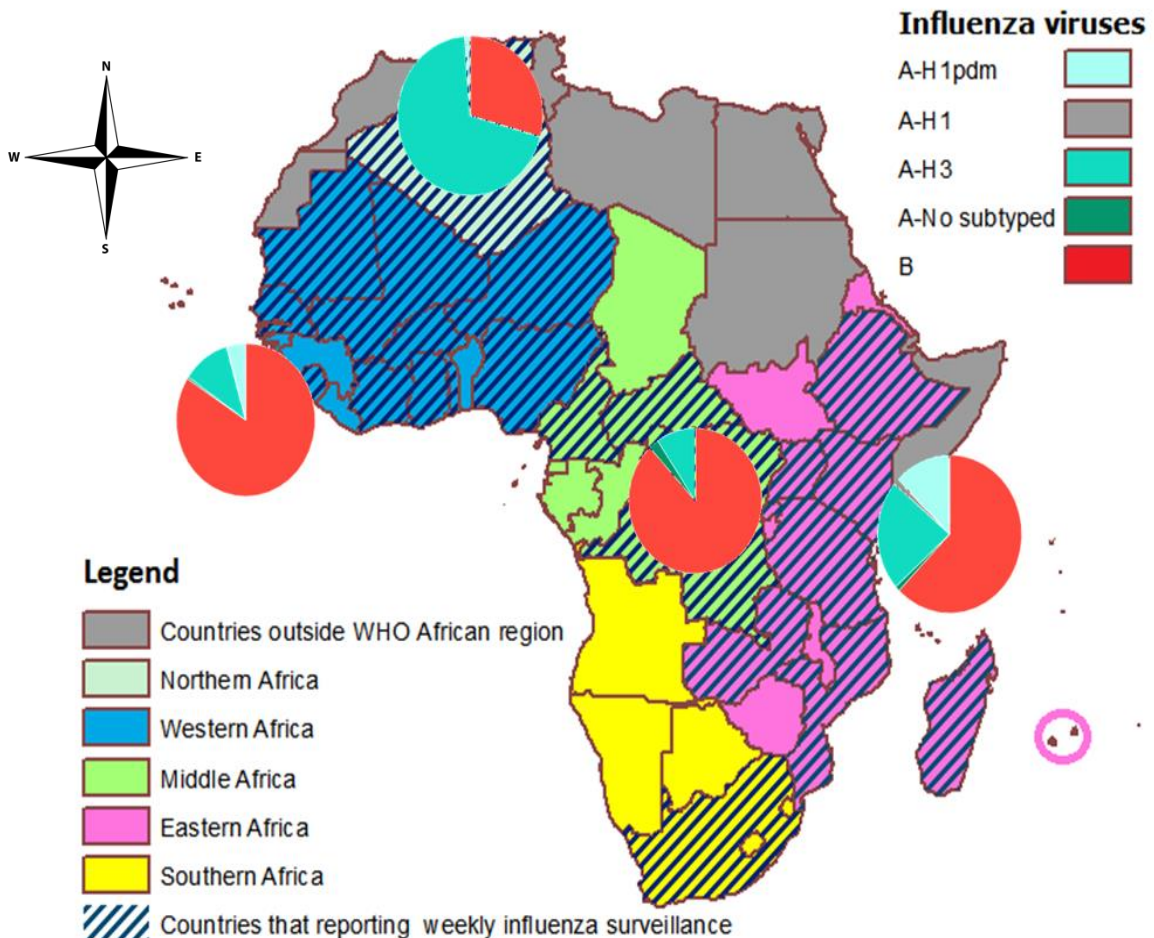


Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the AFR.

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