

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 16, April 17 to 23, 2017

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During epidemiological week 16, 14 laboratories in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) contributed influenza data for this report. During the current reporting week, 31 specimens of the 437 processed tested positive for influenza (7% positivity rate). This represents a decrease in activity compared to week 15. During week 16, 74% (23/31 specimens) of positive specimens were influenza type A and 26% (8/31 specimens) were influenza B. Influenza subtype A/H1pdm09 represented 48%(11/23) and A/H3 52%(12/23) of positive specimens respectively.

Cumulatively*, from epidemiological weeks 1 to 16, the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network has tested 9,704 specimens, of which 9% (892 specimens) tested positive for influenza virus.

*adjusted for inclusion of retrospective data from countries.

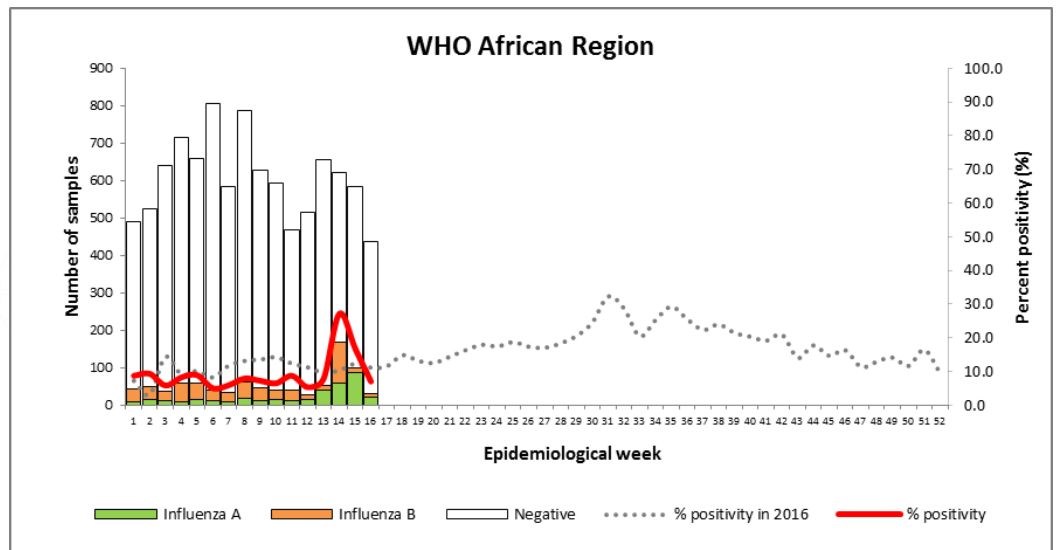
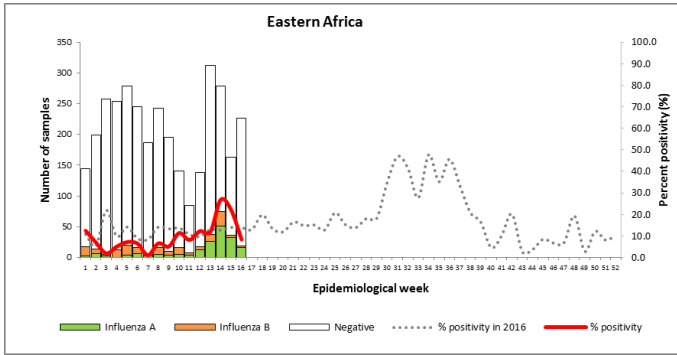


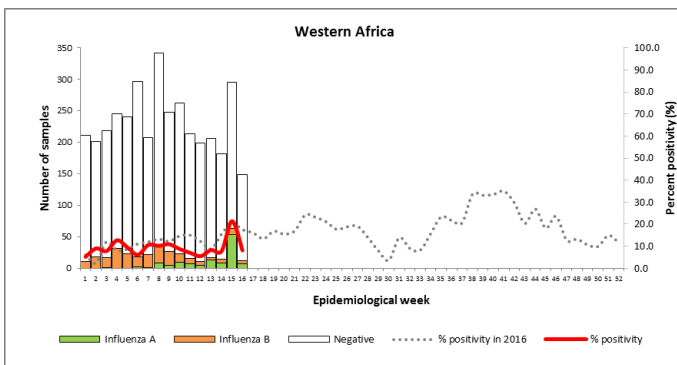
Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 16, 2017.

Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected in the African region from weeks 1 to 16, 2017



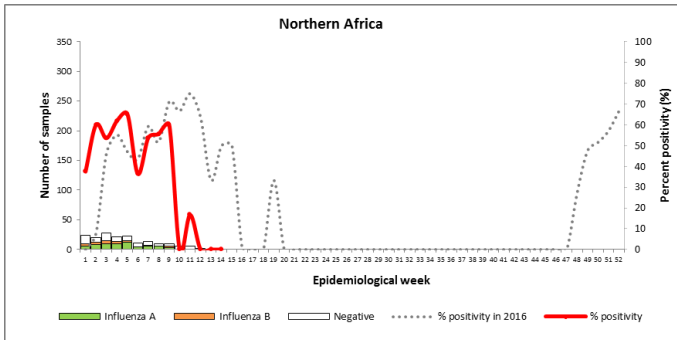
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe

In the Eastern transmission zone the influenza positivity rate dropped to 8% (19/226 positive) and specimens from this zone accounted for 61% of all positives in the region for the week. Influenza A/H3 (12/19 positives), influenza A/H1 pdm09 (4/19 positives) and influenza B (3/19 positives) were detected in this transmission zone.



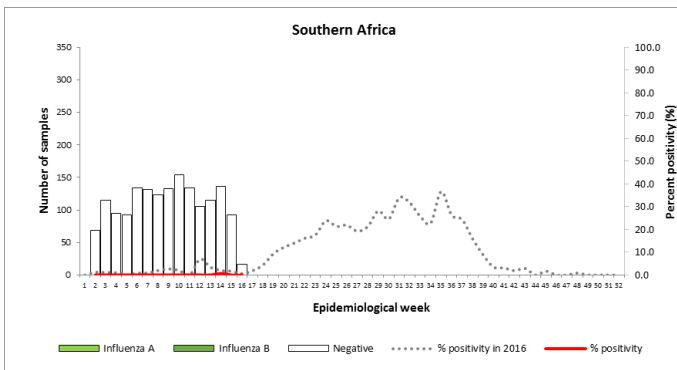
Western Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso*, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire*, Gambia, Ghana*, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali*, Mauritania, Niger*, Nigeria*, Senegal*, Sierra Leone, Togo*

In the Western transmission zone influenza activity began to decrease and a drop in positivity rate (8% 12/437 positive specimens) was observed when compared to week 15. The predominant influenza types circulating in this zone were influenza A/H1 pdm09 (7/12 positives) and influenza B (5/12 positives).

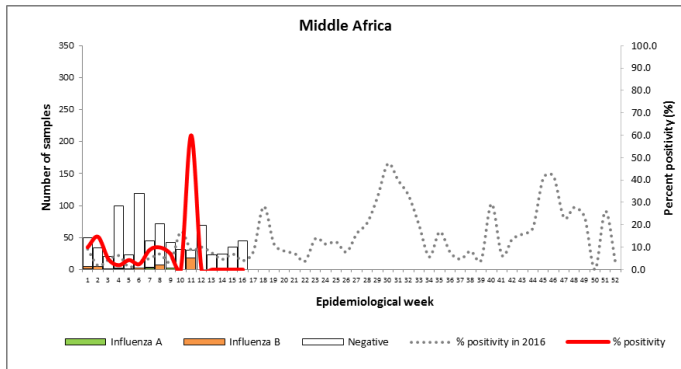


Northern Africa: Algeria*

For week 16 data was not received from the Northern transmission zone. Despite 17 and 45 specimens being tested from the Southern and Middle transmission zones respectively influenza 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 remains the predominant influenza type circulating in all zones except the Northern transmission zone. However, in recent weeks influenza A subtypes, A/H1pdm09 and A/H3, have been detected more frequently in the Western and Eastern transmission zones (Figure 3).

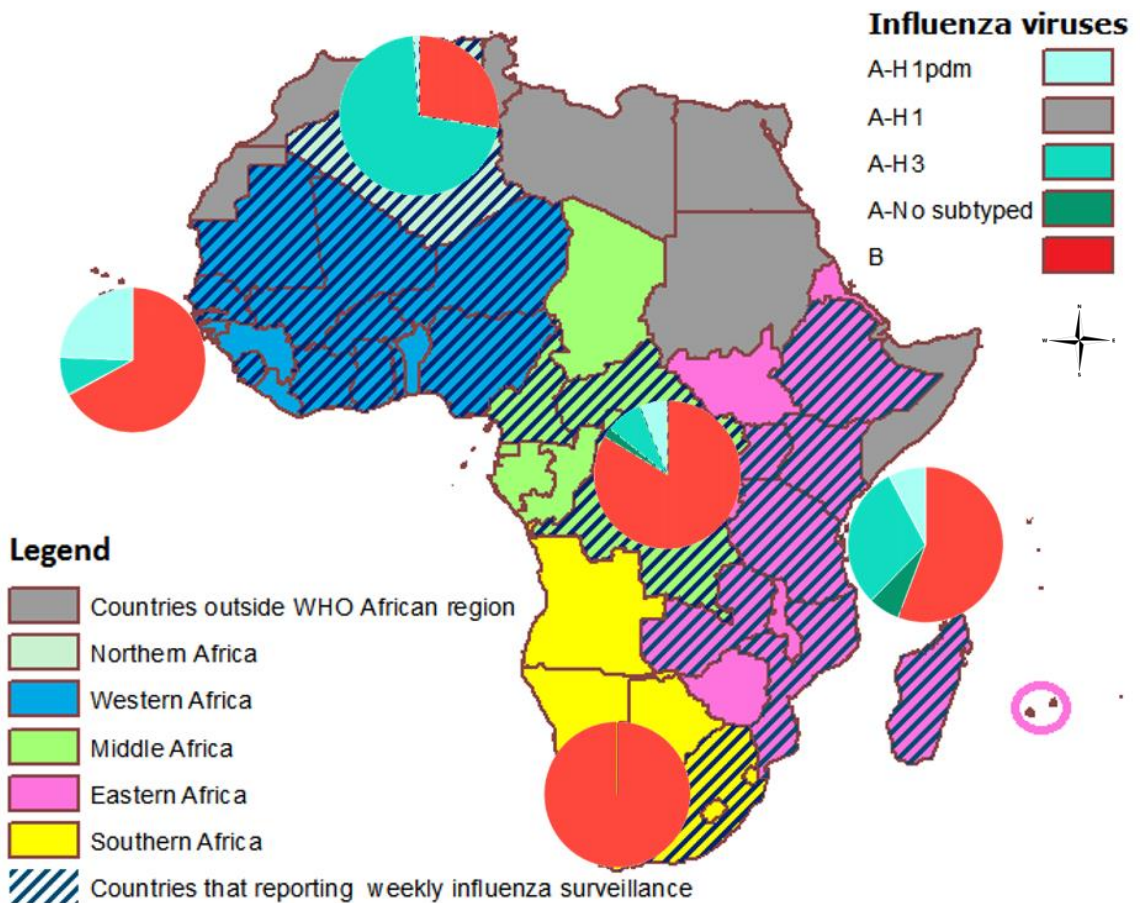


Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the African region from weeks 1-16, 2017.

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