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Influenza Virological Surveillance in the WHO African Region

Epidemiological Week 42, October 16 to 22

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During epidemiological week 42, 15 laboratories (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zambia) in the African region influenza laboratory network contributed data for analysis. During week 42, 125 specimens were positive for influenza out of the 548 that were tested (23% positivity rate). The positivity rate for week 42 (23%) was similar to that observed in week 41 (24%). Influenza types and subtypes identified were influenza A/H3 (36/125, 29%), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (69/125, 55%) and influenza B (19/125, 15%). One specimen remains untyped (1%).

Cumulatively* from epidemiological week 1 to 42 the AFR influenza laboratory network has collected over 28,900 specimens and tested 27,850, of which 4,171 have been positive for influenza virus (positivity rate 15%).

*adjusted for retrospective data.

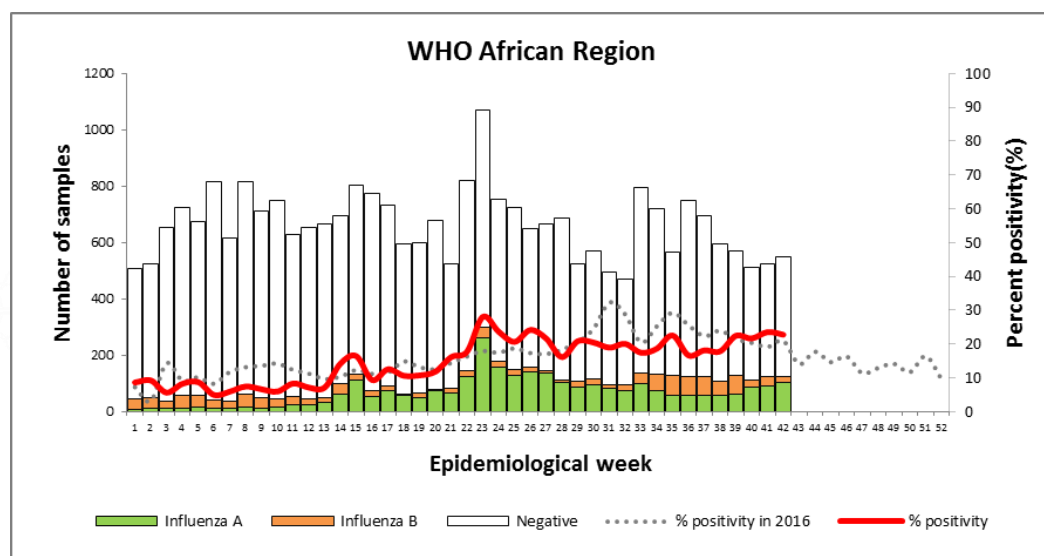
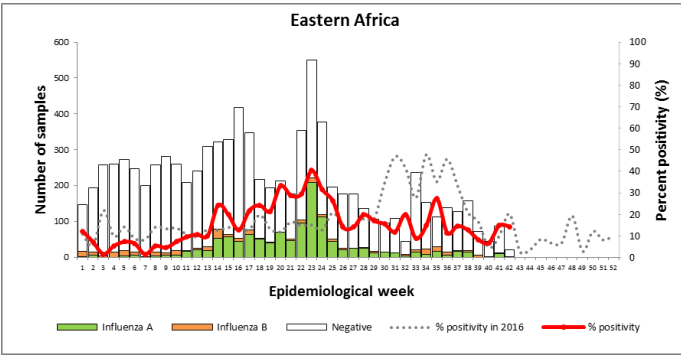
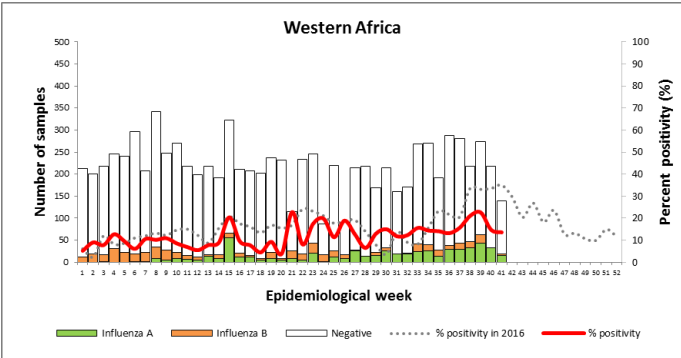


Figure 1 – Weekly virological assessment of influenza specimens collected in the African region, weeks 1 to 42, 2017

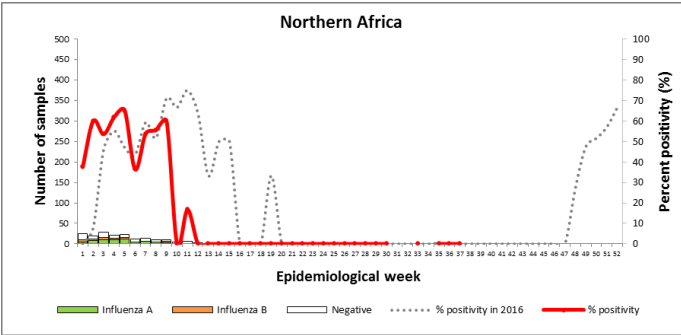
Figure 2. Virological analysis of influenza specimens collected from weeks 1 to 42, 2017 in the African region



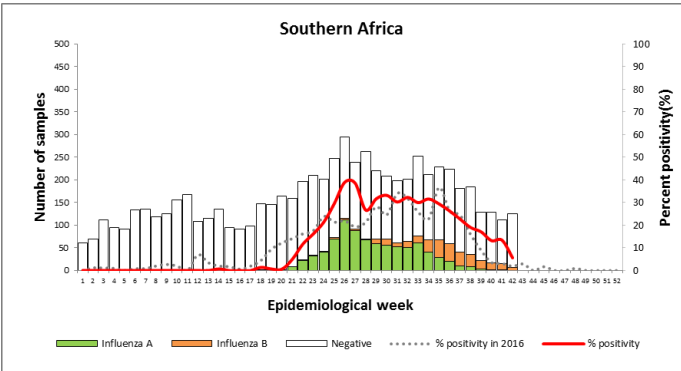
Eastern Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, **Ethiopia****, **Kenya****, **Madagascar****, Malawi, **Mauritius****, Mayotte, **Mozambique****, **Rwanda****, Seychelles, Somalia, **Uganda****, **United Republic of Tanzania****, **Zambia****, Zimbabwe



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

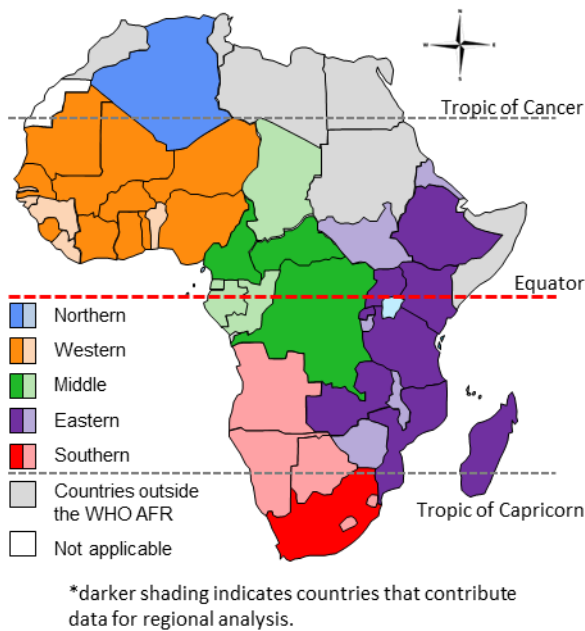


Northern Africa: **Algeria****



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

Figure 3. Influenza transmission zones in the AFR*.

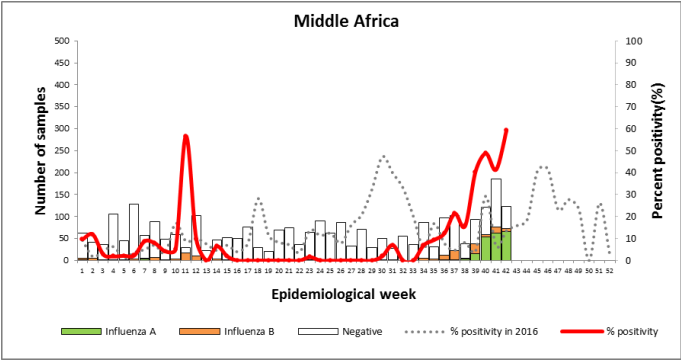


During epidemiological week 42, no data was received from the Northern transmission zone.

In the Eastern transmission zone 3 specimens were tested positive for influenza virus of the 21 tested (40 collected). The positivity rate was 14%, which is similar to the positivity rate reported for week 41 (15%). Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (1/3) and influenza B (1/1). One influenza A specimen remains untyped.

In the Western transmission zone 278 specimens (279 specimens collected) were tested for influenza of which 42 were positive. The positivity rate in the Western zone was 15%, similar to the positivity rate reported for week 41 (14%). Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (17/42), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (21/42) and influenza B (4/42).

For this epidemiological week 144 specimens were collected and 126 tested in the Southern transmission zone, of which 7 were positive for influenza (positivity rate 6%). All 7 positive specimens were influenza type B.



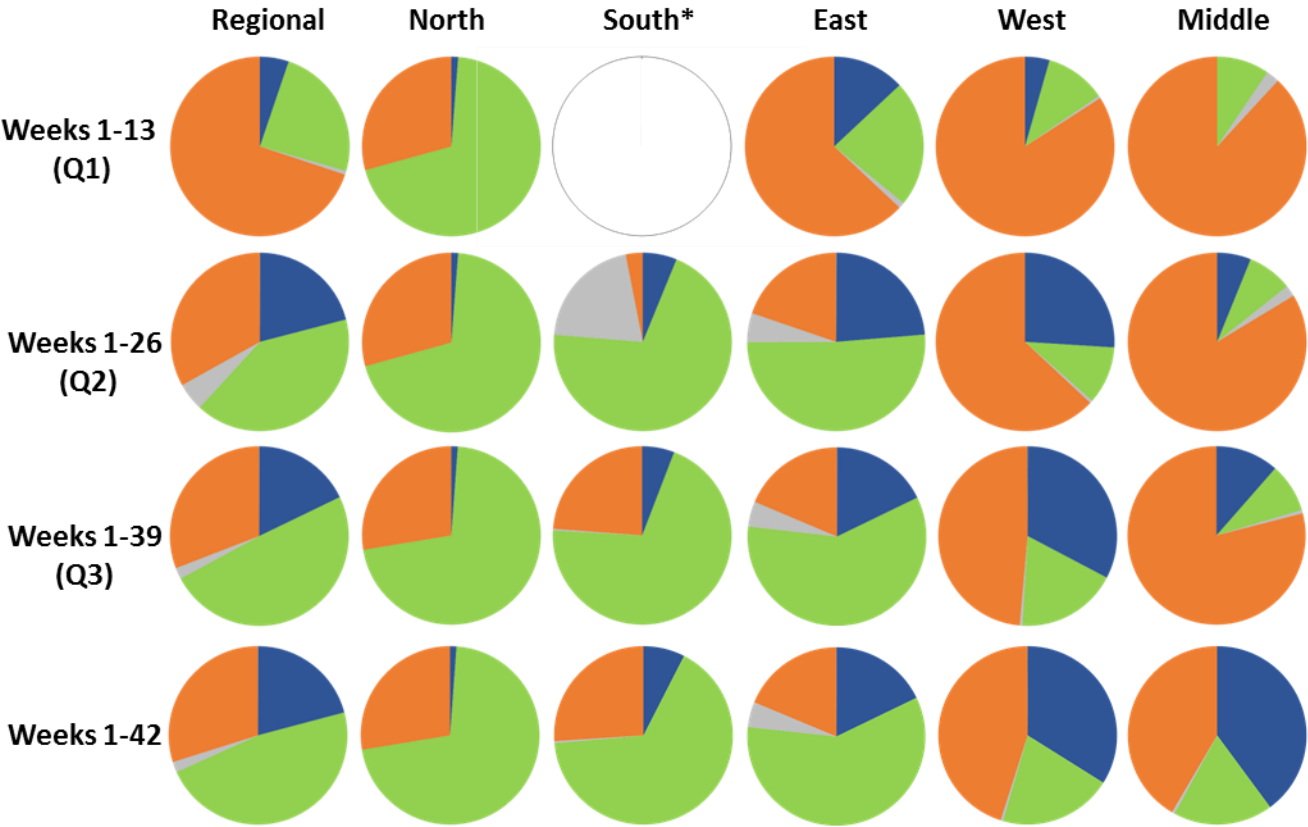
In the Middle transmission zone during epidemiological week 42, 123 specimens were collected and tested for influenza and 73 positives were identified. The positivity rate (week 42 60%) remains high in this region due to the influenza season in Cameroon. Influenza types and subtypes identified included influenza A/H3 (18/73), influenza A/H1N1pdm09 (48/73) and influenza B (7/73).

**** 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

Regionally, influenza A (all subtypes) remains the predominant influenza type circulating (2926/4171, 70%), represented by influenza A/H3 (1977/2926, 68%), A/H1 (2/2926, <1%) and A/H1N1pdm09 (868/2926, 29%) while 79 specimens remain untyped (3%). Influenza B represents 30% (1245/4171) of circulating influenza types (Figure 4).

Transmission Zone



Influenza viruses
 A/H1 A/H1N1pdm09 A/H3 A not typed B

* 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 1-42, 2017.