

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 40–43, 2022

Key highlights

- In October 2022, 17 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, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).
- There has been an increase in the number of influenza cases, during October as compared to the previous four months, which is signaling an early and strong start for the influenza season in the Region.
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 to week 43, 2022), there was a 68% increase in the number of cases enrolled (60 541 cases) compared to the previous reporting period (35 962 cases). Out of the 60 541 cases enrolled in the current reporting period, 59 620 (98%) were tested, and out of those, 11 106 (19%) were influenza positive (Table).
- With the steady increase in the number of influenza cases over the past months, influenza positivity rate in the Region has also been steadily increasing (from 9% in July to 11% in August and to 12% in September 2022). In October 2022, the positivity rate jumped to 32%. Out of the 23 219 enrolled cases in the Region during October 2022, 22 615 specimens (97%) were tested for influenza, of which 7181 specimens (32%) tested positive.
- Of the total specimens tested positive for influenza (7181) in October 2022, 86% (6178) were influenza type A. Of the influenza-positive specimens (7181), 2908 (40%) were influenza A(H3), 1777 specimens (25%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 1493 specimens (21%) were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 730 (10%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), and 273 (4%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) (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 43, 2022

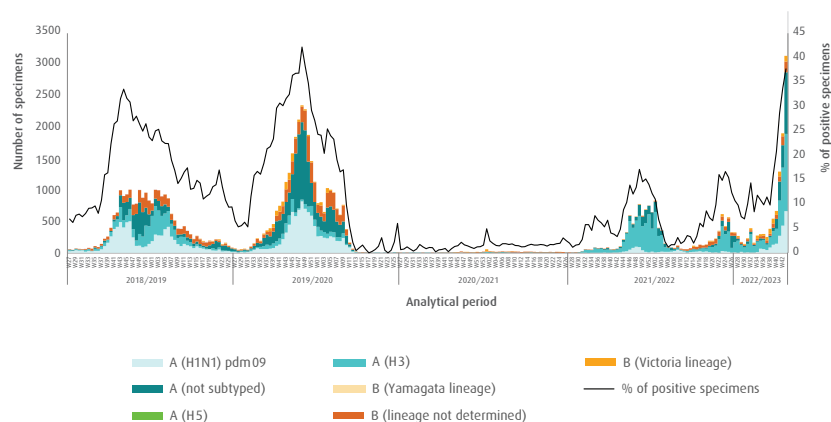
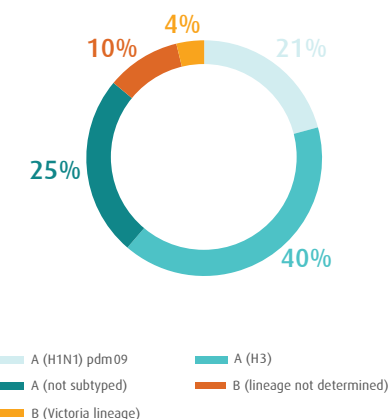


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, October 2022



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

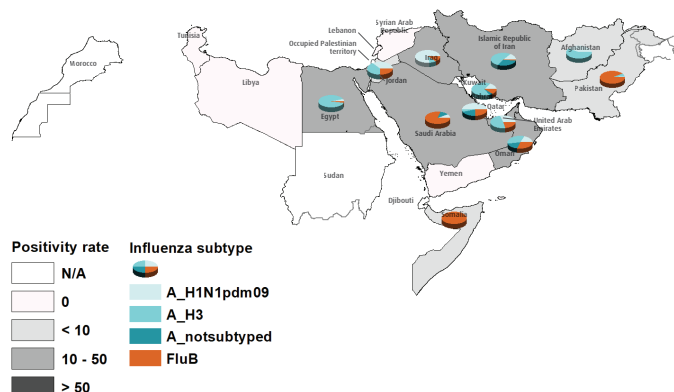


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27 to week 43, 2022

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	1063	976 (92)	62 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	62 (6)
Northern Africa	Egypt	5016	5016 (100)	300 (6)	15 (0)	172 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	113 (2)
	Libya	71	71 (100)	6 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	4 (6)
	Sudan	170	170 (100)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	0 (0)
	Tunisia	207	207 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	859	541 (63)	8 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14270	14270 (100)	4155 (29)	596 (4)	2136 (15)	0 (0)	1351 (9)	72 (1)
	Pakistan	4965	4965 (100)	287 (6)	2 (0)	54 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	231 (5)
	Bahrain	12663	12653 (100)	2475 (20)	187 (1)	1798 (14)	0 (0)	192 (2)	298 (2)
Western Asia	Iraq	429	429 (100)	10 (2)	8 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
	Jordan	1312	1312 (100)	11 (1)	3 (0)	6 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
	Lebanon	598	591 (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	2390	2378 (99)	585 (25)	82 (3)	152 (6)	0 (0)	102 (4)	249 (10)
	Qatar	9058	9058 (100)	2195 (24)	815 (9)	314 (3)	0 (0)	523 (6)	543 (6)
	Saudi Arabia	4432	3952 (89)	541 (14)	31 (1)	4 (0)	0 (0)	63 (2)	443 (11)
	Syrian Arab Republic	149	149 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	2837	2837 (100)	376 (13)	105 (4)	178 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	93 (3)
	Yemen	27	20 (74)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total		60541	59620 (98)	11106 (19)	1941 (3)	4819 (8)	0 (0)	2235 (4)	2111 (4)