

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 19, May 8 to 14, 2017

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During epidemiological week 19, 14 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Zambia) in the African influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 19, 43 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 418 that were tested (10% positivity rate). This is a slight increase in activity from week 18 where the positivity rate was 8%. Influenza types/subtypes identified during week 20 included influenza A/H3 (17/43, 39%), influenza A/H1pdm09 (11/43, 26%) and influenza B (12/43, 28%). Three influenza A specimens were untyped (3/43, 7%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 19 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 12,500 and tested 12,193 specimens, of which 1060 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 9%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

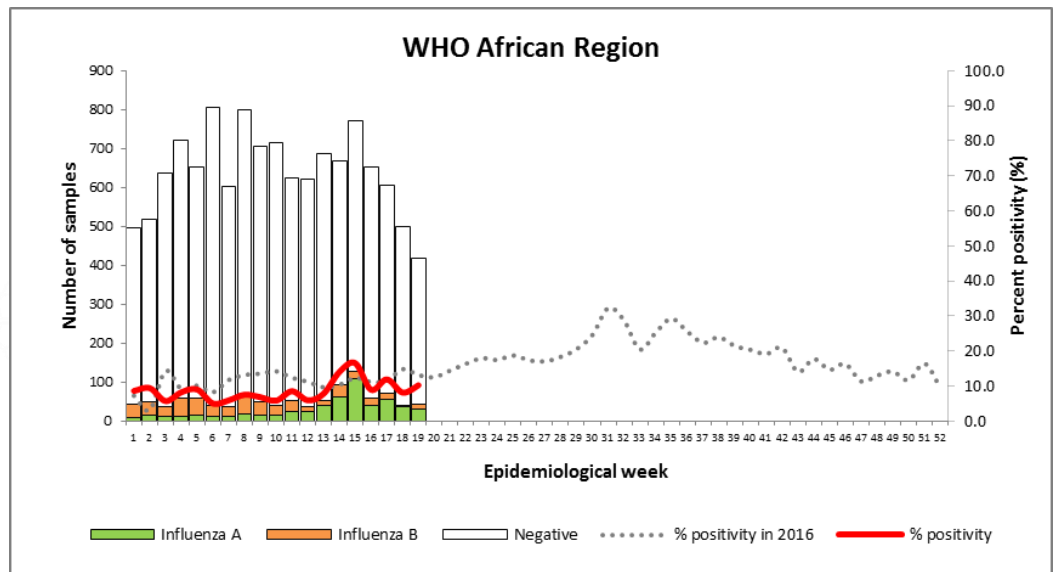
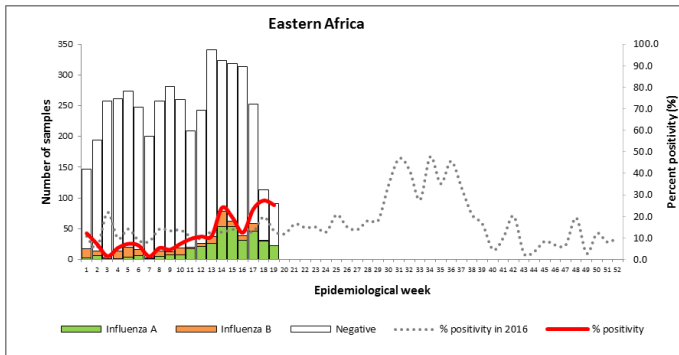
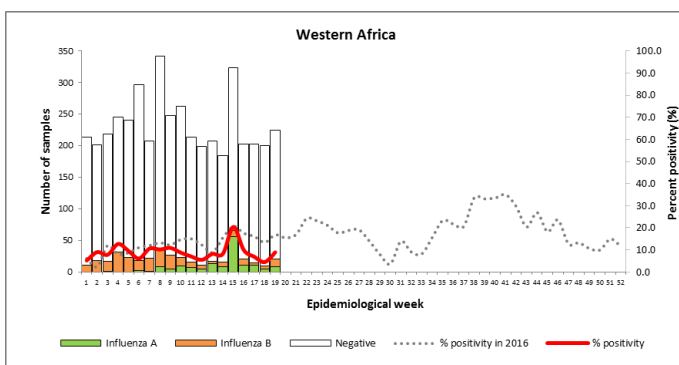


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 19, 2017

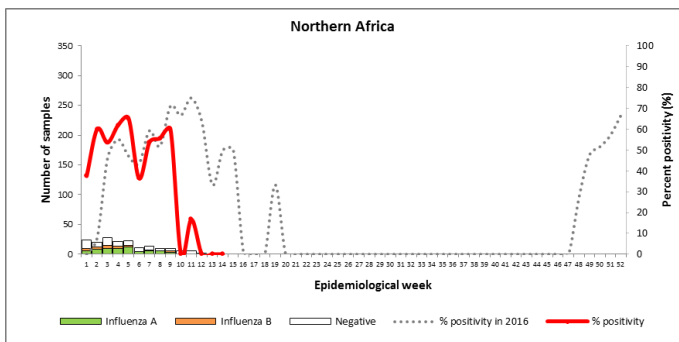
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 19, 2017 in the African region



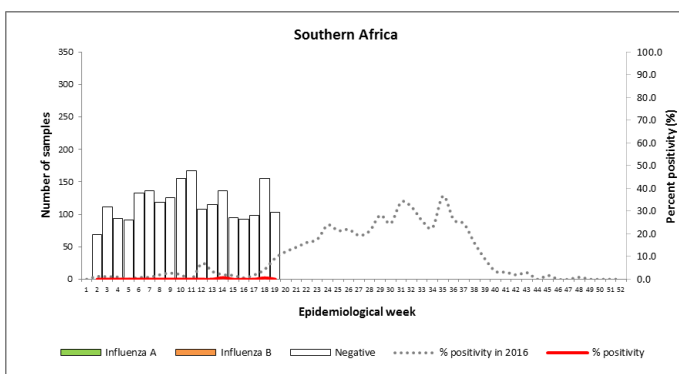
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe



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

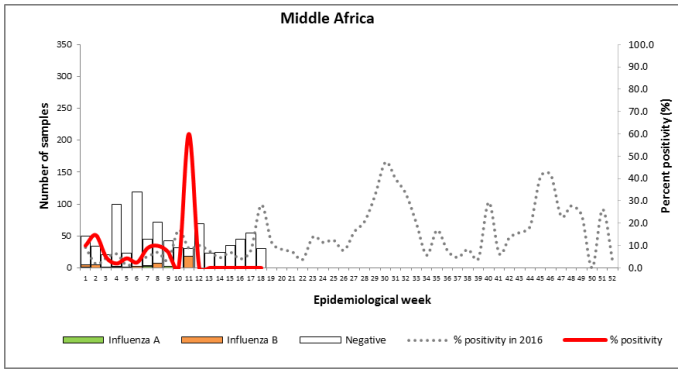
During epidemiological week 19, data was received from the Eastern, Western and Southern transmission zones for this analysis. At the time of analysis no data had been reported from the Northern and Middle transmission zones.

In the Eastern transmission zone 108 specimens were collected, 91 tested and 23 positives were identified (positivity rate 25%). All positive specimens were influenza type A, subtypes A/H3 (16/23, 70%) and A/H1pdm09 (4/23, 17%). Three specimens remain untyped (13%). Of the positive specimens 78% (18/23) were from Madagascar.

In the Western transmission zone 224 specimens (229 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 20 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 8%, representing an increase from week 18 where the positivity rate 4%. Influenza types/subtypes identified in the Western zone included influenza A/H3 (1/20, 5%), influenza A/H1pdm09 (7/20, 35%) an influenza B (12/20, 60%). The majority of positives were reported from Senegal (14/20, 70%).

In the Southern transmission zones no positive specimens were detected despite testing over 100 specimens (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) is the predominant influenza type circulating in the region (563/1060, 53%). Influenza A subtypes present in the region include A/H3 (336/563, 60%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (191/563, 34%) and 6% (36/563) of influenza A specimens have yet to be subtyped. Influenza B represents 47% (497/1060) of influenza positives in the region (Figure 3).

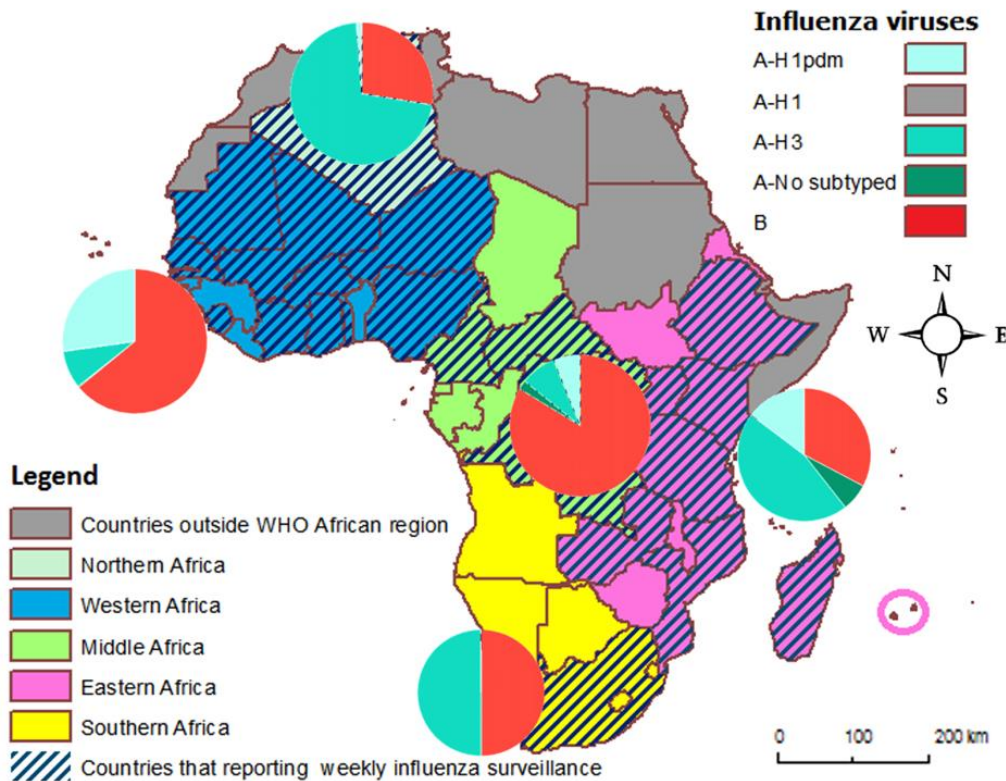


Figure 3. Influenza type and subtype distribution in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1 – 19, 2017.

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