

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 35–39, 2022

Key highlights

- In September 2022, 16 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, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, 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 (Fig 1).
- Compared to the previous months, there was an increase in influenza activity observed in the Region in September, ahead of the influenza season, which typically starts from October.
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 to week 39, 2022), based on influenza data from 18 countries, a total of 35 962 cases were enrolled, of which 35 583 (99%) were tested and, out of those, 3809 (11%) were influenza positive (Table).
- Influenza positivity rate in the Region has been steadily increasing over the past three months; from 9% in July to 11% in August and to 12% in September 2022. Out of the 15 368 enrolled cases in the Region during September 2022, 15 176 specimens (99%) were tested for influenza, of which 1769 specimens tested positive (12%).
- Of the 1769 influenza-positive specimens in September 2022, 645 specimens (37%) were influenza A (H3), 371 specimens (21%) were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 322 (18%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 268 (15%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) and 163 cases (9%) were influenza A (not subtyped) (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 39, 2022

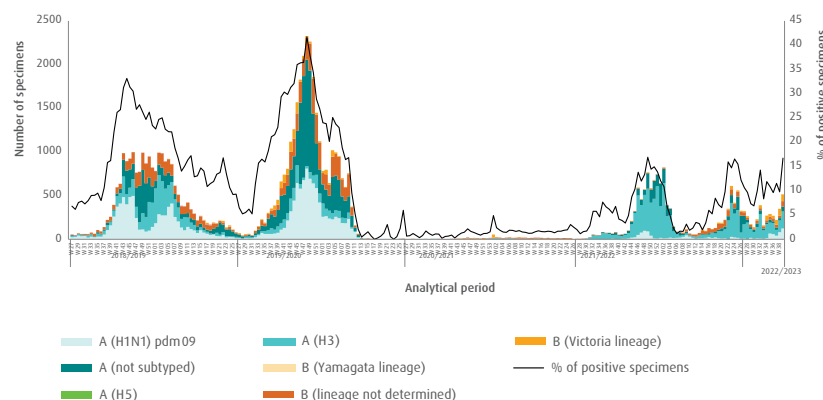
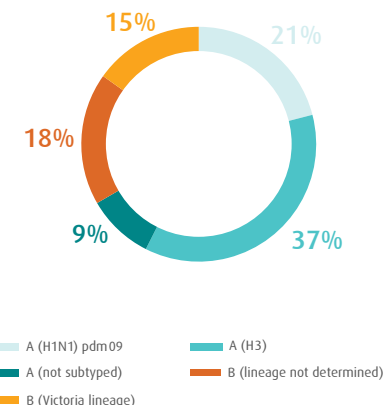


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, September 2022



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

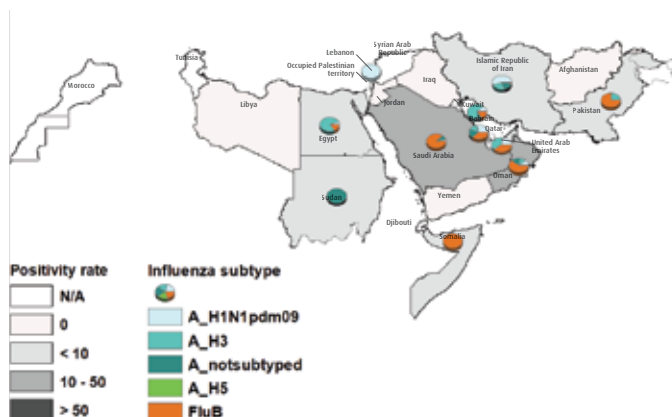


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27 to week 39, 2022

Transmission zone	Country	Number of enrolled cases	Number of tested cases (%)	Numbr of positive cases (%)	Flu A (%)				Number of flu B cases (%)
					A (H1N1)pdm09	A (H3)	A (H5)	A (not subtyped)	
Eastern Africa	Somalia	905	853 (94)	60 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	60 (7)
Northern Africa	Egypt	3530	3530 (100)	144 (4)	4 (0)	59 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	81 (2)
	Libya	59	59 (100)	6 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	4 (7)
	Sudan	170	170 (100)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	449	449 (100)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3929	3929 (100)	119 (3)	63 (2)	33 (1)	0 (0)	21 (1)	2 (0)
	Pakistan	3209	3209 (100)	197 (6)	0 (0)	49 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	148 (5)
	Bahrain	10997	10987 (100)	1834 (17)	93 (1)	1351 (12)	0 (0)	161 (1)	229 (2)
	Iraq	366	366 (100)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Western Asia	Jordan	1015	1015 (100)	3 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	576	569 (99)	93 (16)	93 (16)	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	1356	1347 (99)	193 (14)	12 (1)	17 (1)	0 (0)	36 (3)	128 (10)
	Qatar	4795	4795 (100)	789 (16)	124 (3)	242 (5)	0 (0)	215 (4)	208 (4)
	Saudi Arabia	2404	2103 (87)	191 (9)	4 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	21 (1)	164 (8)
	Syrian Arab Republic	150	150 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	2012	2012 (100)	176 (9)	43 (2)	83 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50 (2)
	Yemen	15	15 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	35962	35583 (99)	3809 (11)	438 (1)	1839 (5)	0 (0)	458 (1)	1074 (3)