

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2023 - Epidemiological weeks: 14–17, 2023



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean



Key highlights

- In April 2023, 17 out of 21 countries with a functional influenza sentinel surveillance system in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported influenza data to FluNet and/or EMFLU (Afghanistan, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).
- The number of influenza-positive cases in the EMR continued to decline after an initial sharp rise early in the influenza season 2022–2023 (Figure 1).
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27, 2022 to week 17, 2023), there was a 9% increase in the number of cases enrolled (239 292) compared to the previous reporting period (220 082 cases in epidemiological week 27, 2022 to week 13, 2023). Out of the 239 292 cases, 235 016 (98%) were tested and, out of those, 35 189 (15%) were influenza positive (Table).
- In April 2023, 17 766 cases were enrolled, of which 17 408 specimens were tested for influenza (98%), of which 844 specimens (5%) were positive.
- Influenza positivity rates varied across countries; from 1% in Pakistan to 15% in Somalia, based on 200 or more specimens tested during April.
- There was no difference between the rates of influenza types A and B (50% each) in April 2023, unlike in the previous months when influenza type A was the dominant circulating type in the EMR.
- Of the total specimens tested positive for influenza (844), 384 (45%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 174 (21%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 140 (17%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 110 (13%) were influenza type A(H3), and 36 (4%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) (Figure 2 and Map).

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 17, 2023

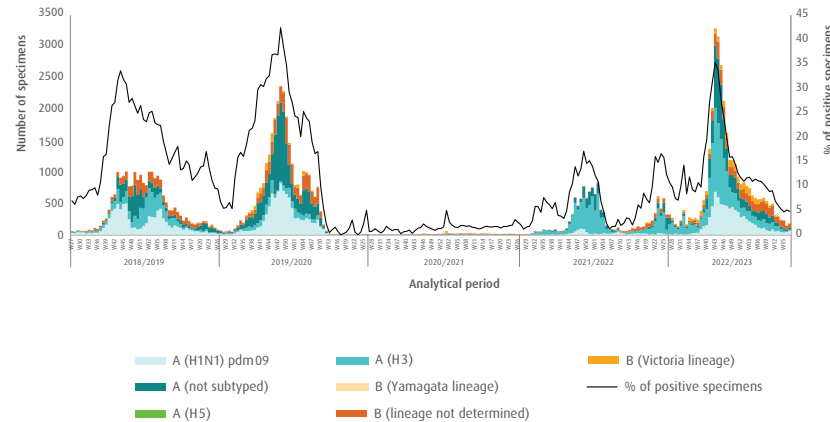
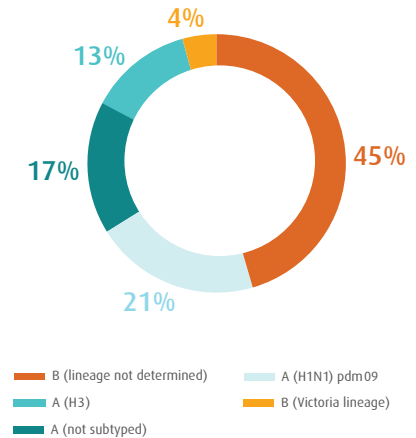


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, April 2023



Map. Influenza positivity rate and detected influenza types and subtypes by country, EMR, April 2023

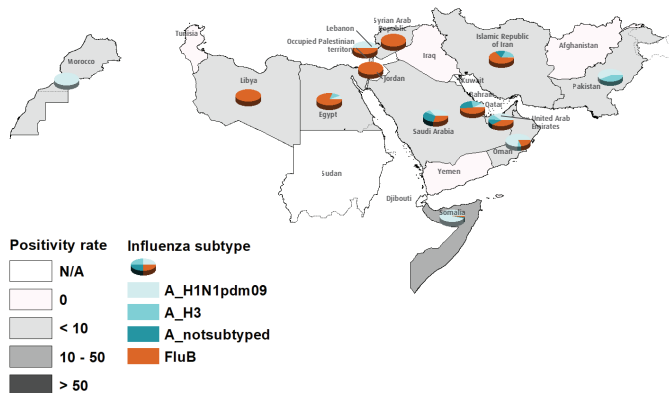


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 17, 2023

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	2970	2969 (100)	195 (7)	51 (2)	2 (0)	0 (0)	31 (1)	111 (4)
Northern Africa	Egypt	22529	22529 (100)	2349 (10)	623 (3)	1400 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	326 (1)
	Libya	529	513 (97)	162 (32)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	117 (23)	45 (9)
	Morocco	1714	1684 (98)	421 (25)	103 (6)	27 (2)	0 (0)	73 (4)	218 (13)
	Sudan	383	379 (99)	5 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)	1 (0)
Southern Asia	Tunisia	2945	2945 (100)	609 (21)	266 (9)	138 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	205 (7)
	Afghanistan	3601	3403 (95)	303 (9)	219 (6)	12 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	72 (2)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	92532	92532 (100)	12414 (13)	1015 (1)	5052 (5)	0 (0)	4474 (5)	1873 (2)
	Pakistan	15844	15603 (98)	1761 (11)	1115 (7)	154 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	492 (3)
Western Asia	Bahrain	16013	15967 (100)	2897 (18)	293 (2)	1890 (12)	0 (0)	234 (1)	480 (3)
	Iraq	3398	3398 (100)	637 (19)	329 (10)	24 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	284 (8)
	Jordan	3998	3998 (100)	253 (6)	120 (3)	40 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	93 (2)
	Lebanon	1819	1795 (99)	145 (8)	47 (3)	86 (5)	0 (0)	7 (0)	5 (0)
	occupied Palestinian territory	2536	2536 (100)	602 (24)	300 (12)	4 (0)	0 (0)	151 (6)	147 (6)
	Oman	7109	7064 (99)	1005 (14)	139 (2)	290 (4)	0 (0)	204 (3)	372 (5)
	Qatar	27452	27452 (100)	7461 (27)	2058 (7)	1457 (5)	0 (0)	1889 (7)	2057 (7)
	Saudi Arabia	19814	18012 (91)	2256 (13)	460 (3)	43 (0)	0 (0)	503 (3)	1250 (7)
	Syrian Arab Republic	708	244 (34)	42 (17)	28 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (6)
	United Arab Emirates	13224	11863 (90)	1672 (14)	451 (4)	720 (6)	0 (0)	15 (0)	486 (4)
	Yemen	174	130 (75)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	239292	235016 (98)	35189 (15)	7618 (3)	11339 (5)	0 (0)	7701 (3)	8531 (4)

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