

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 27–30, 2022

Key highlights

- In July 2022, 13 of 22 countries of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported influenza data to FluNet and/or EMFLU (Afghanistan, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates) (Table).
- Overall, the Region witnessed a decrease in the number of tested specimens as well as a decrease in positive influenza cases with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and remained low throughout the 2020/2021 analytical period. However, influenza activity showed increasing trend throughout the 2021/2022 analytical period, yet lower than that observed in pre-pandemic period: 2018-2019 (Fig. 1). The pattern of change in the influenza activity in the EMR is consistent with the global trend.
- In the current analytical period (2021/2022), based on influenza data from 18 countries, a total of 146 144 cases were enrolled, of which 144 647 (99%) were tested and, out of those, 11 669 (8%) were influenza positive (Table).
- Influenza positivity rates in the Region have fluctuated over the past three months; from 9% in May to 13% in June and declined to 9% in July 2022. Out of the 4702 enrolled cases in the Region during July 2022, 4306 specimens (92%) were tested for influenza, of which 390 specimens tested positive (9%).
- Of the 390 influenza-positive specimens in July 2022, 147 specimens (38%) were influenza A(H3), 121 cases (31%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 96 (25%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 16 specimens (4%) were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, and 10 (2%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) (Fig. 2).
- Influenza data breakdown by age-group is not available for July, 2022 due to small numbers.

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, 2018 to week 30, 2022

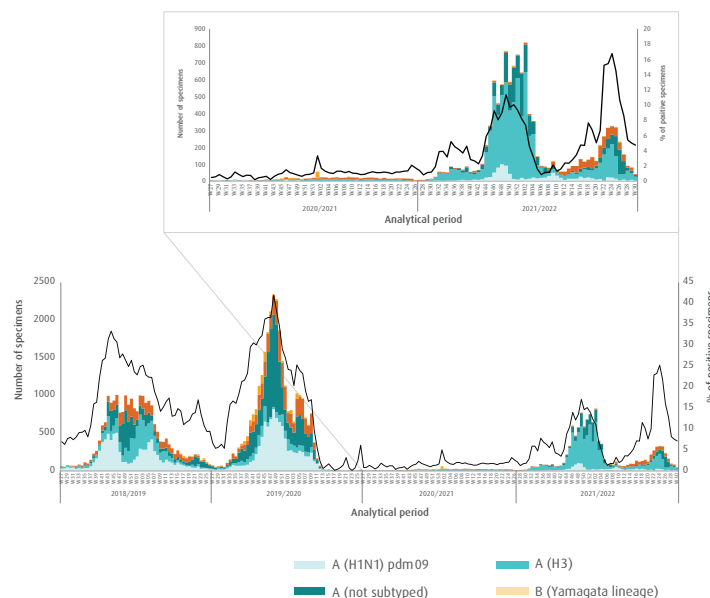
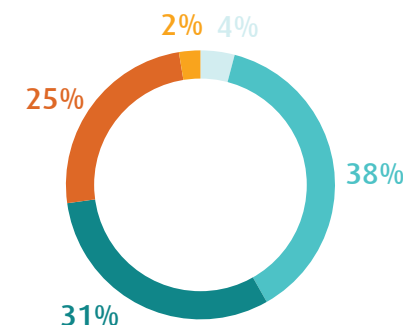


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, July 2022



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

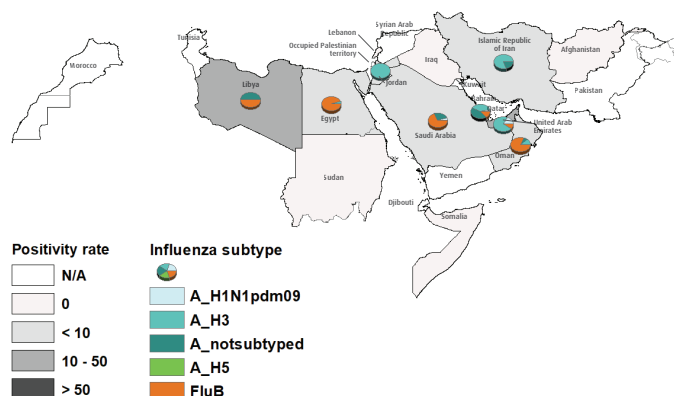


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2021 to week 30, 2022

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	505	455 (90)	89 (20)	38 (8)	46 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (1)
Northern Africa	Egypt	12 924	12 924 (100)	905 (7)	1 (0)	287 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	617 (5)
	Libya	187	187 (100)	60 (32)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	23 (12)	37 (20)
	Morocco	408	408 (100)	73 (18)	14 (3)	59 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Sudan	110	108 (98)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Tunisia	1627	1627 (100)	121 (7)	9 (1)	111 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	3583	3267 (91)	65 (2)	0 (0)	65 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	43 222	43 222 (100)	4950 (11)	1 (0)	3523 (8)	0 (0)	1382 (3)	44 (0)
Western Asia	Pakistan	25 321	25 331 (100)	714 (3)	252 (1)	454 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)
	Bahrain	146	145 (99)	10 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (6)	1 (1)
	Iraq	2728	2726 (100)	93 (3)	1 (0)	92 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Jordan	5064	5064 (100)	131 (3)	1 (0)	129 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
	Lebanon	7238	7238 (100)	216 (3)	0 (0)	216 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	14 989	14 934 (100)	1060 (7)	400 (3)	474 (3)	0 (0)	104 (1)	82 (1)
	Qatar	16 801	16 801 (100)	2559 (15)	90 (1)	1400 (8)	0 (0)	766 (5)	303 (2)
	Saudi Arabia	7066	6078 (86)	367 (6)	30 (0)	52 (1)	0 (0)	188 (3)	97 (2)
	Syrian Arab Republic	1972	1879 (95)	75 (4)	0 (0)	75 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	2253	2253 (100)	181 (8)	33 (1)	122 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	26 (1)
Total		146 144	144 647 (99)	11 669 (8)	870 (1)	7105 (5)	0 (0)	2472 (2)	1222 (1)