Influenza Virological Surveillance in the
WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 26, June 26 to July 2, 2017

During epidemiological week 26, 12 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Togo) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 26, 118 specimens were positive for influenza out of the 353 that were tested (33% positivity rate). This is an increase in the positivity rate from week 25 (22%) and reflects the seasonal increase of influenza in the southern transmission zone (South Africa). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (88/118, 75%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (16/118, 14%) and influenza B (10/118, 8%). Four influenza A specimens remain untyped (3%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 26 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected 16,800 and tested 15,884 specimens, of which 1,866 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 12%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 26, 2017
During epidemiological week 26, no data was reported from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 80 specimens were collected, 68 tested and 16 positives were identified (positivity rate 23%). Influenza types/subtypes identified were influenza type A/H3 (8/16), A/H1N1pdm09 (6/16) and two influenza A positive specimens remain untyped.

In the Western transmission zone 63 specimens (75 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 16 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 23%. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (5/16), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (3/16) and influenza B (8/16).

In the Southern transmission zone 86 positives were identified from the 193 tested (positivity rate 45%). Influenza types detected in this zone during the reporting week included, influenza A/H3 (75/86), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (7/86) and influenza B (2/86). Two influenza A specimens remain untyped. (Figure 2).
Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (1249/1866, 67%), represented by influenza A/H3 (763/1249, 61%), A/H1 (1/1249, <0.1%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (390/1249, 31%) while 95 specimens remain untyped (8%). Influenza B represents 33% (617/1866) of circulating influenza types (Figure 4).

**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.**

*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 1-26, 2017.**