

# Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 17, April 24 to 30, 2017

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During epidemiological week 17, 298 specimens were collected and 285 tested for influenza virus by 11 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa) in the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network. During this week, 29 specimens tested positive (10% positivity) for influenza. This represents a small increase in the positivity rate when compared to week 16. During the current reporting week, 83% (24/29) of positive specimens were influenza type A and 17% (5/29) influenza type B. Influenza subtype A/H1 pdm09 represented 45% (13/29 specimens) and A/H3 14% (4/29 specimens) of positive specimens respectively. Seven influenza A positive specimens were untyped.

Cumulatively, from epidemiological weeks 1 to 17, the AFR Influenza Laboratory Network has tested 10,463 specimens, of which 8.5% (890 specimens) have tested positive for influenza virus.

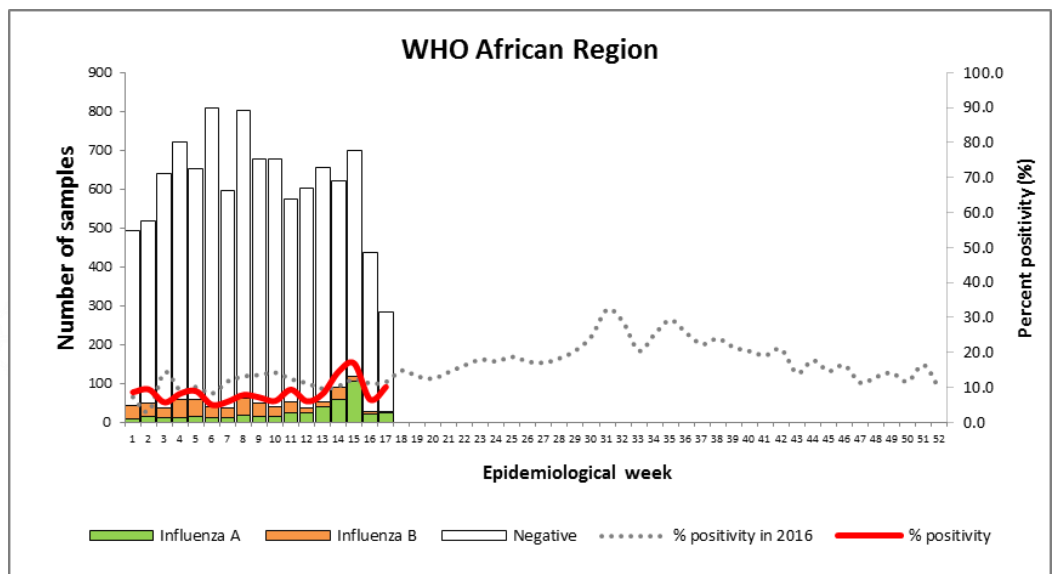
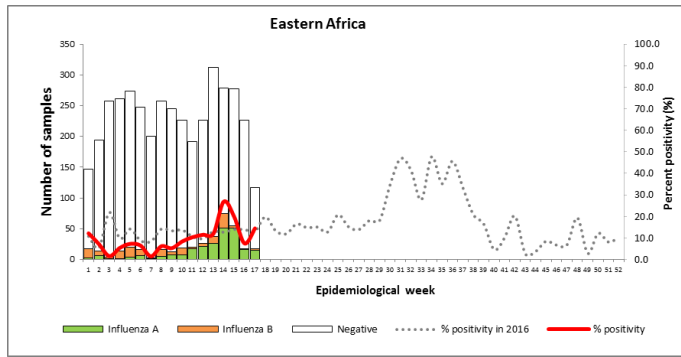


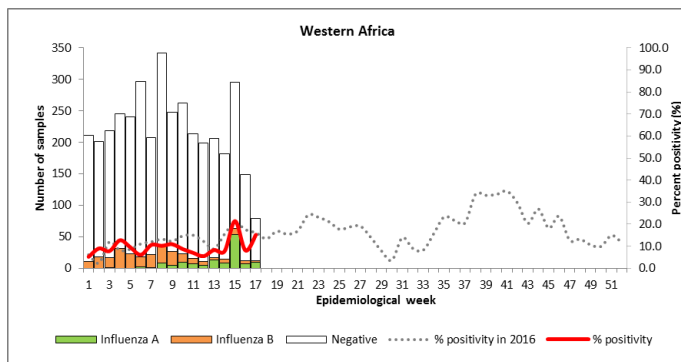
Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 17, 2017



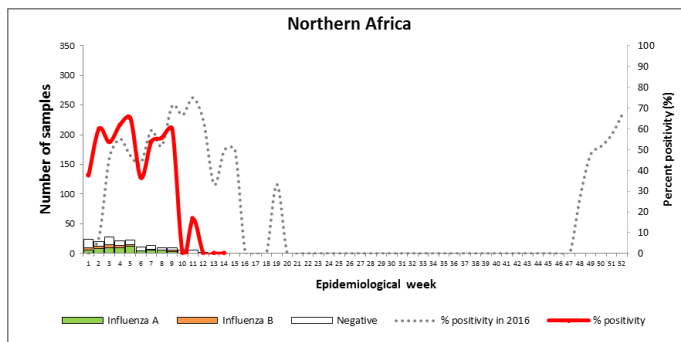
**Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 17, 2017 in the African Region.**



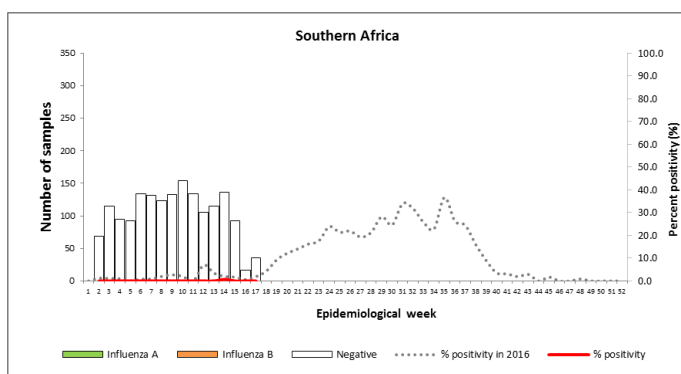
**Eastern Africa:** Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, [Ethiopia\\*](#), [Kenya\\*](#), [Madagascar\\*](#), Malawi, [Mauritius\\*](#), Mayotte, [Mozambique\\*](#), [Rwanda\\*](#), Seychelles, Somalia, [Uganda\\*](#), [United Republic of Tanzania\\*](#), [Zambia\\*](#), Zimbabwe



**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\\*](#)

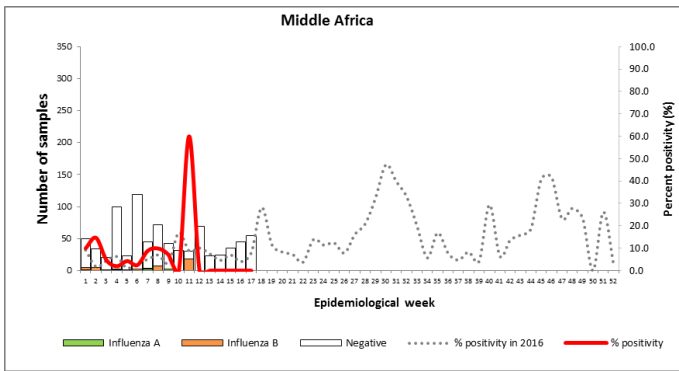


**Southern Africa:** Botswana, Lesotho, [Namibia](#), [South Africa\\*](#), Swaziland

In the Eastern transmission zone the influenza positivity rate was 14.5% (17/117 positive). Influenza A/H3 (4/17 positive) and influenza A/H1pdm09 (4/17 positive) and influenza B (2/17 positive) were detected in this transmission zone. Seven influenza A positive specimens from this transmission zone have not yet been typed.

In the Western transmission zone all 81 specimens collected were tested and 12 were positive for influenza virus. The influenza positivity rate in this zone was 15% representing an increase in activity from week 16. During week 17 the majority of influenza positive specimens from this zone were influenza A/H1pdm09 and were from Mali (66%). Influenza B virus was also detected and represented 25% (3/12 positive) of positives from this transmission zone.

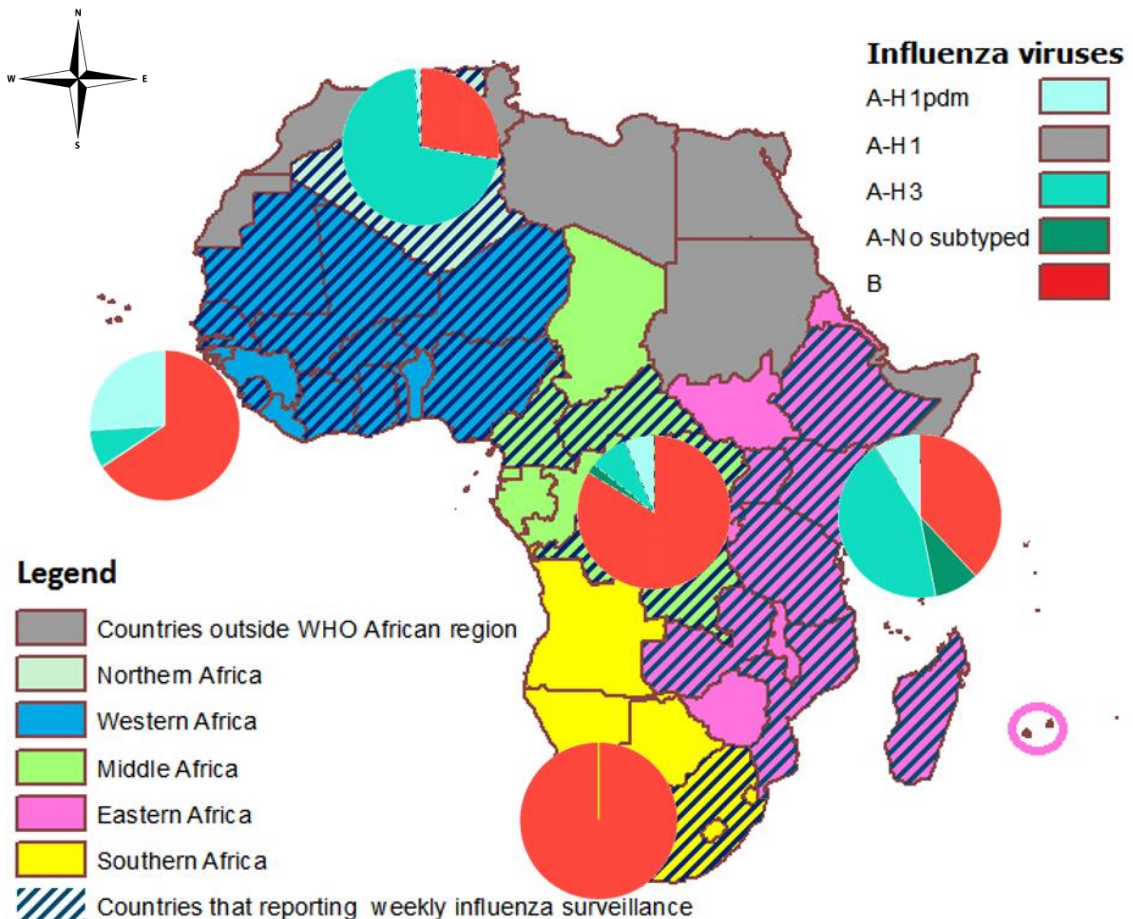
During week 17 no influenza positive specimens were detected in the Middle and Southern transmission zones despite the testing of 54 and 35 specimens respectively. Data was not received from the Northern transmission zone (Figure 2).



\* 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 the Western, Middle and Southern transmission zones. Interestingly, the influenza type and subtype distribution in the Eastern transmission zone has changed and influenza B is no longer the predominant type circulating in this zone. Influenza type/subtype distribution in the Northern and Southern zones remains unchanged. (Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Influenza types and subtypes detected in the 5 transmission zones in the African Region during epidemiological weeks 1-17, 2017.**

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