

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 18, May 1 to 7, 2017

Editor

Dr Ibramima Socé-Fall
Director, WHE Programme

Editorial Board

Dr B. Impouma
Dr Y. Zabulon
Dr M.D. Harouna
Dr A.A. Yahaya

Authors

Dr. B. Herring
Dr. S. Rajatonirina
Mr. C. Massidi
Mr. A. Moussongo

During epidemiological week 18, 14 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Togo) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 18, 21 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 366 that were tested (6% positivity rate). This is a marked decrease from week 17 where the positivity rate was 10%. Nearly 50% of the positive specimens were influenza type A/H3 (9/21, 43%). Other influenza types and subtypes detected were influenza A/H1pdm09 (6/21, 28%) and influenza B (4/21, 19%). Two specimens (2/21, 10%) remain untyped.

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 18 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 11,500 and tested 11,243 specimens, of which 931 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 8%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

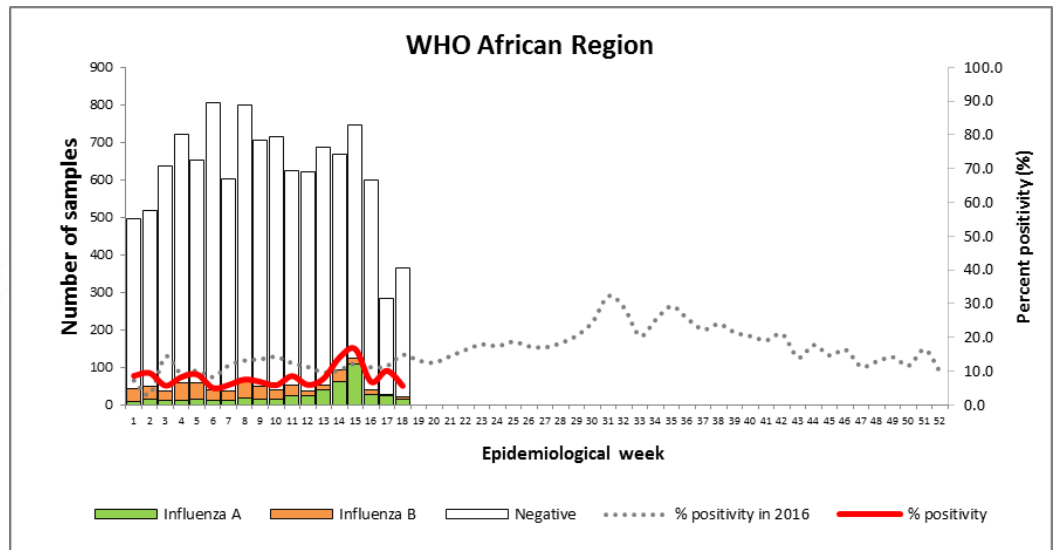
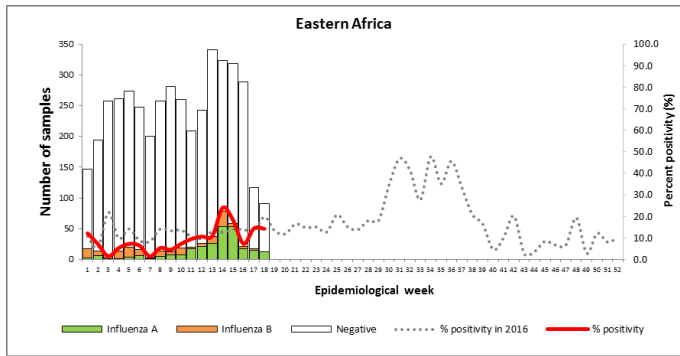
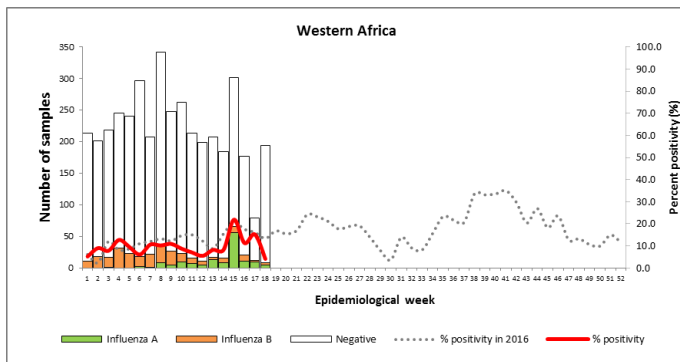


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 18, 2017

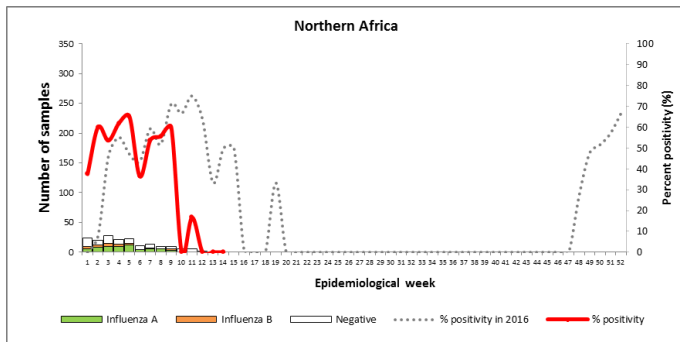
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 18, 2017 in the African region



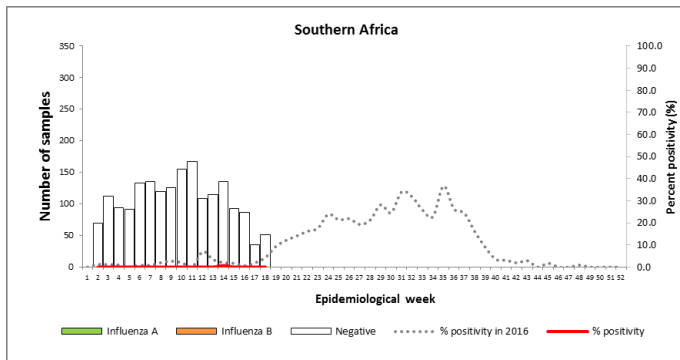
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe



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*



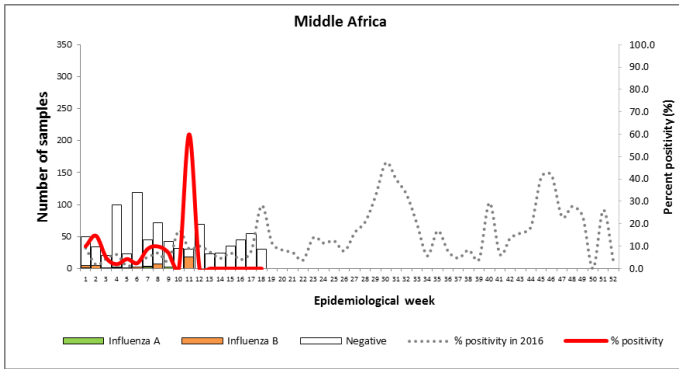
Southern Africa : Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa*, Swaziland

During epidemiological week 18, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone. In the Southern and Middle transmission zones no positive specimens were detected despite testing 51 and 30 specimens respectively.

In the Eastern transmission zone 116 specimens were collected, 91 tested and 13 positives were identified (positivity rate 14%). All positive specimens were influenza type A, subtypes A/H3 (8/13) and A/H1pdm09 (3/13). Two specimens remain untyped.

In the Western transmission zone 194 specimens (197 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 8 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 4%, in sharp contrast to week 17 where the positivity rate was 15%, which was predominantly due to ongoing influenza activity in Mali. In week 18, in the Western zone influenza positive specimens were reported from Mali (4/8, 50%), Senegal (3/8, 38%) and Togo (1/8, 12%). Influenza B (4/8, 50%), influenza A/H1pdm09 (3/8, 38%) and influenza A/H3 (1/8, 12%) were identified in this 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 A (all subtypes) and influenza B represent 50.2% (467/931 positive) and 49.8% (464/931 positive) of all positive specimens respectively. Representation of influenza A/H3 (275/467, 30%) is almost double that of influenza A/H1pdm09 (153/467, 16%) when stratified by influenza subtypes, and 4% (39/467) of influenza A specimens have yet to be subtyped (Figure 3).

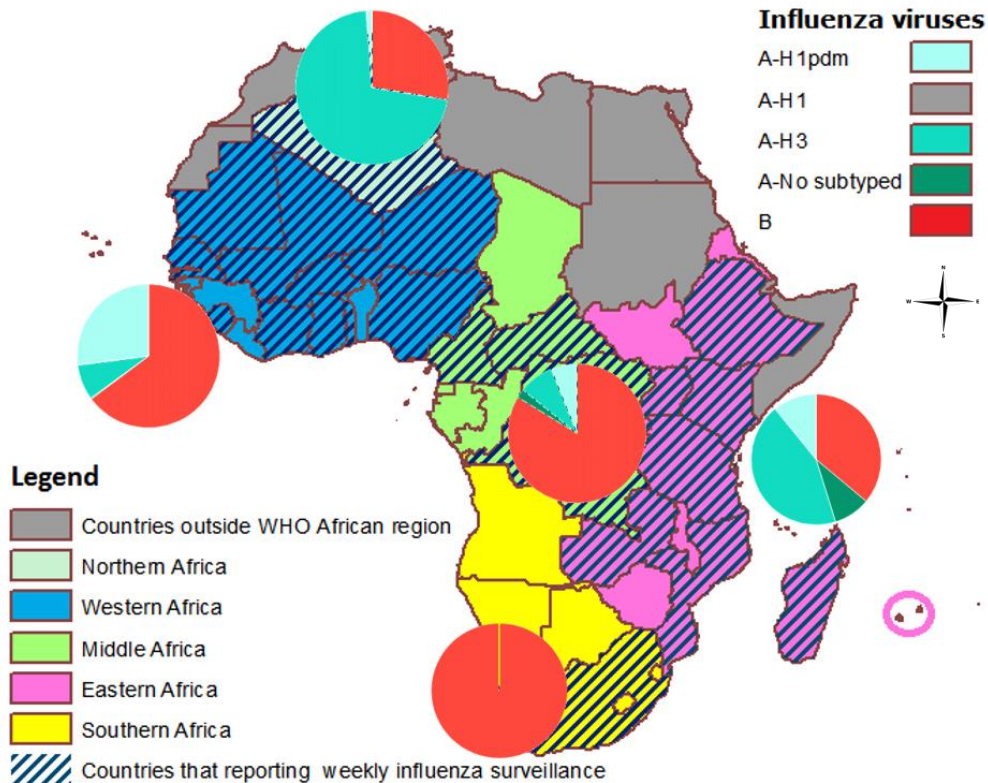


Figure 3. Influenza type and subtype distribution in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1 – 18, 2017.

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