

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2022 - Epidemiological weeks: 44–48, 2022

Key highlights

- In November 2022, 20 out 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, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).
- There has been a sustained increase in influenza activity over the past three months with a spike in weeks 43 and 44.
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 to week 48, 2022), there was a 61% increase in the number of cases enrolled as compared to the previous analytical period (epidemiological week 27 to 43). In the current reporting period, 97 761 cases were enrolled as compared to 60 541 cases enrolled in the previous period. Out of the 97 761 cases enrolled in the current reporting period, 96 801 (99%) were tested and, out of those, 20 298 (21%) were influenza positive (Table).
- With the increase in the number of influenza cases over the past months, influenza positivity rate in the Region has increased from 11% in August, to 12% in September, and to 32% in October, then it reduced to 26% in November 2022. Out of the 35 278 enrolled cases in the Region during November 2022, 34 758 specimens (99%) were tested for influenza, of which 9004 specimens (26%) were positive.
- Of the total specimens tested positive for influenza (9004) in November 2022, 83% (7496) were influenza type A. Of the influenza-positive specimens, 3015 (33%) were influenza A(H3), 2749 specimens (31%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 1732 specimens (19%) were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 1131 (13%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), and 377 (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 48, 2022

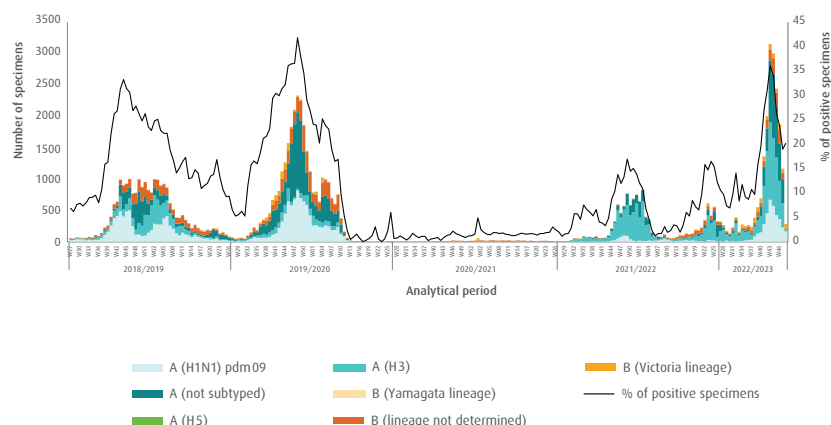
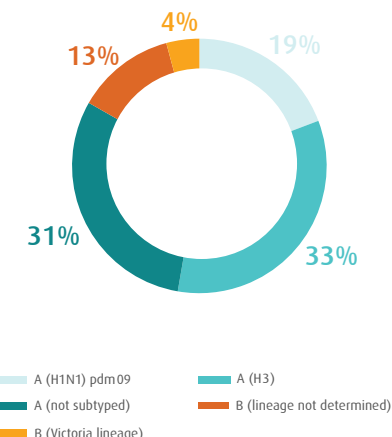


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, November 2022



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

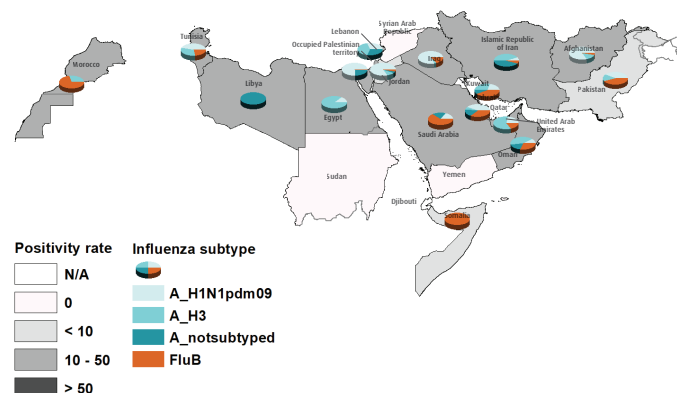


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27 to week 48, 2022

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	1330	1297 (98)	76 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	76 (6)
Northern Africa	Egypt	6788	6788 (100)	551 (8)	48 (1)	371 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	132 (2)
	Libya	95	80 (84)	9 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (6)	4 (5)
	Morocco	55	55 (100)	17 (31)	0 (0)	5 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (22)
	Sudan	182	175 (96)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Tunisia	490	490 (100)	50 (10)	23 (5)	16 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (2)
	Afghanistan	1134	1049 (93)	51 (5)	44 (4)	6 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	32909	32909 (100)	9302 (28)	922 (3)	4344 (13)	0 (0)	3674 (11)	362 (1)
	Pakistan	6406	6406 (100)	372 (6)	38 (1)	65 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	269 (4)
Western Asia	Bahrain	14210	14200 (100)	2717 (19)	237 (2)	1866 (13)	0 (0)	212 (1)	402 (3)
	Iraq	1209	1209 (100)	307 (25)	250 (21)	9 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	48 (4)
	Jordan	1765	1765 (100)	41 (2)	26 (1)	11 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)	3 (0)
	Lebanon	714	707 (99)	13 (2)	3 (0)	6 (1)	0 (0)	4 (1)	0 (0)
	occupied Palestinian territory	829	829 (100)	232 (28)	171 (21)	1 (0)	0 (0)	57 (7)	3 (0)
	Oman	3748	3719 (99)	893 (24)	111 (3)	283 (8)	0 (0)	155 (4)	344 (9)
	Qatar	13321	13321 (100)	3516 (26)	1378 (10)	391 (3)	0 (0)	717 (5)	1030 (8)
	Saudi Arabia	7286	6521 (90)	1039 (16)	109 (2)	11 (0)	0 (0)	175 (3)	744 (11)
	Syrian Arab Republic	150	150 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	United Arab Emirates	5099	5099 (100)	1110 (22)	270 (5)	623 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	217 (4)
	Yemen	41	32 (78)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	97761	96801 (99)	20298 (21)	3630 (4)	8008 (8)	0 (0)	5002 (5)	3658 (4)