

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2023 - Epidemiological weeks: 27–30, 2023

Key highlights

- In July 2023, 16 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, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).
- The trend of influenza-positive cases in the EMR remains below epidemic levels, not yet signaling the beginning of the new influenza 2023–2024 season (Figure 1).
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27, 2022 to week 30, 2023), there was a 4% increase in the number of cases enrolled (288,263 compared to the previous reporting period with 275,576 cases in epidemiological week 27, 2022 to week 26, 2023). Out of the 288,263 enrolled cases, 284,435 (99%) were tested and, out of those, 37,879 (13%) were influenza-positive (Table).
- In July 2023, 10,581 cases were enrolled of which, 10,160 specimens were tested for influenza (96%). Of those specimens tested, 671 (6.6%) were positive.
- Influenza positivity rates varied across countries; from 0.4% in Iraq to 9.3% in Islamic Republic of Iran, based on 200 or more specimens tested during July 2023.
- In July, the positivity rate of influenza type A was higher than that of type B (80% and 20% respectively) (Figure 2).
- Of the total 671 specimens that tested positive for influenza, 243 (36.2%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 163 (24.3%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 129 (19.2%) were type A(H3), 114 (17%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), and 22 (3.3%) 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, 2019 to week 30, 2023

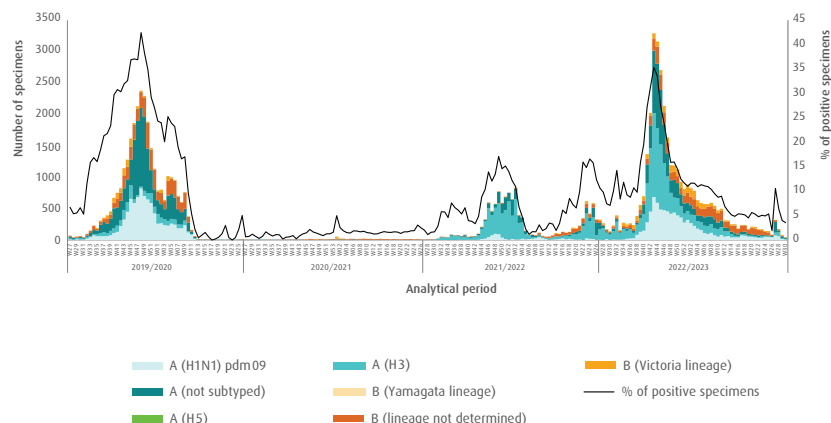
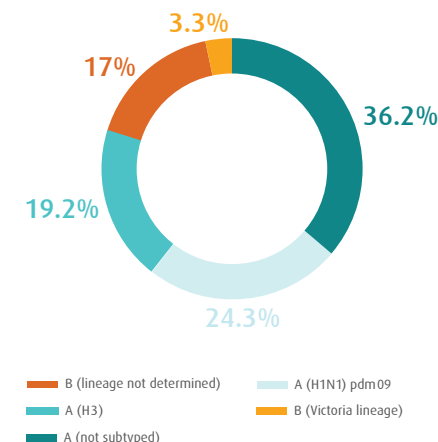


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, July 2023



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

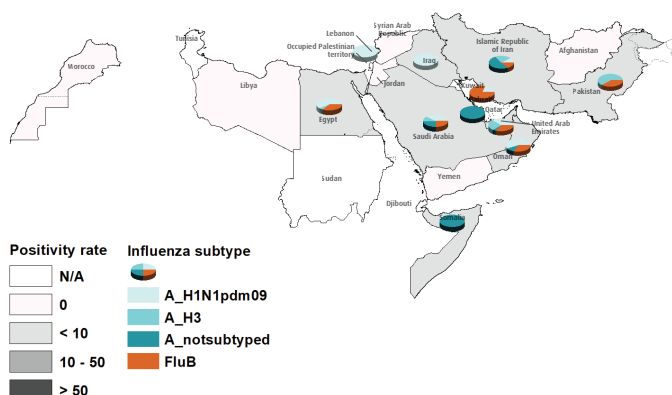


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 30, 2023

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	4043	4001 (99)	263 (7)	104 (3)	2 (0)	0 (0)	47 (1)	110 (3)
Northern Africa	Egypt	28798	28798 (100)	2687 (9)	707 (2)	1410 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	570 (2)
	Libya	576	560 (97)	163 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	117 (21)	46 (8)
	Morocco	1909	1879 (98)	422 (22)	103 (5)	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	4472	3759 (84)	305 (8)	215 (6)	12 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	78 (2)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	105460	105460 (100)	13158 (12)	1057 (1)	5155 (5)	0 (0)	4699 (4)	2247 (2)
	Pakistan	16777	16534 (99)	1776 (11)	1117 (7)	160 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	499 (3)
Western Asia	Bahrain	18571	18559 (100)	3110 (17)	391 (2)	1910 (10)	0 (0)	235 (1)	574 (3)
	Iraq	4071	4071 (100)	638 (16)	330 (8)	24 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	284 (7)
	Jordan	4780	4780 (100)	310 (6)	128 (3)	53 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	129 (3)
	Lebanon	2318	2294 (99)	153 (7)	49 (2)	86 (4)	0 (0)	7 (0)	11 (0)
	occupied Palestinian territory	2874	2874 (100)	602 (21)	300 (10)	4 (0)	0 (0)	151 (5)	147 (5)
	Oman	8164	8128 (100)	1030 (13)	150 (2)	291 (4)	0 (0)	213 (3)	376 (5)
	Qatar	30302	30292 (100)	7637 (25)	2087 (7)	1480 (5)	0 (0)	1930 (6)	2140 (7)
	Saudi Arabia	28223	26050 (92)	2950 (11)	753 (3)	110 (0)	0 (0)	648 (2)	1439 (6)
	Syrian Arab Republic	766	292 (38)	43 (15)	28 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (5)
	United Arab Emirates	22477	22477 (100)	2017 (9)	540 (2)	772 (3)	0 (0)	28 (0)	677 (3)
	Yemen	227	176 (78)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	288263	284435 (99)	37879 (13)	8326 (3)	11635 (4)	0 (0)	8151 (3)	9767 (3)

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