Influenza Virological Surveillance in the
WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 30, July 24 to 30, 2017

During epidemiological week 30, 13 laboratories (Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Zambia) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 30, 78 specimens were positive for influenza out of the 354 that were tested (22% positivity rate). This is nearly double the positivity rate from week 29 (13%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (47/78, 60%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (18/78, 23%) and influenza B (13/78, 17%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 30 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 20,000 specimens and tested 18,994, of which 2,435 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 13%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 30, 2017
During epidemiological week 30, data was received from the Northern transmission zone however no specimens were collected or tested during this epidemiological week.

In the Eastern transmission zone 44 specimens were collected, 39 were tested and 7 positives were identified (positivity rate 18%). Influenza types/subtypes identified were influenza type A/H3 (6/7), A/H1N1pdm09 (1/7).

In the Western transmission zone 208 specimens (208 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 32 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 15%. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (10/32), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (15/32) and influenza B (7/32).

For this epidemiological week 56 specimens were collected and tested in the Southern transmission zone, of which 38 were positive for influenza. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (31/38), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (2/38) and influenza B (5/38) (Figure 2).
In the Middle transmission zone during this epidemiological week 30, 79 specimens were collected and 51 tested for influenza. One influenza B positive specimen was identified among those tested.

Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (1741/2435, 72%), represented by influenza A/H3 (1176/1741, 67%), A/H1 (2/1741, <1%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (500/1741, 29%) while 63 specimens remain untyped (4%). Influenza B represents 28% (694/2435) 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

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

**Countries that report virological influenza data.**

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

**Figure 4. Influenza type and subtype distribution regionally and in the 5 transmission zones in the African region during weeks 1–13 (Q1), weeks 14-26 (Q2) and weeks 1-30, 2017.*