Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region
Epidemiological Week 32, August 7 to 13, 2017

During epidemiological week 32, 11 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Senegal and Zambia) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 32, 22 specimens were positive for influenza out of the 244 that were tested (9% positivity rate). This represents over a 50% decrease on the positivity rate from week 31 (19%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (6/22, 27%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (13/22, 59%) and influenza B (3/22, 14%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 32 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 21,000 specimens and tested 20,047, of which 2,649 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 32, 2017
During epidemiological week 32, data was not received from the Northern or Southern transmission zones for analysis.

In the Eastern transmission zone 32 specimens were collected, 18 were tested and 1 positive was identified (positivity rate 6%). The positive specimen was influenza types/subtypes A/H3.

In the Western transmission zone 171 specimens (177 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 21 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 12%. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (5/21), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (13/21) and influenza B (3/21). (Figure 2).
Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (1921/2649, 73%), represented by influenza A/H3 (1325/1921, 69%), A/H1 (2/1921, <1%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (529/1921, 28%) while 65 specimens remain untyped (3%). Influenza B represents 27% (728/2649) of circulating influenza types (Figure 4).

**Countries that report virological influenza data.**

In the Middle transmission zone during this epidemiological week 32, 55 specimens were collected and tested for influenza and no positive specimens were identified.

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 1–32, 2017.

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