

# INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2023 - Epidemiological weeks: 23–26, 2023



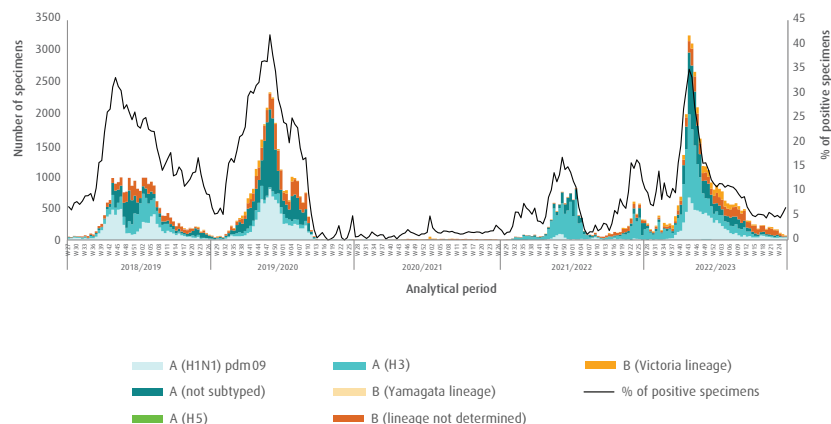
World Health Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean



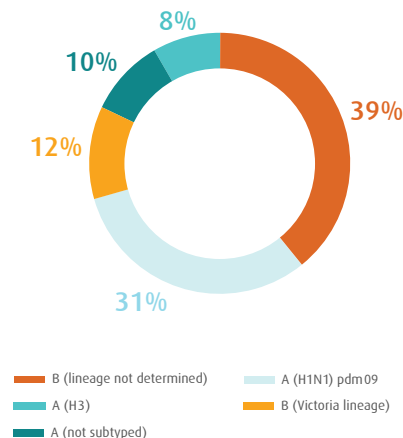
## Key highlights

- In June 2023, 18 out of 21 Member States with a functional influenza surveillance system in 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, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).
- The trend of influenza-positive cases in the EMR remains downward 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 26, 2023), there was a 5% increase in the number of cases enrolled (275,576) compared to the previous reporting period (262,143 cases in epidemiological week 27, 2022 to week 22, 2023). Out of the 275,576 cases, 270,812 (98%) were tested and, out of those, 37,115 (14%) were influenza-positive (Table).
- In June 2023, 10,653 cases were enrolled of which, 10,132 specimens were tested for influenza (95%). Of the specimens tested, 522 (5%) were positive.
- Influenza positivity rates varied across countries; from 1.7% in Oman to 9.5% in Saudi Arabia, based on 200 or more specimens tested during June 2023.
- The rate of influenza type A was similar to that of type B (49% and 51% respectively).
- Of the total 522 specimens that tested positive for influenza, 204 (39%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 164 (31%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 60 (12%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage), 50 (10%) were influenza A (not subtyped), and 44 (8%) were type A (H3) (Figure 2 and Map).

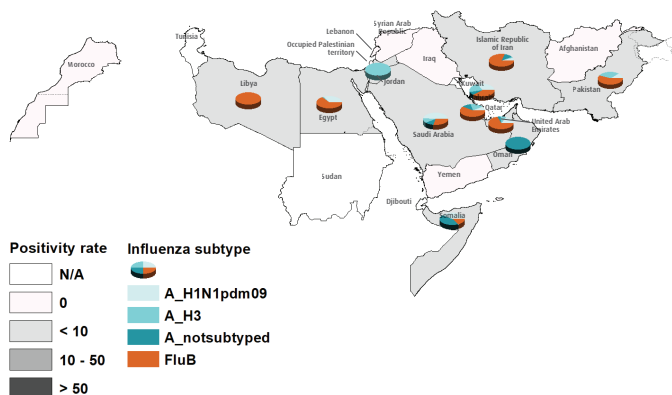
**Fig 1. Number of specimens by influenza virus subtypes/lineages and percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza viruses in the Region from week 27, 2018 to week 26, 2023**



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



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



**Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 26, 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	3778	3776 (100)	250 (7)	103 (3)	2 (0)	0 (0)	38 (1)	107 (3)
Northern Africa	Egypt	28449	28449 (100)	2667 (9)	696 (2)	1409 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	562 (2)
	Libya	576	560 (97)	163 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	117 (21)	46 (8)
	Morocco	1902	1872 (98)	422 (23)	103 (6)	27 (1)	0 (0)	73 (4)	219 (12)
	Sudan	383	379 (99)	5 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)	1 (0)
	Tunisia	3072	3072 (100)	610 (20)	266 (9)	139 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	205 (7)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	4159	3756 (90)	305 (8)	215 (6)	12 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	78 (2)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	100380	100380 (100)	12772 (13)	1022 (1)	5063 (5)	0 (0)	4513 (4)	2174 (2)
	Pakistan	16518	16277 (99)	1771 (11)	1117 (7)	157 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	497 (3)
Western Asia	Bahrain	18130	18118 (100)	3105 (17)	390 (2)	1910 (11)	0 (0)	235 (1)	570 (3)
	Iraq	3829	3829 (100)	637 (17)	329 (9)	24 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	284 (7)
	Jordan	4770	4770 (100)	310 (6)	128 (3)	53 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	129 (3)
	Lebanon	2179	2155 (99)	151 (7)	47 (2)	86 (4)	0 (0)	7 (0)	11 (1)
	occupied Palestinian territory	2739	2739 (100)	603 (22)	300 (11)	4 (0)	0 (0)	151 (6)	148 (5)
	Oman	7931	7895 (100)	1021 (13)	145 (2)	291 (4)	0 (0)	212 (3)	373 (5)
	Qatar	29709	29673 (100)	7590 (26)	2079 (7)	1471 (5)	0 (0)	1923 (6)	2117 (7)
	Saudi Arabia	25570	23486 (92)	2741 (12)	666 (3)	90 (0)	0 (0)	598 (3)	1387 (6)
	Syrian Arab Republic	751	286 (38)	44 (15)	28 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	16 (6)
	United Arab Emirates	20538	19177 (93)	1948 (10)	513 (3)	757 (4)	0 (0)	25 (0)	653 (3)
	Yemen	213	163 (77)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>275576</b>	<b>270812 (98)</b>	<b>37115 (14)</b>	<b>8148 (3)</b>	<b>11495 (4)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>7895 (3)</b>	<b>9577 (4)</b>

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