

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 31–34, 2022

Key highlights

- In August 2022, 18 of 22 countries of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported influenza data to FluNet and/or EMFLU (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) (Table).
- Overall, there was an increased activity in the influenza season of 2021–2022, as compared to the previous two seasons at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which witnessed substantially lower influenza activities. Notably, increased influenza activities were observed during August 2022, which was not typical for a summer month in the Northern Hemisphere (Fig 1).
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 to week 34, 2022), based on influenza data from 18 countries, a total of 20 594 cases were enrolled, of which 20 407 (99%) were tested and, out of those, 2040 (10%) were influenza positive (Table).
- Influenza positivity rates in the Region have remained relatively stable over the past three months; from 13% in June, declined to 9% in July and 11% in August 2022. Out of the 9996 enrolled cases in the Region during August 2022, 9929 specimens (99%) were tested for influenza, of which 1117 specimens tested positive (11%).
- Of the 1117 influenza-positive specimens in August 2022, 667 specimens (60%) were influenza A (H3), 185 (16%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 118 cases (11%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 112 (10%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) and 35 specimens (3%) were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 (Fig. 2).

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 34, 2022

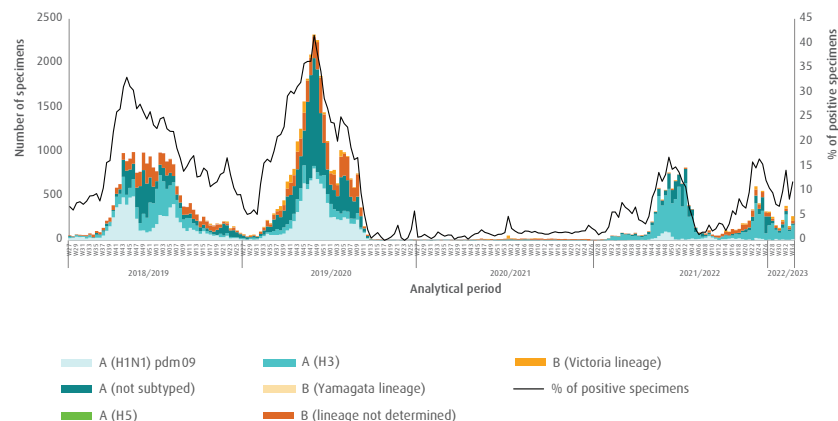
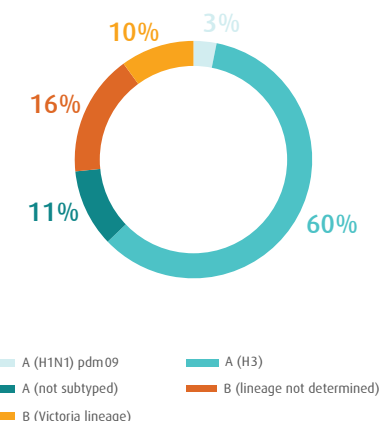


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, August 2022



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

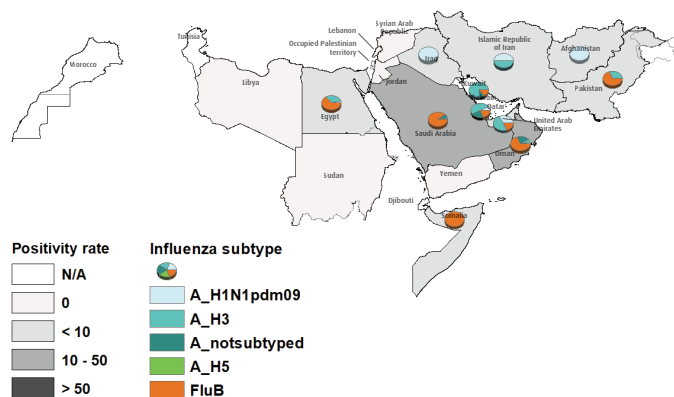


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27 to week 34, 2022

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	435	429 (99)	36 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	36 (8)
Northern Africa	Egypt	2855	2855 (100)	96 (3)	2 (0)	20 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	74 (3)
	Libya	48	48 (100)	6 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4)	4 (8)
Southern Asia	Sudan	133	133 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Afghanistan	240	240 (100)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2478	2478 (100)	20 (1)	9 (0)	9 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)
	Pakistan	1288	1288 (100)	67 (5)	0 (0)	17 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50 (4)
Western Asia	Bahrain	6248	6238 (100)	1153 (18)	11 (0)	908 (15)	0 (0)	114 (2)	120 (2)
	Iraq	359	359 (100)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Jordan	536	536 (100)	3 (1)	0 (0)	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	457	450 (98)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	occupied Palestinian territory	25	25 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	845	842 (100)	87 (10)	1 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	18 (2)	64 (8)
	Qatar	2410	2410 (100)	418 (17)	20 (1)	183 (8)	0 (0)	148 (6)	67 (3)
	Saudi Arabia	1231	1070 (87)	71 (7)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	11 (1)	58 (5)
	Syrian Arab Republic	150	150 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	849	849 (100)	81 (10)	21 (2)	49 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (1)
	Yemen	7	7 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total		20594	20407 (99)	2040 (10)	67 (0)	1194 (6)	0 (0)	295 (1)	484 (2)