

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 20, May 15 to 21, 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 20, 11 laboratories (Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Togo) in the African influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 20, 17 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 484 that were tested (3.5% positivity rate). This is a marked decrease from week 19 where the positivity rate was 10. Of the positive specimens identified 82% (14/17) were influenza A and 18% (3/17) were influenza B. Subtypes of influenza A identified were influenza A/H3 (5/17, 29%) and influenza A/H1pdm09 (8/17, 47%). One influenza A specimen was untyped.

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 20 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 13,000 and tested 12,677 specimens, of which 1077 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 8.5%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

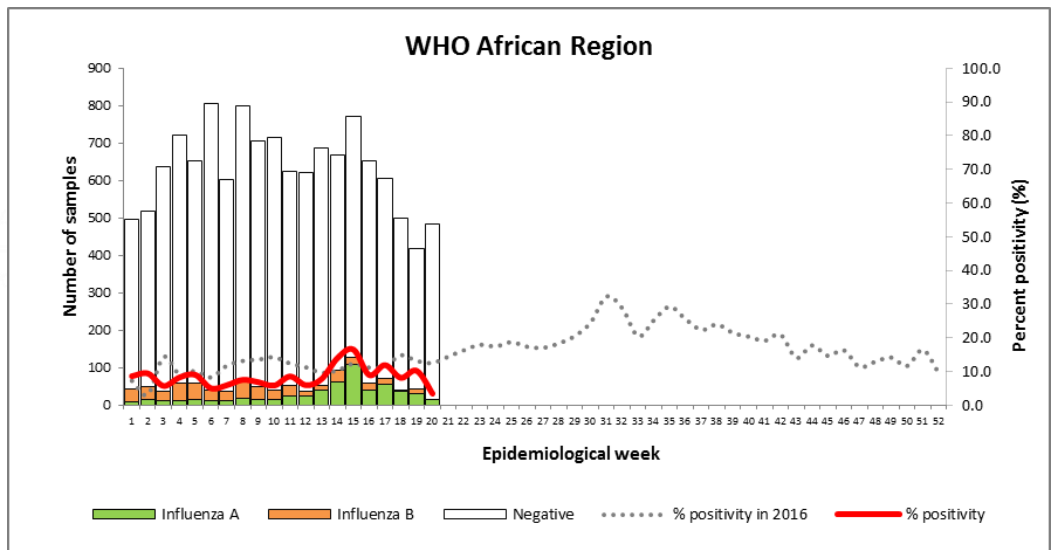
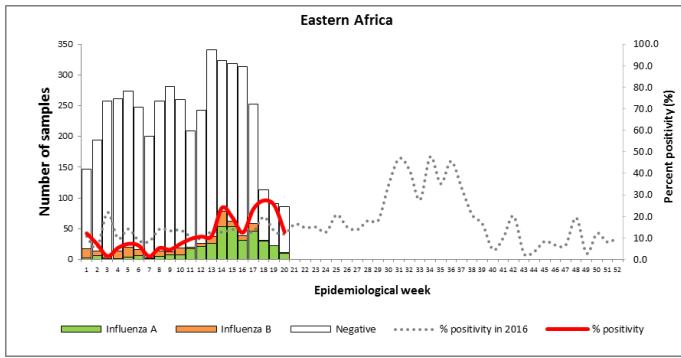
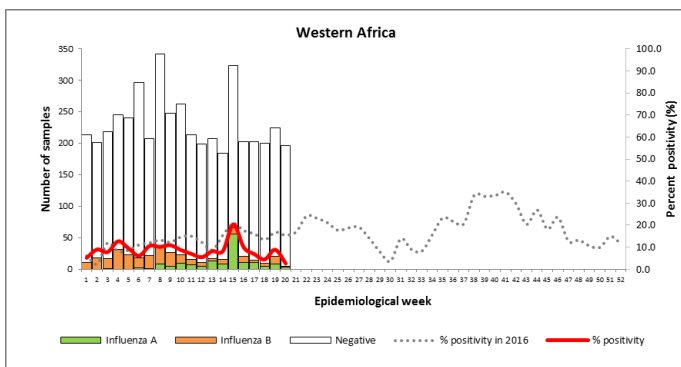


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 20, 2017

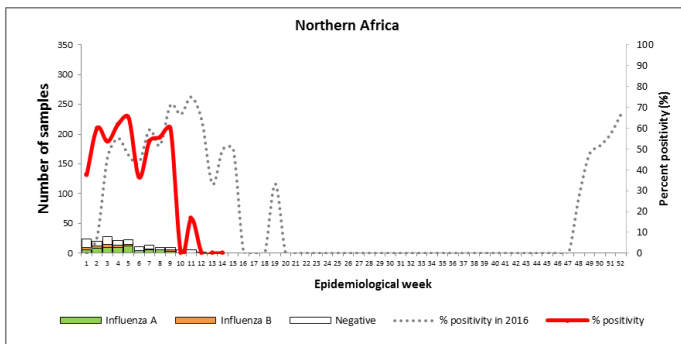
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 20, 2017 in the African region



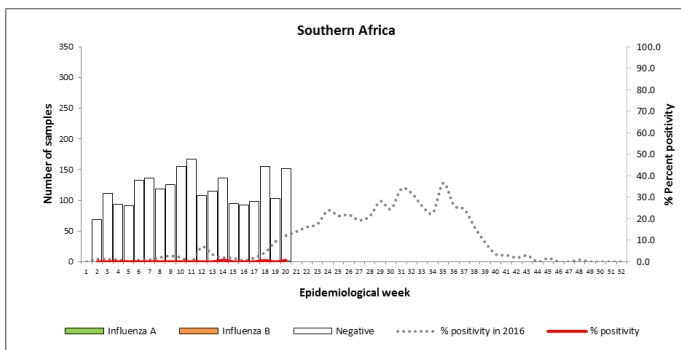
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe



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 20, data was received from all transmission zones except the Northern transmission zone.

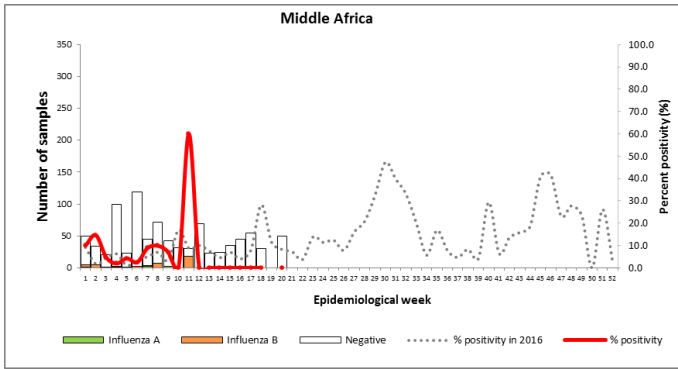
In the Eastern transmission zone 87 specimens were collected, 86 tested and 11 positives were identified (positivity rate 13%). The majority of positive specimens were influenza type A (10/11, 91%), subtypes A/H3 (4/10, 40%) and A/H1pdm09 (5/10, 50%). One specimen remains untyped (10%) and one influenza B positive specimen was identified.

In the Western transmission zone 196 specimens were collected and all were tested for influenza of which 5 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 2.5%, representing a decrease from the previous week. In the Western zone the majority of influenza positive specimens were reported from Senegal (4/5, 80%). Influenza B (2/5, 40%) and influenza A/H3 (3/5, 60%) were the influenza types/subtypes identified in this transmission zone during the current epidemiological week.

No data was received from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Southern transmission zone one positive specimen was identified from the 152 specimens tested. The influenza type/subtype identified was influenza A/H3.

In the Middle transmission zone 50 specimens were tested but no positive specimens were identified (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 54% (577/1077 positive) and 46% (500/1077 positive) of all influenza positive specimens respectively. Influenza A/H3 (341/577, 59%) and influenza A/H1pdm09 (199/577, 34%) are the influenza A subtypes identified to date in the African region (Figure 3).

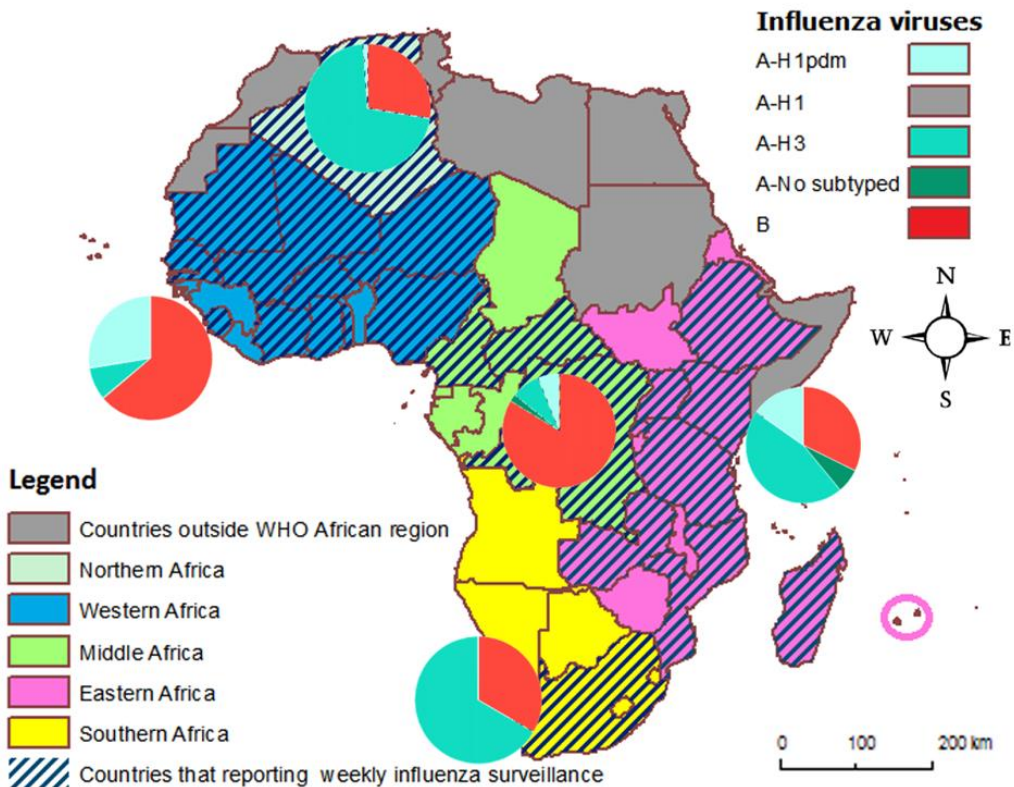


Figure 3. Influenza type and subtype distribution in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1 – 20, 2017.

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