Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region
Epidemiological Week 31, July 31 to August 6, 2017

During epidemiological week 31, 14 laboratories (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 31, 88 specimens were positive for influenza out of the 452 that were tested (19% positivity rate). This is a slight decrease on the positivity rate from week 30 (22%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (62/88, 70%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (14/88, 16%) and influenza B (11/88, 13%). One influenza A specimen (1/88, 1%) remains untyped.

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 31 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 20,800 specimens and tested 19,803, of which 2,627 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 31, 2017
During epidemiological week 31, data was not received from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 79 specimens were collected, 74 were tested and 7 positives were identified (positivity rate 9%). Influenza types/subtypes identified were influenza type A/H3 (5/7), A/H1N1pdm09 (1/7) and influenza B (1/7).

In the Western transmission zone 152 specimens (164 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 19 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 12%. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (8/19), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (10/19) and influenza B (1/19).

For this epidemiological week 198 specimens were collected and tested in the Southern transmission zone, of which 60 were positive for influenza. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (49/60), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (3/60) and influenza B (7/60). I influenza A specimen remains untyped. (Figure 2).
In the Middle transmission zone during this epidemiological week 31, 28 specimens were collected and tested for influenza. Two influenza B positive specimen was identified among those tested.

Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (1902/2627, 72%), represented by influenza A/H3 (1319/1902, 69%), A/H1 (2/1902, <1%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (516/1902, 27%) while 65 specimens remain untyped (4%). Influenza B represents 28% (725/2627) of circulating influenza types (Figure 4).

**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

*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), weeks 14-26 (Q2) and weeks 1-31, 2017.**