

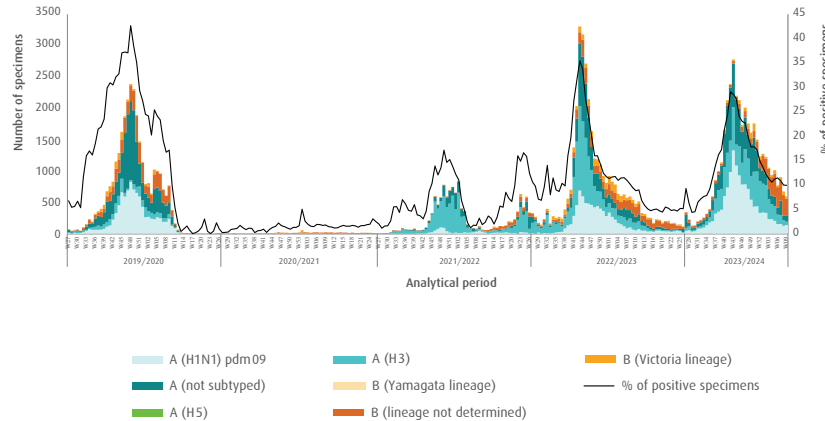
# INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2024 - Epidemiological weeks: 6–9, 2024

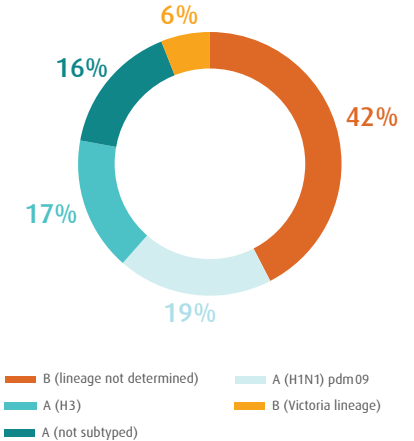
## Key highlights

- In February 2024, 19 out of 21 Member States with existing influenza surveillance systems in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported influenza data to FluNet and/or EMFLU (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen)
- The influenza-positive proportion has been showing a decreasing trend since its highest peak (28%) in week 42 of season 2023–24 (Figure 1)
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 2023 to week 09, 2024), there was a 13% increase in the number of enrolled cases (250,696 compared to the previous reporting period with 221,509 cases in epidemiological week 27 to week 05, 2024). Out of the 250,696 enrolled cases, 249,791 (99.6%) were tested and, out of those, 39,434 (16%) were influenza-positive (Table)
- Influenza positivity proportions varied across countries; from 0% in Somalia to 32% in Tunisia based on 200 or more specimens tested during Feb 2024
- In February 2024, 38,473 cases were enrolled of which, 38,111 specimens were tested for influenza (99.1%). Of those specimens tested, 3,998 (10%) were positive
- The positivity proportion of influenza type A was higher than that of type B (52% and 48% respectively) during the month of February (Figure 2)
- Of the total 3,998 specimens that tested positive for influenza in February, 1,694 (42%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 763 (19%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 655 (17%) were type A(H3), 645 (16%) were influenza A (not subtyped), and 241 (6%) were influenza B (Victoria lineage) (Figure 2 and Map)

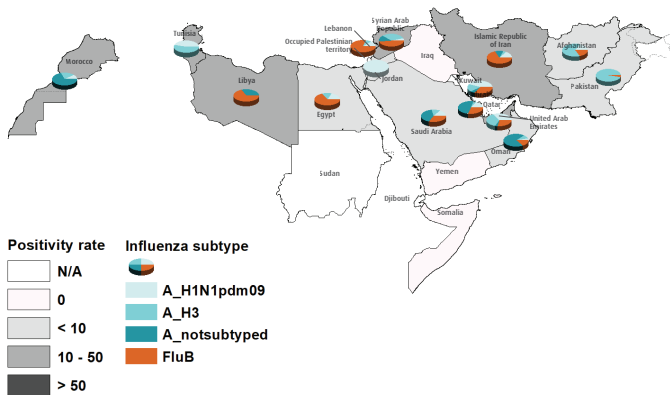
**Fig 1. Number of specimens by influenza virus subtypes/lineages and percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza viruses in the Region from week 27, 2019 to week 9, 2024**



**Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, February 2024**



## Map. Influenza positivity rate and detected influenza types and subtypes by country, EMR, February 2024



**Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 9, 2024**

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	2071	2067 (100)	18 (1)	17 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Northern Africa	Egypt	23491	23491 (100)	2904 (12)	1876 (8)	169 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	859 (4)
	Libya	167	166 (99)	46 (28)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	40 (24)	6 (4)
	Morocco	2355	2355 (100)	395 (17)	18 (1)	161 (7)	0 (0)	216 (9)	0 (0)
	Tunisia	2197	2197 (100)	376 (17)	183 (8)	193 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	2614	2604 (100)	191 (7)	3 (0)	174 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (1)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	95226	95226 (100)	18073 (19)	6920 (7)	2689 (3)	0 (0)	5836 (6)	2628 (3)
	Pakistan	7724	7722 (100)	921 (12)	0 (0)	913 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)
Western Asia	Bahrain	4887	4876 (100)	867 (18)	386 (8)	244 (5)	0 (0)	19 (0)	218 (4)
	Iraq	935	930 (99)	87 (9)	21 (2)	65 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
	Jordan	3334	3334 (100)	385 (12)	29 (1)	356 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	2658	2658 (100)	734 (28)	568 (21)	74 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	92 (3)
	occupied Palestinian territory	1032	1032 (100)	121 (12)	1 (0)	120 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	7351	7346 (100)	1323 (18)	343 (5)	178 (2)	0 (0)	719 (10)	83 (1)
	Qatar	17758	17758 (100)	2387 (13)	438 (2)	544 (3)	0 (0)	966 (5)	439 (2)
	Saudi Arabia	35445	34630 (98)	4808 (14)	1007 (3)	1123 (3)	0 (0)	1559 (5)	1119 (3)
	Syrian Arab Republic	945	920 (97)	142 (15)	4 (0)	95 (10)	0 (0)	19 (2)	24 (3)
	United Arab Emirates	40380	40372 (100)	5652 (14)	1496 (4)	2707 (7)	0 (0)	587 (1)	862 (2)
	Yemen	126	107 (85)	4 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)	0 (0)
<b>Total</b>		<b>250696</b>	<b>249791 (99.6)</b>	<b>39434 (16)</b>	<b>13310 (5)</b>	<b>9805 (4)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>9965 (4)</b>	<b>6354 (3)</b>

For any queries about this bulletin, please contact: emrgoihp@who.int