

Influenza monthly update | August 2018

In the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, influenza activity continue to decrease in the month of August in many countries reporting data to FluNet and EMFLU namely, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Influenza activity by sub-type

- In August 2018, no new cases of human influenza A(H5N1) were reported in Egypt.
- In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, Egypt reported sporadic circulation of A(H3) virus.
- In the Western Asia influenza transmission zone, Qatar and Saudi Arabia reported co-circulation of all seasonal influenza viruses. In Iraq, influenza B virus was detected, while Bahrain reported sporadic detection of A(H3). Jordan and Lebanon reported no activity.
- In southern Asia transmission zone, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan reported no activity.

Source of transmission zones:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/transmission_zones/en/

- Figure 2 shows the weekly distribution of influenza subtypes.

Circulating influenza viruses by subtype

- During August 2018, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested a total of 2239 specimens for influenza viruses of which 197 tested positive (9%).
- The average percentage of positivity rates is 9%, with highest positivity rate recorded in Bahrain, Iraq and Qatar.
- Of the viruses tested; 128 (65%) were influenza A viruses, including 95 (48%) influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus and 24 (12%) were influenza A(H3) virus. Influenza B (Lineage Not determined) virus accounted for 69 (35%) (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Influenza geographic spread in Eastern Mediterranean Region, August 2018

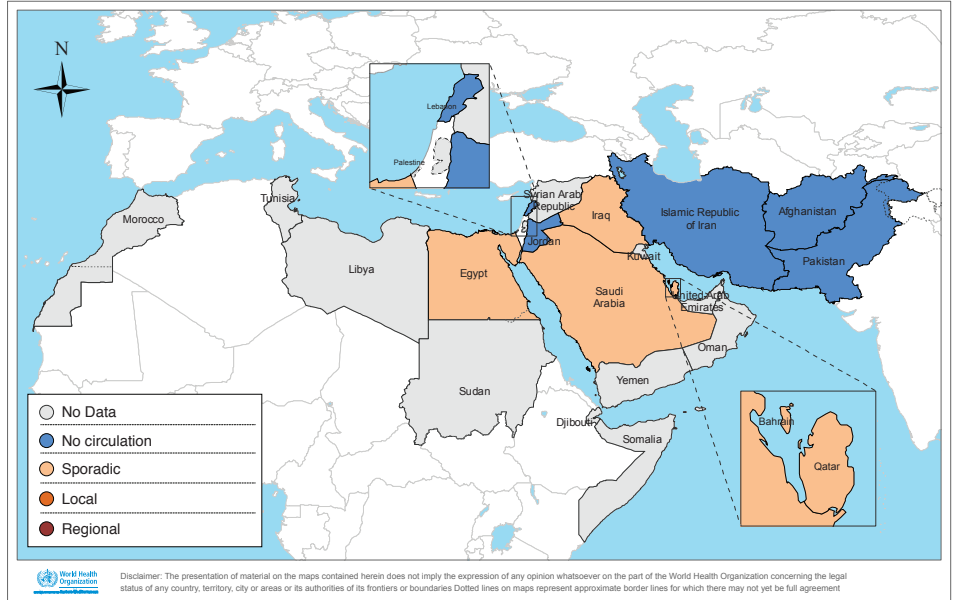
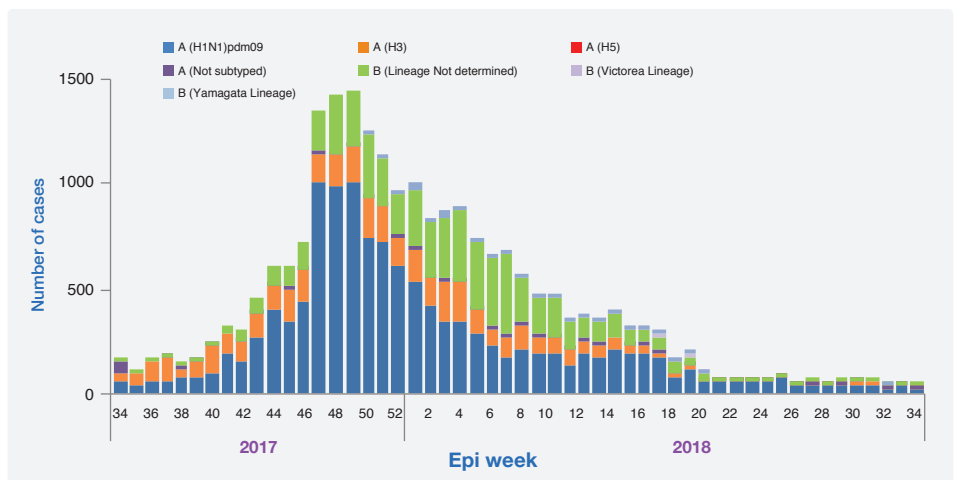
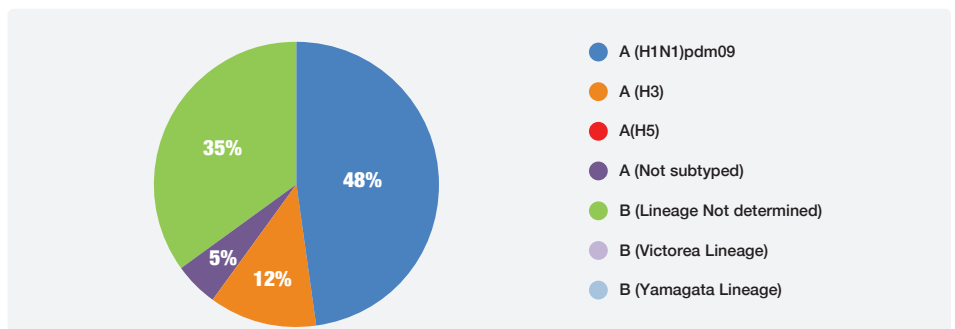


Figure 2. Weekly positive cases of influenza by subtype, Epi week 34/2017-34/2018



Source: [Flunet](#) and [EMFLU](#)

Figure 3. Circulating influenza viruses in the EMR by subtype, Epi week 31-34, 2018



Source: [Flunet](#) and [EMFLU](#)