

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 23, June 5 to 11, 2017

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During epidemiological week 23, 11 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Togo) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 23, 251 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 739 that were tested (34% positivity rate). This is a significant increase from week 22 where the positivity rate was 18% and is mainly due to an increase in influenza cases in Mauritius. Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (130/251, 52%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (90/251, 36%) and influenza B (30/251, 12%). One influenza A specimens remain untyped (<1%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 23 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 15,100 and tested 14,471 specimens, of which 1,507 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 10%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

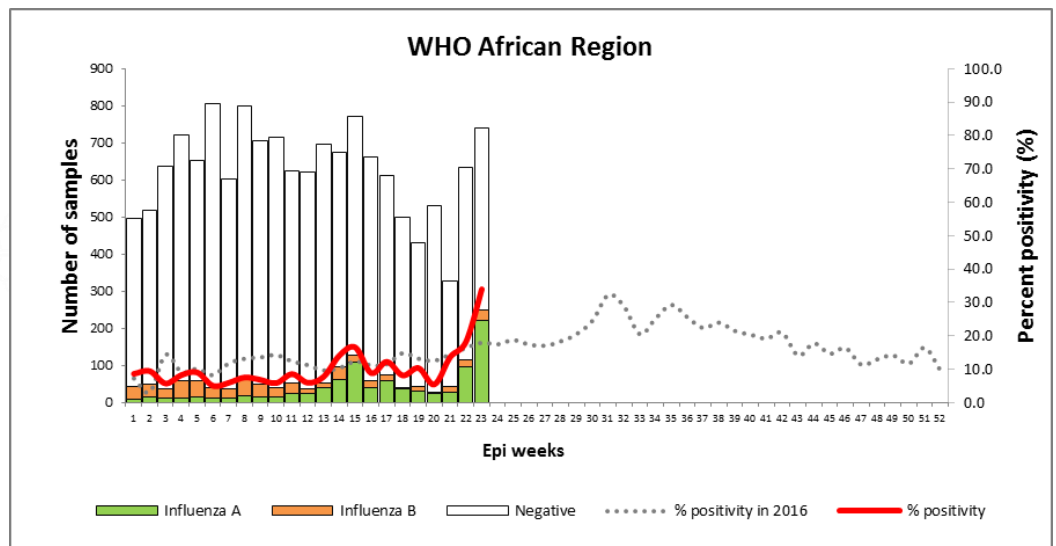
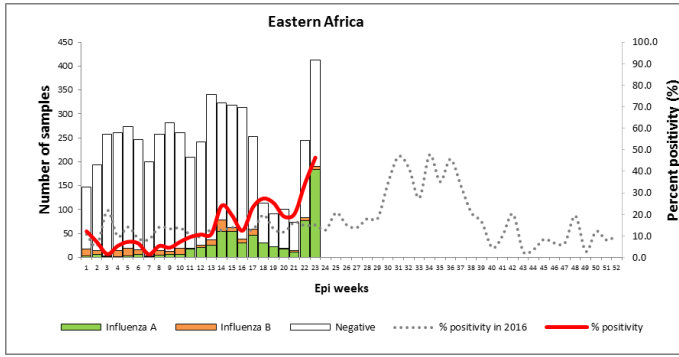
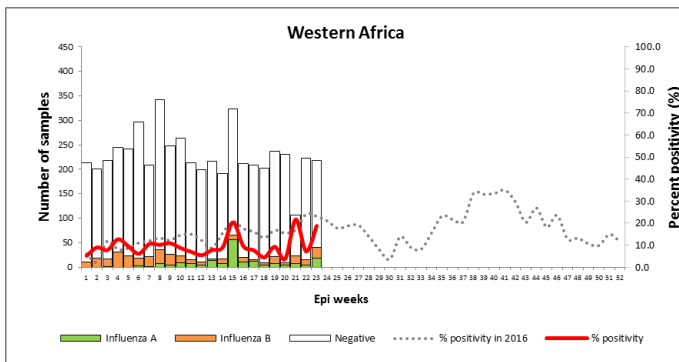


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 23, 2017

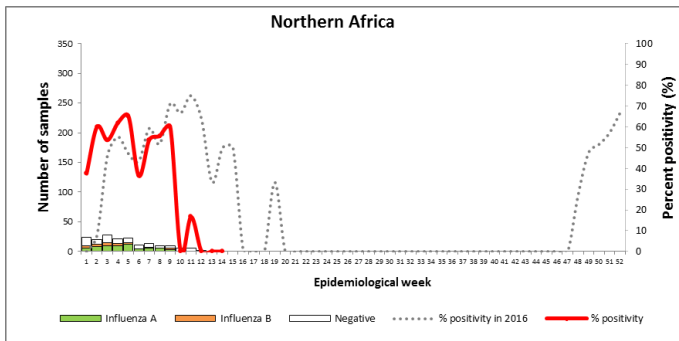
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 23, 2017 in the African region



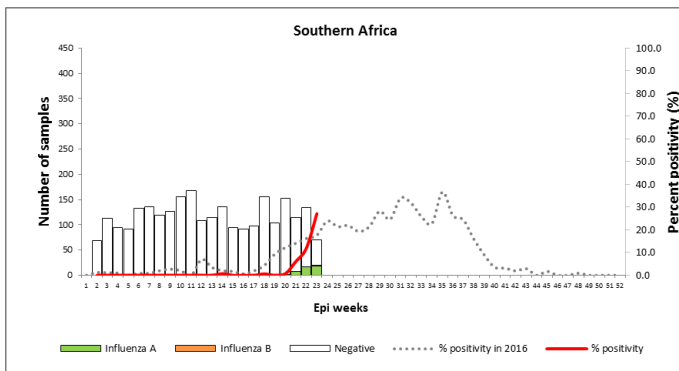
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, **Ethiopia****, **Kenya****, **Madagascar****, Malawi, **Mauritius****, Mayotte, **Mozambique****, **Rwanda****, Seychelles, Somalia, **Uganda****, **United Republic of Tanzania****, **Zambia****, Zimbabwe



Western Africa: Benin, **Burkina Faso****, Cape Verde, **Côte d'Ivoire****, Gambia, **Ghana****, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, **Mali****, Mauritania, **Niger****, **Nigeria****, **Senegal****, Sierra Leone, **Togo****

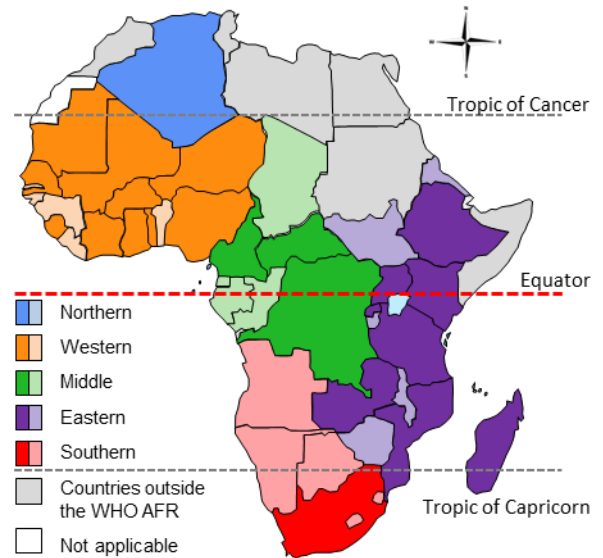


Northern Africa: **Algeria****



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

Figure 3. Influenza transmission zones in the AFR*.



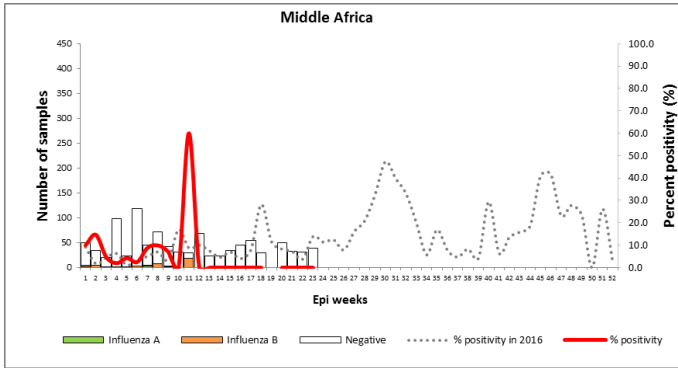
*darker shading indicates countries that contribute data for regional analysis.

During epidemiological week 23, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 552 specimens were collected, 412 tested and 191 positives were identified (positivity rate 46%). All positive specimens were from Mauritius. Influenza types/subtypes identified were influenza type A/H3 (107/191), A/H1N1pdm09 (77/191) and influenza B (7/191).

In the Western transmission zone 218 specimens (233 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 41 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 19%. Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (7/41), A/H1N1pdm09 (11/41) and influenza B (22/41). One influenza A specimen remains untyped.

In the Southern transmission zone 19 positives were identified from the 70 tested (positivity rate 27%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (16/19), A/H1N1pdm09 (2/19) and influenza B (1/19) (Figure 2).

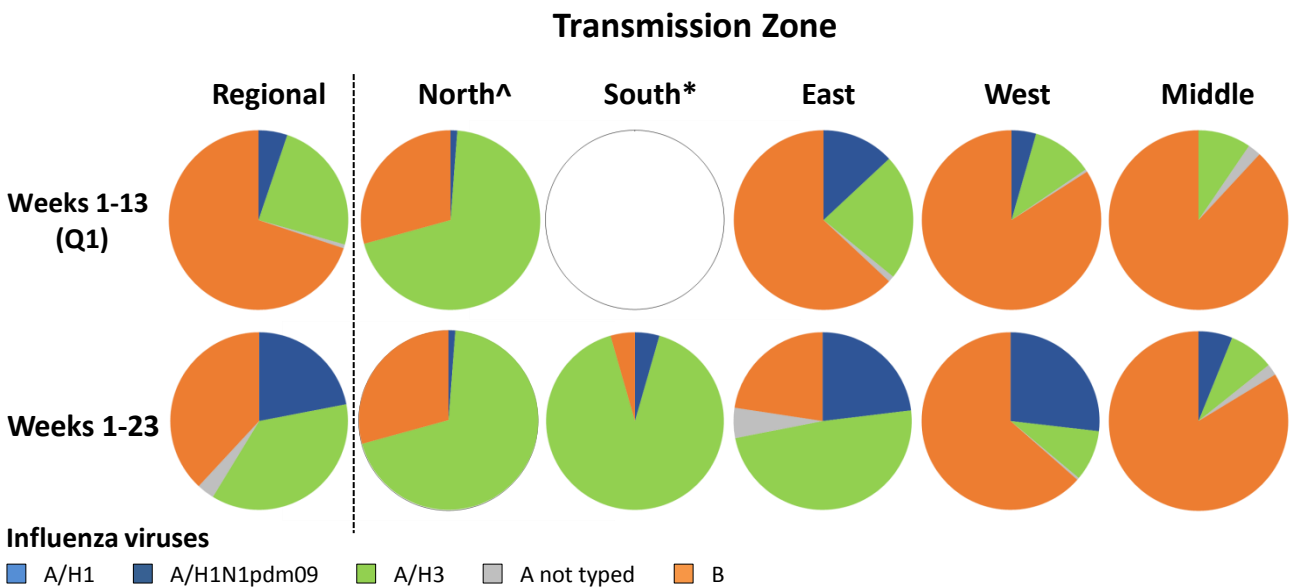


In the Middle transmission zone no positives were identified from the 39 collected and tested.

Middle Africa: Angola, Cameroon**, Central African Republic**, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

** Countries that report virological influenza data.

Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (933/1507, 62%), represented by influenza A/H3 (554/933, 59%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (331/933, 36%) while 48 specimens remain untyped (5%). Influenza B represents 38% (574/1507) of circulating influenza types (Figure 4).



^ No data has been received from Northern transmission zone since week 12.

* No positive specimens were recorded in the Southern transmission zone in Q1.

Figure 4. Influenza type and subtype distribution regionally and in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1–13 (Q1) and weeks 1-23, 2017.

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