

# Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 21, May 22 to 28, 2017

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During epidemiological week 21, 11 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Zambia) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 21, 45 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 319 that were tested (14% positivity rate). This is a marked increase from week 20 where the positivity rate was 3.5%. However, the level of activity during this epidemiological week is comparable to that observed during the same week in 2016 (14.5%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (12/45, 27%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (12/45, 27%) and influenza B (18/45, 40%). Three influenza A specimens remain untyped (7%).

Cumulatively\* from epidemiological week 1 to 21 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 13,400 and tested 13,034 specimens, of which 1,133 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 9%).

\*adjusted for retrospective data.

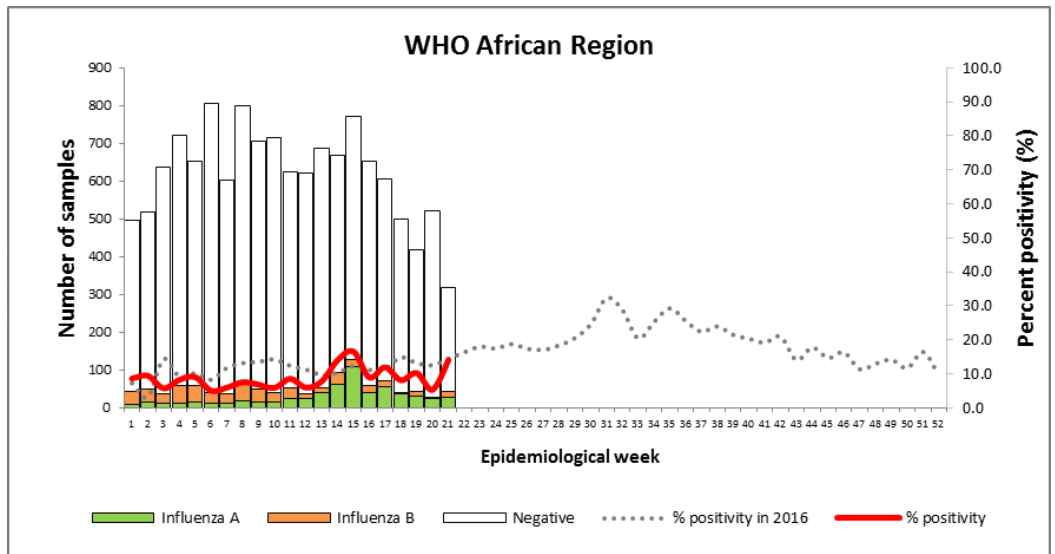
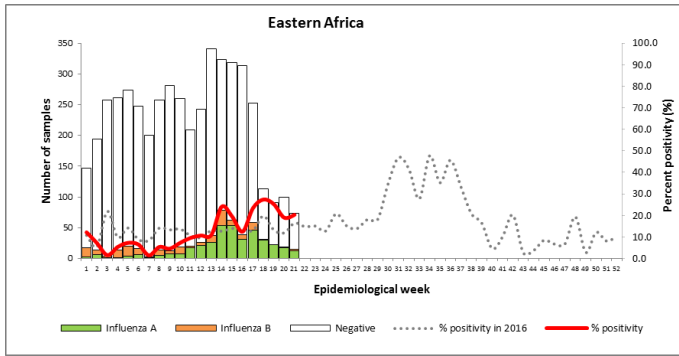
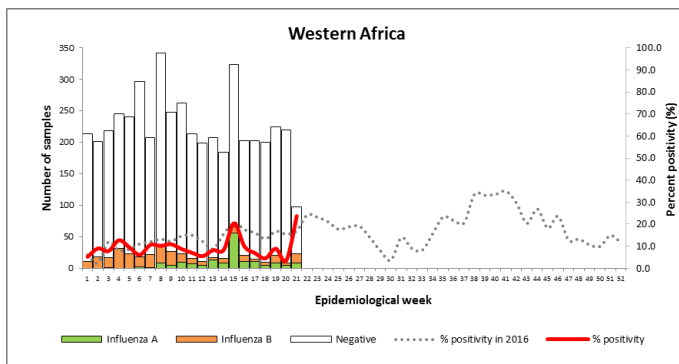


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 21, 2017

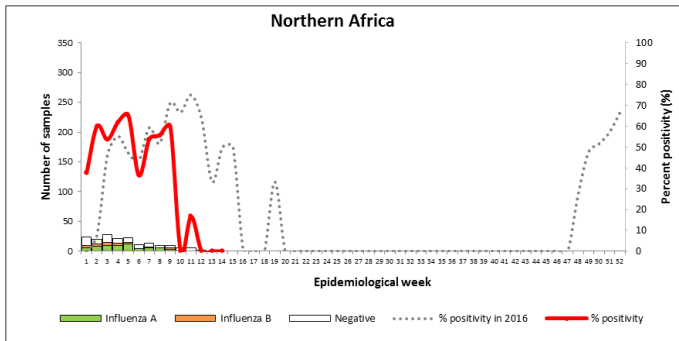
**Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 21, 2017 in the African region**



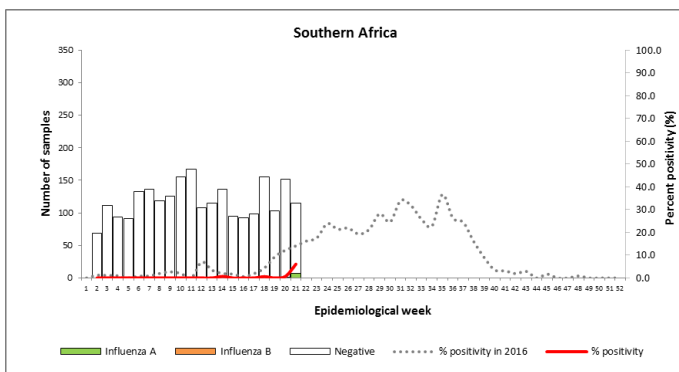
**Eastern Africa:** Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia\*, Kenya\*, Madagascar\*, Malawi, Mauritius\*, Mayotte, Mozambique\*, Rwanda\*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda\*, United Republic of Tanzania\*, Zambia\*, Zimbabwe



**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

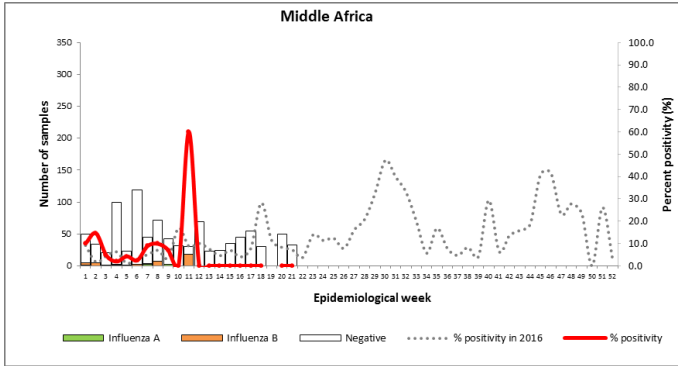
During epidemiological week 21, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 106 specimens were collected, 74 tested and 15 positives were identified (positivity rate 20%). Positive specimens identified were influenza type A/H3 (2/15, 13%), A/H1N1pdm09 (7/15, 47%) and influenza B (3/15, 20%). Three specimens remain untyped (20%). Notably nearly 50% of positives specimens were from Mauritius.

In the Western transmission zone 97 specimens (105 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 23 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 24%, this is in sharp contrast to week 20 where the positivity rate was nearly 10 times less (2.5%). All positives in this zone were from two countries Cote d'Ivoire (6/23, 26%) and Senegal (17/23, 74%). Influenza types and subtypes identified in this zone during the current epidemiological week were influenza A/H3 (3/23, 13%), A/H1N1pdm09 (5/23, 22%) and influenza B (15/23, 65%).

In the Southern transmission zone 7 positives were identified from the 115 tested (positivity rate 6%). All positives were influenza A/H3.

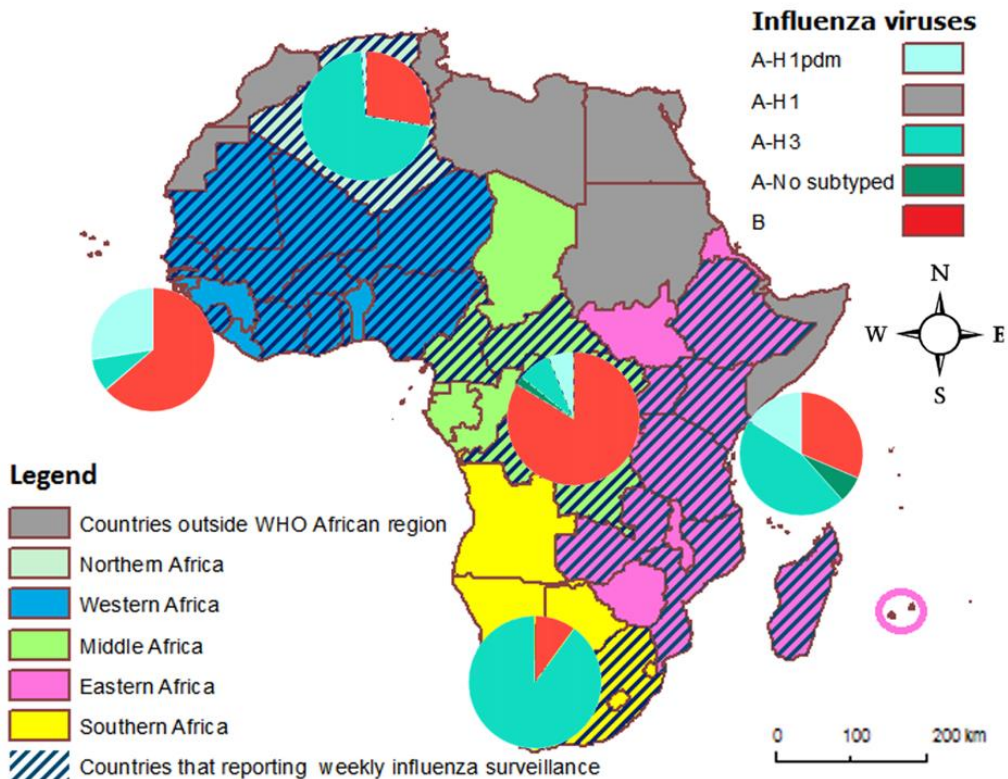
In the Middle transmission zone no positives were identified from the 33 tested (Figure 2).



\* 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) has now become the predominant influenza type circulating (614/1133, 54%), including influenza A subtypes A/H3 (361/614, 59%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (213/614, 35%) while 40 specimens remain untyped (6%). Influenza B represents 46% (519/1133) of circulating influenza types (Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Influenza type and subtype distribution in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1 – 21, 2017.**

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