

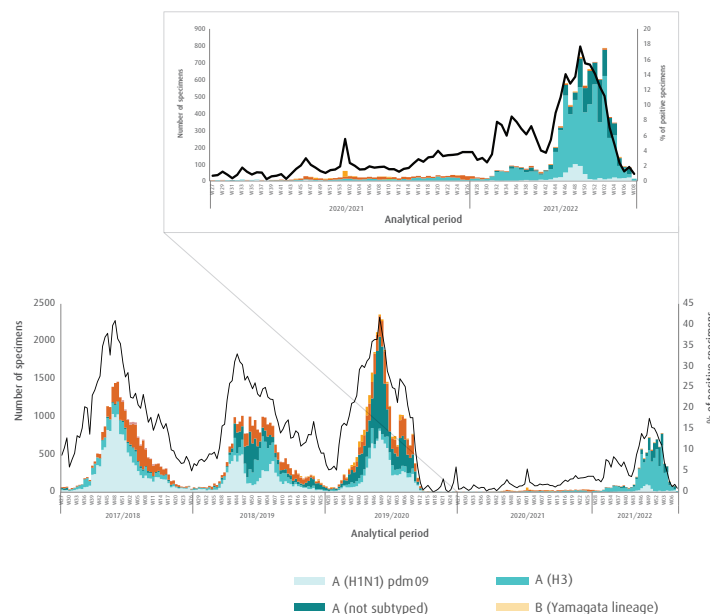
# INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 5-8, 2022

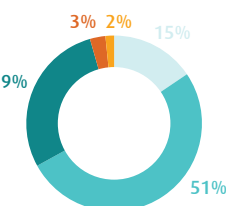
## Key highlights

- In February 2022, 12 out of 22 countries of the Region reported data to FluNet and/or EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates (Table).
- The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) witnessed a decrease in the number of tested specimens as well as a decrease in influenza activity with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and remained below levels throughout the 2020/2021 analytical period. However, influenza activity has shown increasing trends in the 2021/2022 analytical period, yet lower trends when compared to pre-pandemic periods (Fig. 1).
- Influenza positivity rate in the Region was 11% in January 2022 and decreased to 1.7% in February 2022.
- In the analytical period 2021/2022, a total of 96 535 cases were enrolled, of which 94 882 (98%) were tested and 8080 (9%) were influenza positive (Table).
- Out of the 19 012 enrolled cases in the Region during January 2022, 18 633 specimens were tested for influenza, of which 315 specimens tested positive (1.7%).
- Out of the 315 influenza-positive specimens in January 2022, 162 specimens (51%) were influenza A(H3), 90 specimens (29%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 49 specimens (15%) were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, 9 specimens (3%) were influenza B (lineage not determined) and 5 specimens (2%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) (Fig. 2).
- Both influenza A (not sub-typed) and influenza B were detected in cases aged less than 2 years. Only influenza type A (not-subtyped) was detected in cases aged 2 years to less than 15 years. Both influenza types (A with dominance of subtype H3, and B) were detected in cases aged 15 to less than 50 years. No influenza cases detected in age groups above 50 years.

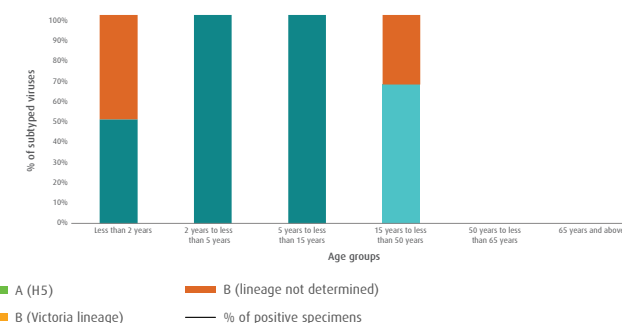
**Fig 1. Number of specimens by influenza virus subtypes/lineages and percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza viruses in the Region from week 27, 2017 to week 8, 2022**



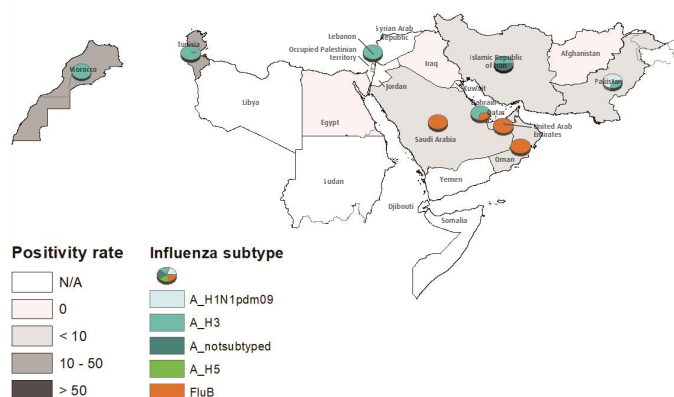
**Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, February 2022**



**Fig 3. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, by age group, EMR, February 2022**



**Map. Influenza positivity rate and detected influenza types and subtypes by country, EMR, February 2022**



**Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2021 to week 8, 2022**

Transmission zone	Country	Number of enrolled cases	Number of tested cases (%)	Number of positive cases (%)	Flu A (%)				Number of flu B cases (%)
					A (H1N1)pdm09	A (H3)	A (H5)	A (not subtyped)	
Eastern Africa	Somalia	295	295 (100)	65 (22)	18 (6)	42 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (2)
Northern Africa	Egypt	5260	5260 (100)	224 (4)	0 (0)	198 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	26 (0)
	Morocco	324	324 (100)	71 (22)	14 (4)	57 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Tunisia	786	786 (100)	68 (9)	7 (1)	61 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	2520	2125 (84)	65 (3)	0 (0)	65 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	36 016	36 016 (100)	4844 (13)	0 (0)	3470 (10)	0 (0)	1341 (4)	33 (0)
	Pakistan	14 641	14 651 (100)	530 (4)	80 (1)	448 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
Western Asia	Bahrain	87	86 (99)	4 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)	1 (1)
	Iraq	1435	1433 (100)	92 (6)	0 (0)	92 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Jordan	2926	2926 (100)	46 (2)	1 (0)	45 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	6536	6536 (100)	214 (3)	0 (0)	214 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	12 584	12 535 (100)	982 (8)	395 (3)	456 (4)	0 (0)	92 (1)	39 (0)
	Qatar	9437	9437 (100)	718 (8)	18 (0)	442 (5)	0 (0)	181 (2)	77 (1)
	Saudi Arabia	1656	440 (27)	41 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (3)	26 (6)
	Syrian Arab Republic	606	606 (100)	41 (7)	0 (0)	41 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	1426	1426 (100)	75 (5)	13 (1)	53 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (1)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96 535</b>	<b>94 882 (98)</b>	<b>8080 (9)</b>	<b>546 (1)</b>	<b>5684 (6)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>1632 (2)</b>	<b>218 (0)</b>