

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 22, May 29 to June 4, 2017

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During epidemiological week 22, 14 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Togo) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During the current epidemiological week, 111 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 613 that were tested (18% positivity rate). This is an increase from week 21 where the positivity rate was 14%. The influenza positivity rate was comparable to that observed during the same week in 2016 (18%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (63/111, 57%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (26/111, 23%) and influenza B (15/111, 14%). Seven influenza A specimens remain untyped (6%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 22 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 14,200 and tested 13,690 specimens, of which 1,246 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 9%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

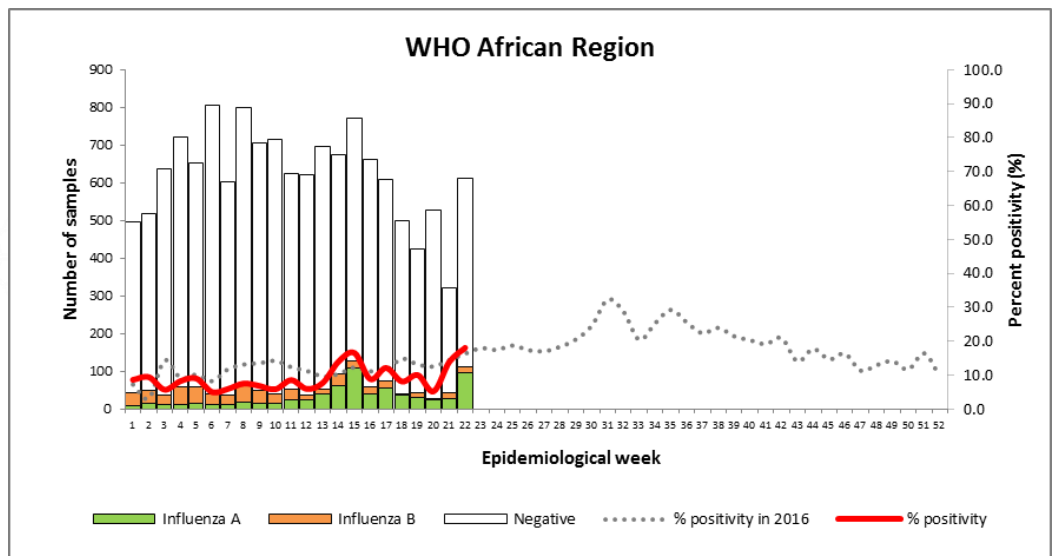
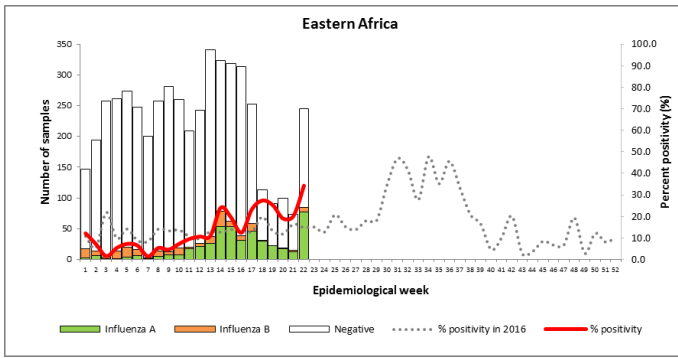


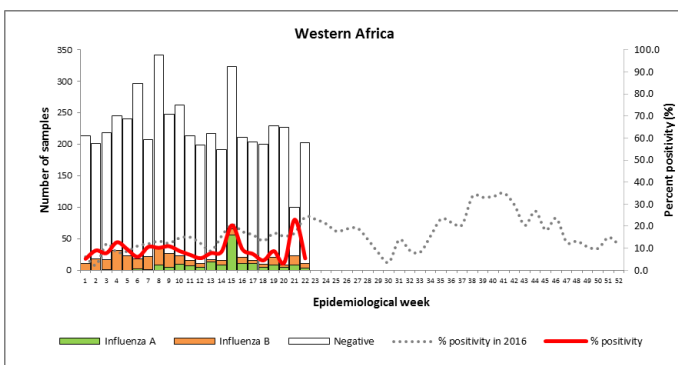
Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 22, 2017



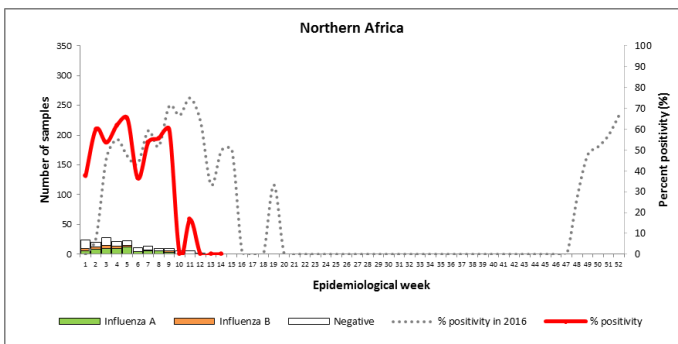
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 22, 2017 in the African region



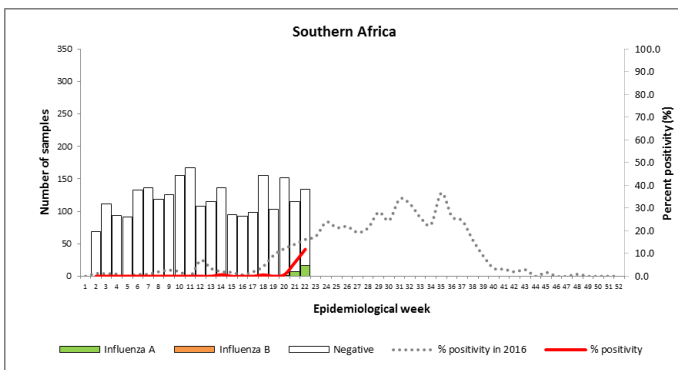
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia*, Kenya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mauritius*, Mayotte, Mozambique*, Rwanda*, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe



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 22, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone.

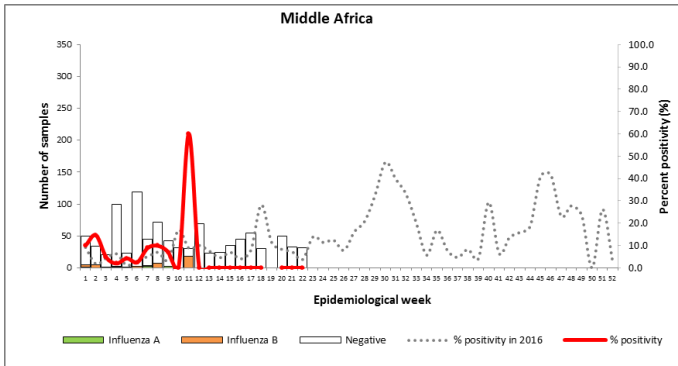
In the Eastern transmission zone 319 specimens were collected, 245 tested and 84 positives were identified (positivity rate 34%). Positive specimens identified were influenza type A/H3 (45/84, 54%), A/H1N1pdm09 (25/84, 30%) and influenza B (7/84, 8%). Seven specimens remain untyped (8%). Notably 80% of positives (67/84) specimens were from the Indian Ocean islands of Madagascar and Mauritius.

In the Western transmission zone 203 specimens (215 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 11 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 5.4%, which is a significant decrease from week 21 where the positivity rate was nearly 5 times higher (23%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (2/11, 18%), A/H1N1pdm09 (1/11, 9%) and influenza B (8/11, 73%) (Figure 2).

In the Southern transmission zone 16 positives were identified from the 134 tested (positivity rate 12%) and all positives were influenza A/H3.

In the Middle transmission zone no positives were identified from the 31 tested.

* 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) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (710/1246, 57%), represented by influenza A/H3 (424/710, 60%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (239/710, 33%) while 47 specimens remain untyped (7%). Influenza B represents 43% (536/1246) of circulating influenza types (Figure 3).

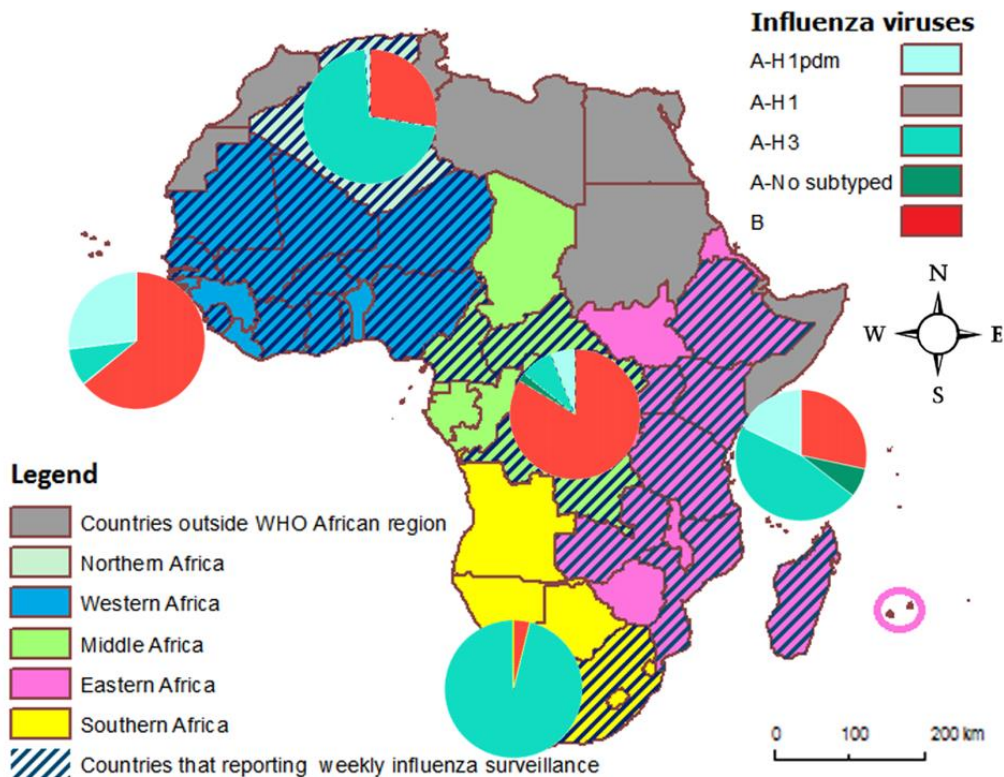


Figure 3. Influenza type and subtype distribution in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1 – 22, 2017.

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