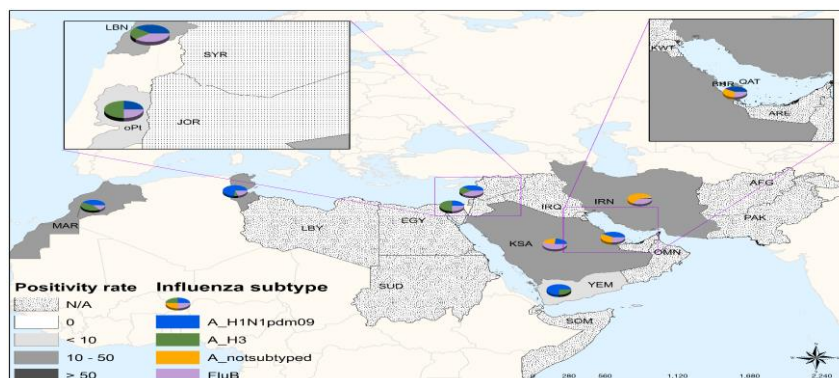


Influenza monthly update

In **March 2020**, many countries reported data to FluNet and EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The proportion of tested cases for influenza in the Region was 83% out of 6 998 enrolled cases; 8.3% of cases tested positive, and 91.7% negative.



Disclaimer: The representation of material on the maps contained herein does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authority of frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represents approximate border lines for which there may not be full agreement.

Figure 1. Influenza geographic spread during March 2020

Influenza activity by sub-type

- In northern Africa, Influenza activity decreased in Tunisia with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 most frequently detected followed by influenza B viruses while Morocco reported sporadic cases of influenza A and B
- In Western Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease in Qatar with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses most frequently detected and in Saudi Arabia with influenza B predominantly circulating. Lebanon, oPt and Yemen reported sporadic cases of both influenza A and B viruses.
- In southern Asia, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported decrease influenza activity with influenza B most frequently detected.

Source of transmission zones:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/transmission_zone/s/en/

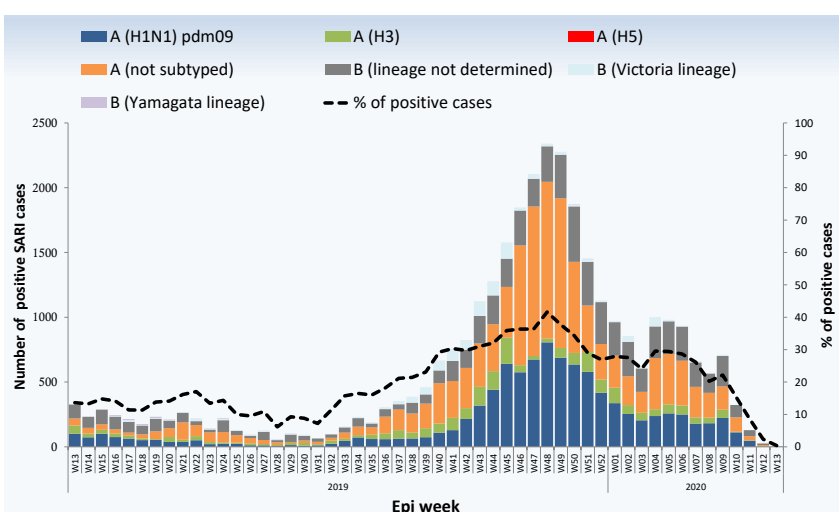


Figure 2. Weekly positive cases of influenza by subtype, weeks 13/2019–2020

Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type

- During **March 2020**, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested a total of 5 804 specimens for influenza viruses, of which 484 tested positive (8.3%).
- The average percentage of positive rates was 8.3%, with the highest positive rates recorded in Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.
- Of the viruses tested, 325 (67%) were influenza A viruses, including 161 (33%) influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 10 (2%) influenza A(H3) viruses and 154 (32%) influenza A (not subtyped) viruses. Influenza B (lineage not determined) viruses accounted for 33% (157).

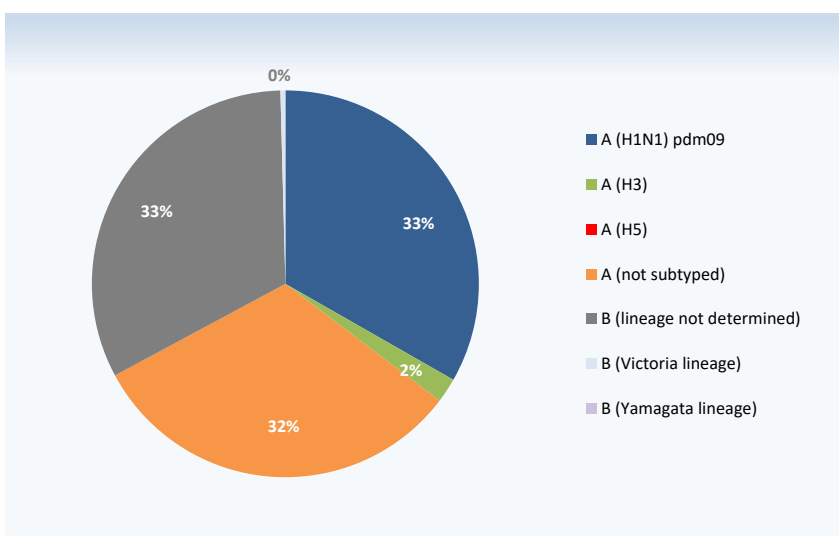


Figure 3. Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type during March 2020

Source of data: FluNet and EMFLU

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