INFLUENZA MONTHLY UPDATE
April 2024 - Epidemiological weeks: 14-17, 2024

World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean Region

Key highlights

- In April 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, Tunis, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen)
- The influenza-positive proportion has been on a declining trend over the past few weeks, indicating an approach to the end of the 2023-2024 influenza season (Figure1)
- In the current analytical period (epidemiological week 27 2023 to week 17,2024), there was a 6% increase in the number of enrolled cases (299,819 compared to the previous reporting period with 283,362 cases in epidemiological week 27 to week 13, 2024). Out of the 299,819 enrolled cases, 298,718 (99.6%) were tested and, out of those, 43,049 (14%) were influenza-positive (Table)
- Influenza positivity proportions varied across countries; from 0.2% in Pakistan to 7.3% in Egypt based on 200 or more specimens tested during April 2024
- In April 2024, 15,795 cases were enrolled of which, 15,586 specimens were tested for influenza (99%). Of those specimens tested, 744 (5%) were positive
- The positivity proportion of influenza type A was higher than that of type B (51% and 49% respectively) during the month of April (Figure 2)
- Of the total 744 specimens that tested positive for influenza in April, 296 (40%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), 192 (26%) were A (H1N1) pdm09, 106 (14%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 85 (11%) were type A(H3), and 65 (9%) 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 17, 2024
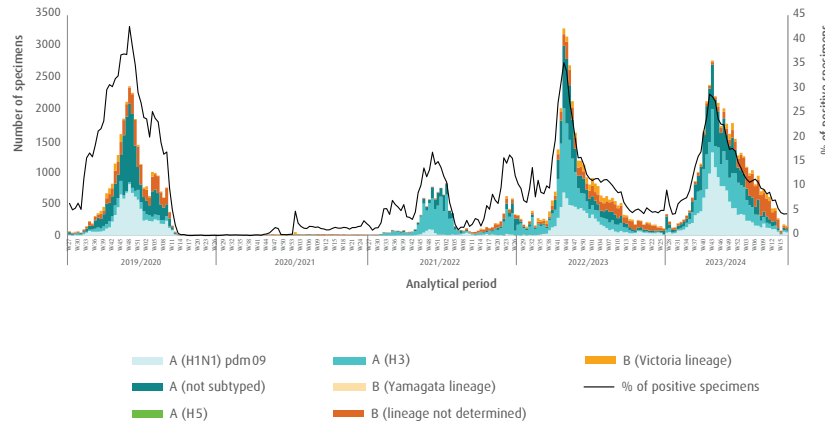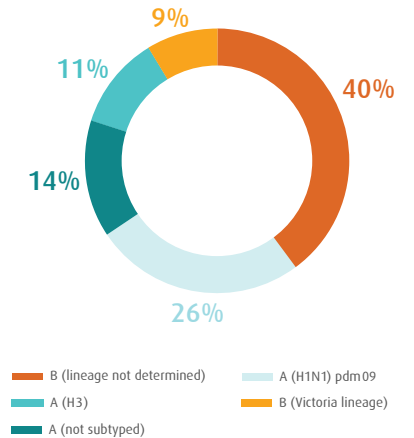

Legend:
- A (H1N1) pdm09
- A (not subtyped)
- A (H5)
- A (H3)
- B (Yamagata lineage)
- B (Victoria lineage)
- % of positive specimens
- B (lineage not determined)

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

40%, 26%, 14%, 11%, 9%

Legend:
- B (lineage not determined)
- A (H3)
- A (not subtyped)
- A (H1N1) pdm09
- B (Victoria lineage)

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

Positivity rate
- N/A
- 0
- < 10
- 10 - 50
- > 50

Influenza subtype
- A_H1N1pdm09
- A_H3
- A_notsubtyped
- FluB

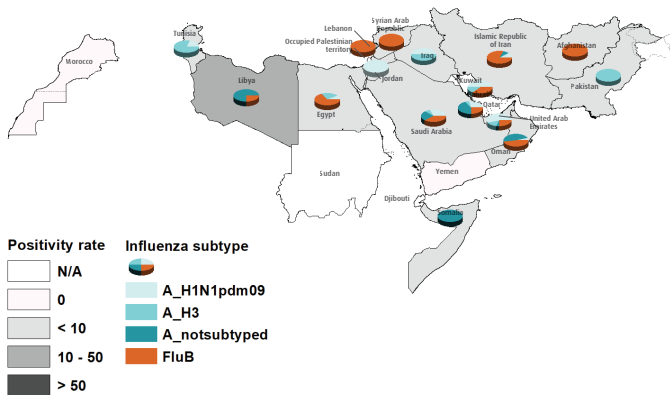For any queries about this bulletin, please contact: emrgoihp@who.int

Table. Reported cumulative cases by country in the Region during the analytical period week 27, 2022 to week 17, 2024

Transmission zone	Country	Number of enrolled cases	Number of tested cases (%)	Numbr of positive cases (%)	Flu A (%)				Number of flu B cases (%)
					A (H1N1)pdm09	A (H3)	A (H5)	A (not subtyped)	
Eastern Africa	Somalia	2993	2993 (100)	92 (3)	54 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	35 (1)	3 (0)
Northern Africa	Egypt	27889	27889 (100)	3303 (12)	1917 (7)	266 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1120 (4)
	Libya	895	895 (100)	148 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	137 (15)	11 (1)
	Morocco	3235	3235 (100)	532 (16)	48 (1)	232 (7)	0 (0)	251 (8)	1 (0)
	Tunisia	2702	2702 (100)	413 (15)	194 (7)	219 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Southern Asia	Afghanistan	3362	3352 (100)	238 (7)	4 (0)	176 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	58 (2)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	109839	109839 (100)	19389 (18)	7075 (6)	2772 (3)	0 (0)	6071 (6)	3471 (3)
	Pakistan	9290	9288 (100)	935 (10)	0 (0)	924 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (0)
Western Asia	Bahrain	5425	5394 (99)	896 (17)	404 (7)	246 (5)	0 (0)	20 (0)	226 (4)
	Iraq	1387	1376 (99)	92 (7)	23 (2)	67 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
	Jordan	4738	4738 (100)	402 (8)	45 (1)	357 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Lebanon	3174	3174 (100)	846 (27)	571 (18)	80 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	195 (6)
	occupied Palestinian territory	1428	1428 (100)	142 (10)	1 (0)	141 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Oman	8627	8622 (100)	1362 (16)	348 (4)	178 (2)	0 (0)	743 (9)	93 (1)
	Qatar	21871	21871 (100)	2682 (12)	520 (2)	567 (3)	0 (0)	1081 (5)	514 (2)
	Saudi Arabia	41809	40808 (98)	5106 (13)	1104 (3)	1174 (3)	0 (0)	1661 (4)	1167 (3)
	Syrian Arab Republic	1278	1260 (99)	170 (13)	4 (0)	98 (8)	0 (0)	17 (1)	51 (4)
	United Arab Emirates	49662	49654 (100)	6295 (13)	1809 (4)	2822 (6)	0 (0)	604 (1)	1060 (2)
	Yemen	215	200 (93)	6 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (3)	0 (0)
Total		**299819**	**298718 (100)**	**43049 (14)**	**14121 (5)**	**10319 (3)**	**0 (0)**	**10626 (4)**	**7983 (3)**