

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 15, April 10 to 16, 2017

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During epidemiological week 15, 8 laboratories in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania) contributed influenza data for this report. During this week 30 specimens of the 178 that were processed tested positive for influenza (16% positivity). This is a marked increase in positivity compared to week 14 and reflects the outbreak of influenza in Senegal. During epidemiological week 15, 80% (24/30) of positives specimens were influenza type A and 20% (6/30) type B. Influenza subtype A/H1pdm09 represented 50% (15/30) of positives and A/H3 30% (9/30) of positive specimens.

Cumulatively, from epidemiological weeks 1 to 15, the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network has tested 7,824 specimens, of which 8% (608 specimens) tested positive for influenza virus.

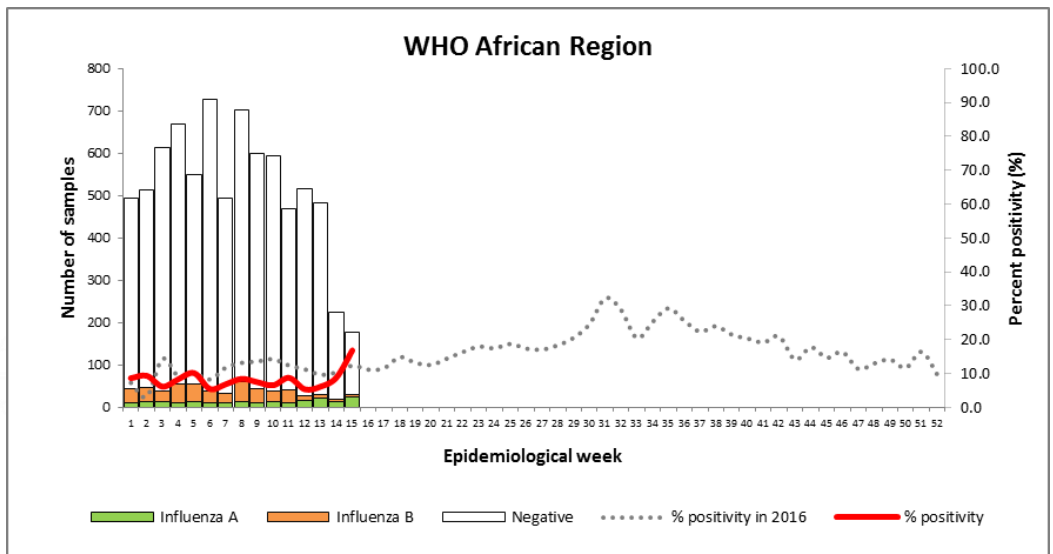
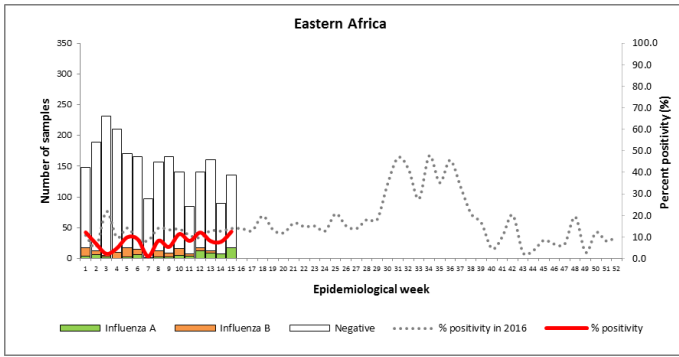


Figure 1 – Virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 15, 2017

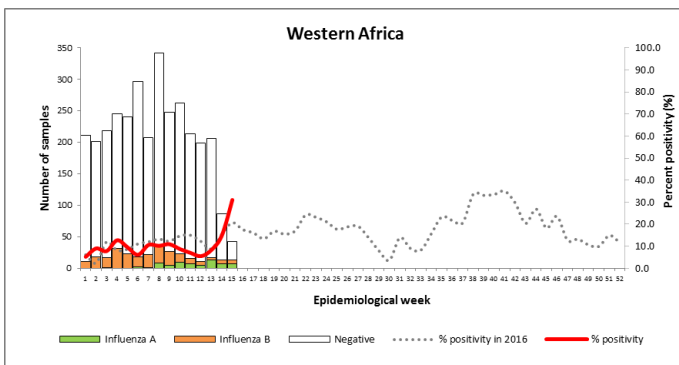


Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected the African region during weeks 1 to 15, 2017



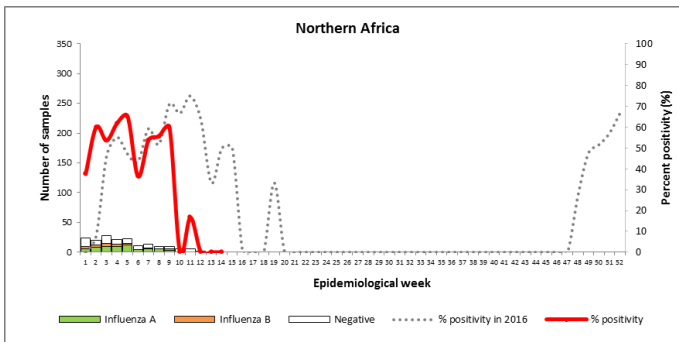
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, *Ethiopia**, *Kenya**, *Madagascar**, Malawi, *Mauritius**, Mayotte, *Mozambique**, *Rwanda**, Seychelles, Somalia, *Uganda**, *United Republic of Tanzania**, *Zambia**, Zimbabwe

In the Eastern transmission zone the influenza positivity rate was 12.5% (17/136 positive) and specimens from this zone accounted for 56% of all positives for the week. Influenza A/H3 (9/17 positives) and influenza A/H1 pdm09 (8/17 positives) were detected in this transmission zone. Based on data received to date this is the second consecutive week that influenza B has not been reported in this transmission zone.



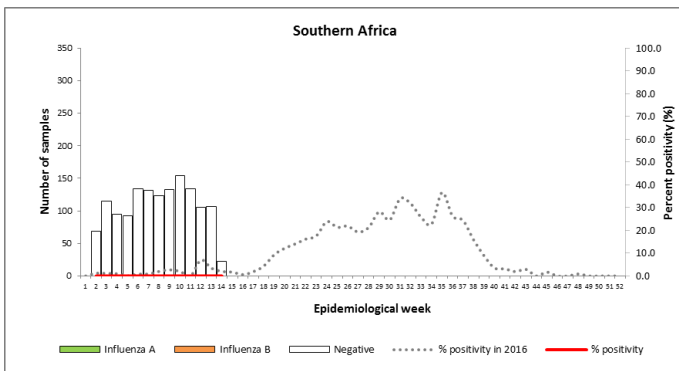
Western Africa: Benin, *Burkina Faso**, Cape Verde, *Côte d'Ivoire**, Gambia, *Ghana**, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, *Mali**, Mauritania, *Niger**, *Nigeria**, *Senegal**, Sierra Leone, *Togo**

In the Western transmission zone influenza activity continued to increase, with a positivity rate of 31%, due to the influenza outbreak in Senegal. The predominant influenza types circulating in this zone were influenza A/H1pdm09 (7/13 positives) and influenza B (6/13 positives). In contrast to the Eastern zone influenza B continues to be detected in the Western zone.

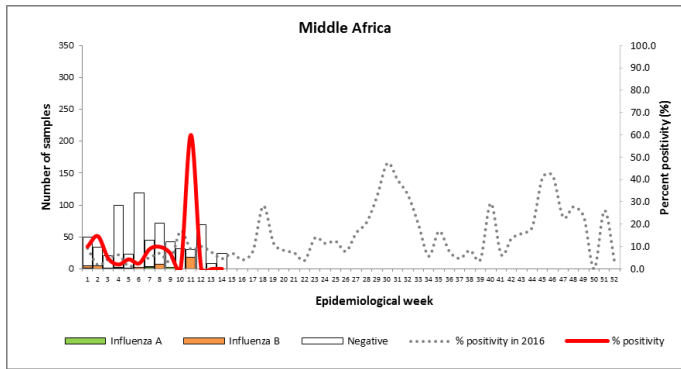


Northern Africa: *Algeria**

Data was not received from the Northern, Southern and Middle transmission zones (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 remains the predominant influenza type circulating in all zones except the Northern transmission zone. Although the frequency of detection of other influenza A subtypes is increasing. (Figure 3).

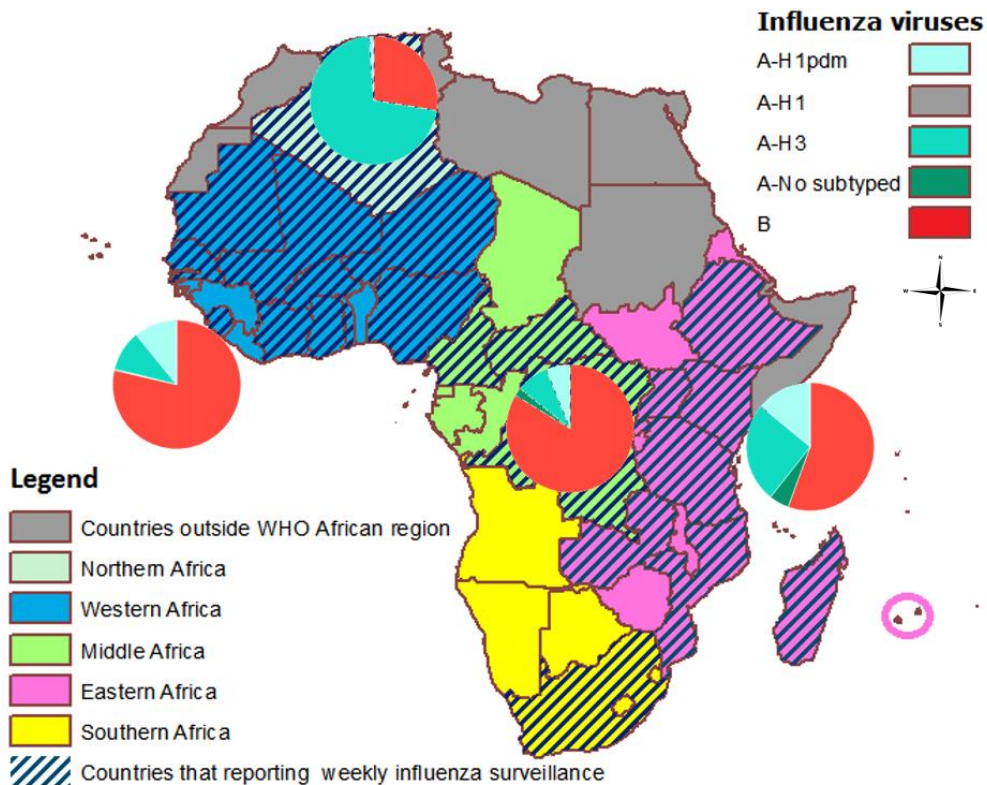


Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the AFR during weeks 1-15, 2017.

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