

INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2024 - Epidemiological weeks: 10-13, 2024

Key highlights

- In March 2024, 18 out of 21 Member States with existing 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, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, 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 13, 2024), there was a 13% increase in the number of enrolled cases (283,362 compared to the previous reporting period with 250,696 cases in epidemiological week 27 to week 09, 2024). Out of the 283,362 enrolled cases, 282,394 (99.7%) were tested and, out of those, 42,195 (15%) were influenza-positive (Table)
- Influenza positivity proportions varied across countries; from 0% in Somalia to 27% in Lebanon based on 200 or more specimens tested during March 2024
- In March 2024, 27,849 cases were enrolled of which, 27,617 specimens were tested for influenza (99%). Of those specimens tested, 2,194 (8%) were positive
- The positivity proportion of influenza type B was higher than that of type A (55% and 45% respectively) during the month of March (Figure 2)
- Of the total 2,194 specimens that tested positive for influenza in March, 962 (44%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 443 (20%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 308 (14%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 245 (11%) were type A(H3), and 236 (11%) 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 13, 2024

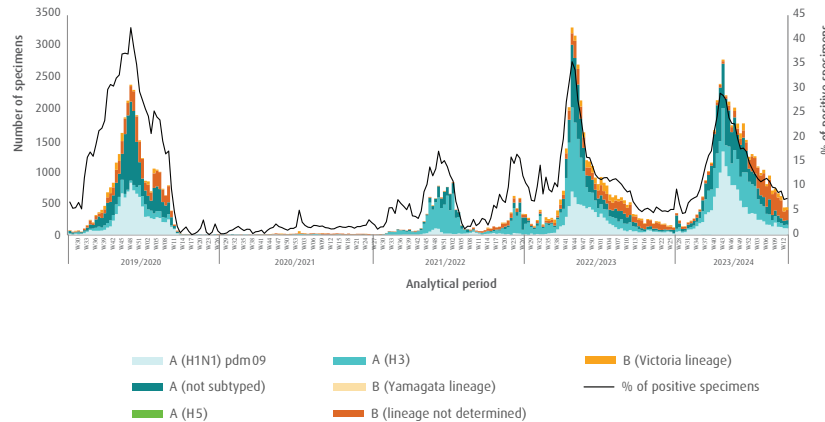
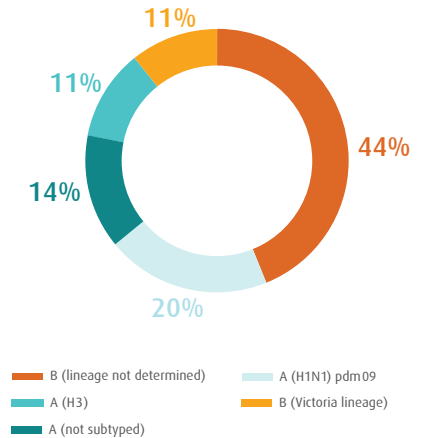


Fig 2. Proportion of influenza types and subtypes/lineages, EMR, March 2024



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

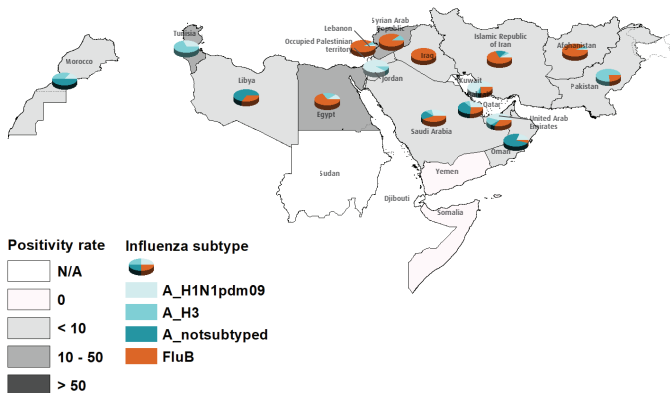


Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 13, 2024

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	2599	2538 (98)	91 (4)	54 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	33 (1)	4 (0)
Northern Africa	Egypt	26119	26119 (100)	3174 (12)	1907 (7)	230 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1037 (4)
	Libya	690	687 (100)	55 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50 (7)	5 (1)
	Morocco	3160	3160 (100)	532 (17)	48 (2)	232 (7)	0 (0)	251 (8)	1 (0)
	Tunisia	2515	2515 (100)	408 (16)	193 (8)	215 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	3141	3131 (100)	231 (7)	4 (0)	176 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	51 (2)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	106928	106928 (100)	19252 (18)	7063 (7)	2769 (3)	0 (0)	6061 (6)	3359 (3)
Western Asia	Pakistan	8827	8825 (100)	934 (11)	0 (0)	923 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (0)
	Bahrain	5223	5199 (100)	888 (17)	400 (8)	245 (5)	0 (0)	20 (0)	223 (4)
	Iraq	1023	1017 (99)	90 (9)	22 (2)	66 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
	Jordan	4340	4340 (100)	397 (9)	40 (1)	357 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	2993	2993 (100)	825 (28)	571 (19)	80 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	174 (6)
	occupied Palestinian territory	1032	1032 (100)	121 (12)	1 (0)	120 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	7989	7984 (100)	1343 (17)	347 (4)	178 (2)	0 (0)	734 (9)	84 (1)
	Qatar	20118	20118 (100)	2569 (13)	488 (2)	560 (3)	0 (0)	1034 (5)	487 (2)
	Saudi Arabia	38704	37878 (98)	4962 (13)	1057 (3)	1161 (3)	0 (0)	1635 (4)	1109 (3)
	Syrian Arab Republic	1138	1127 (99)	167 (15)	4 (0)	98 (9)	0 (0)	17 (2)	48 (4)
United Arab Emirates	46657	46649 (100)	6152 (13)	1730 (4)	2802 (6)	0 (0)	597 (1)	1023 (2)	
Yemen	166	154 (93)	4 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (3)	0 (0)	
Total		283362	282394 (100)	42195 (15)	13929 (5)	10212 (4)	0 (0)	10436 (4)	7618 (3)

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