

Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 24, June 12 to 18, 2017

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During epidemiological week 24, 8 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 24, 155 specimens tested positive for influenza out of the 533 that were tested (29% positivity rate). This is a decrease in the positivity rate from week 23 (34%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (74/155, 48%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (25/155, 16%) and influenza B (17/155, 11%). Thirty nine influenza A specimens remain untyped (25%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 24 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 15,700 and tested 15,016 specimens, of which 1,663 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 11%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

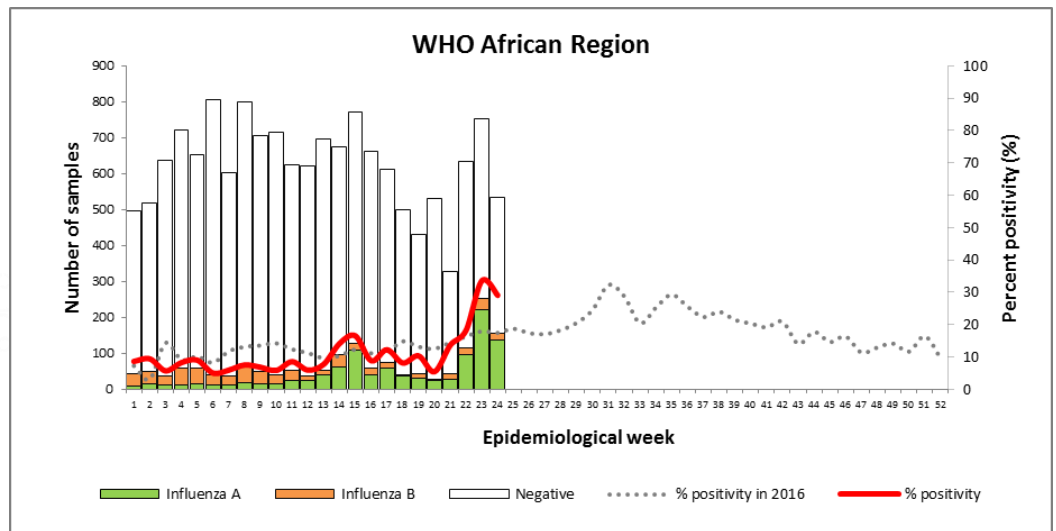
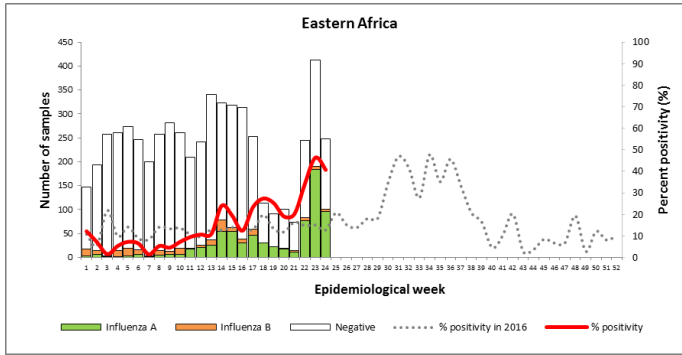
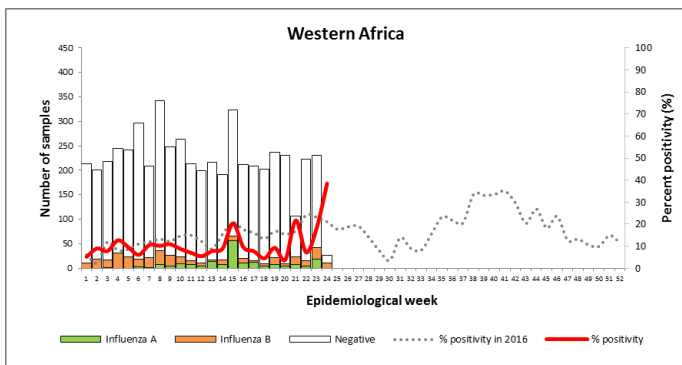


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 24, 2017

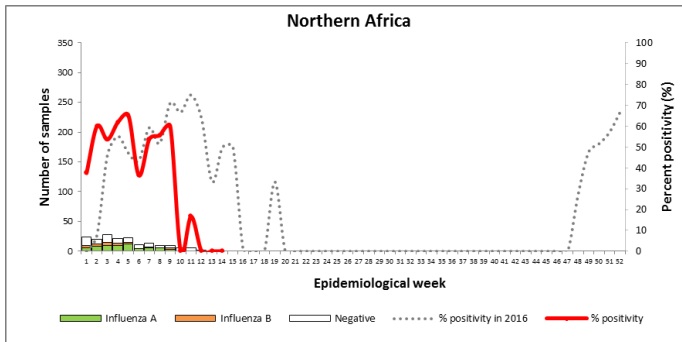
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 24, 2017 in the African region



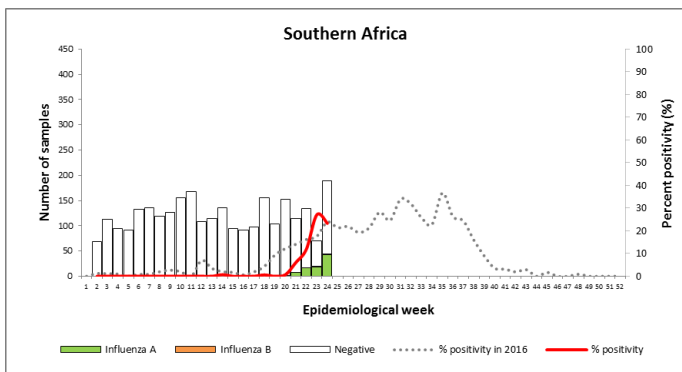
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia**, Kenya**, Madagascar**, Malawi, Mauritius**, Mayotte, Mozambique**, Rwanda**, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda**, United Republic of Tanzania**, Zambia**, Zimbabwe



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

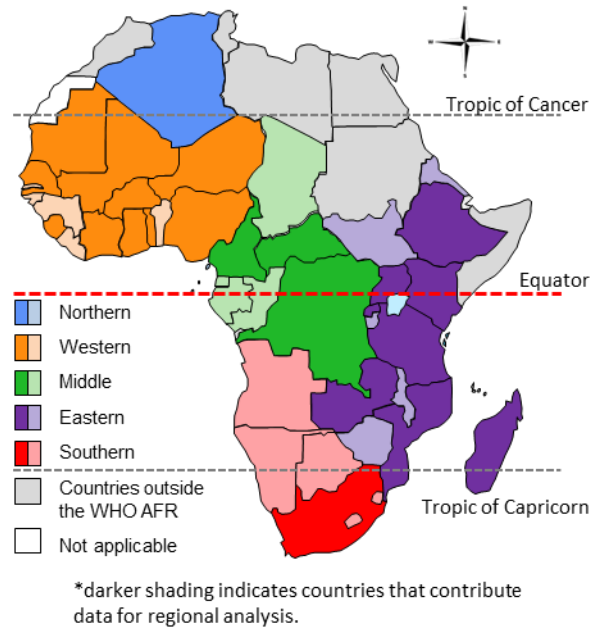


Northern Africa: Algeria**



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

Figure 3. Influenza transmission zones in the AFR*.

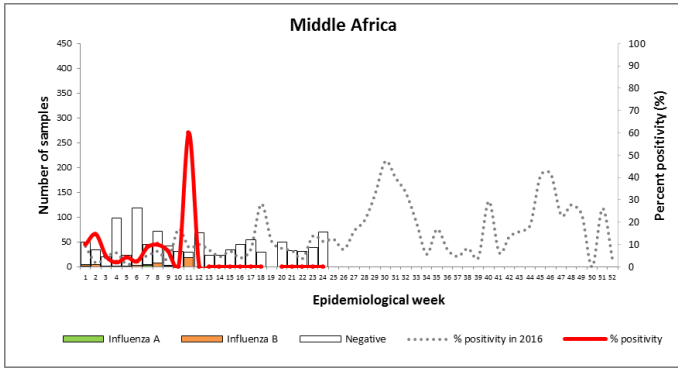


During epidemiological week 24, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 318 specimens were collected, 248 tested and 101 positives were identified (positivity rate 41%). Positive specimens from Mauritius represented 98% of all positives from the Eastern transmission zone. Influenza types/subtypes identified were influenza type A/H3 (70/101), A/H1N1pdm09 (25/101) and influenza B (5/101). Five influenza A positive specimens remain untyped.

In the Western transmission zone 26 specimens (49 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 10 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 38%. All positive specimens were from Senegal and were influenza B.

In the Southern transmission zone 44 positives were identified from the 189 tested (positivity rate 23%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (4/44) and influenza B (2/44). However a large proportion of influenza A specimens identified remain untyped (38/44)(Figure 2).

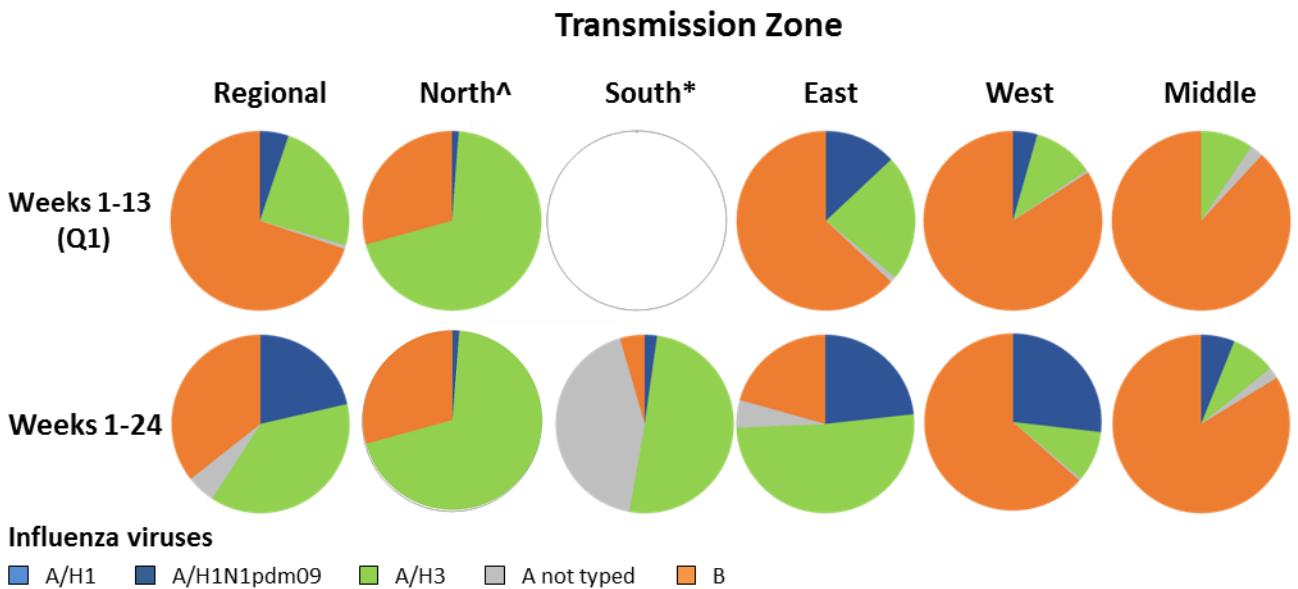


In the Middle transmission zone no positives were identified from the 70 specimens collected and tested.

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 (1071/1663, 64%), represented by influenza A/H3 (628/1071, 59%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (356/1071, 33%) while 87 specimens remain untyped (8%). Influenza B represents 36% (592/1663) 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 1-24, 2017.