

Influenza monthly update | February 2018

In the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, influenza activities continue to decrease during the month of February in many countries reporting data to FluNet and EMFLU namely, Afghanistan; Bahrain; Egypt; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Morocco; occupied Palestinian territory; Oman; Pakistan; Qatar; Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

Influenza activity by sub-type

- In February 2018, no new cases of human influenza A(H5N1) were reported in Egypt.
- In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, Morocco and Egypt reported co-circulation of both influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and influenza B while Tunisia reported circulation of influenza A virus.
- In the Western Asia influenza transmission zone, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were detected predominantly with Influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B virus in Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar and KSA while Bahrain, Jordan and oPt reported co-circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 with influenza B virus.
- In southern Asia transmission zone, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan reported co-circulation of all seasonal influenza viruses.

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 February 2018, EMR NICs and influenza laboratories tested a total of 11 555 specimens for influenza viruses of which 2514 (21.7%) tested positive.
- The average percentage of positivity rates is 22%, with highest positivity rate recorded in Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Of the influenza viruses tested, 1232 (49%) were influenza A viruses, including 810 (32%) influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses and 382 (15%) were influenza A(H3) viruses; 1282 (51%) were influenza B viruses including 49% Lineage Not determined and 2% B (Yamagata Lineage) (Figure 3).

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

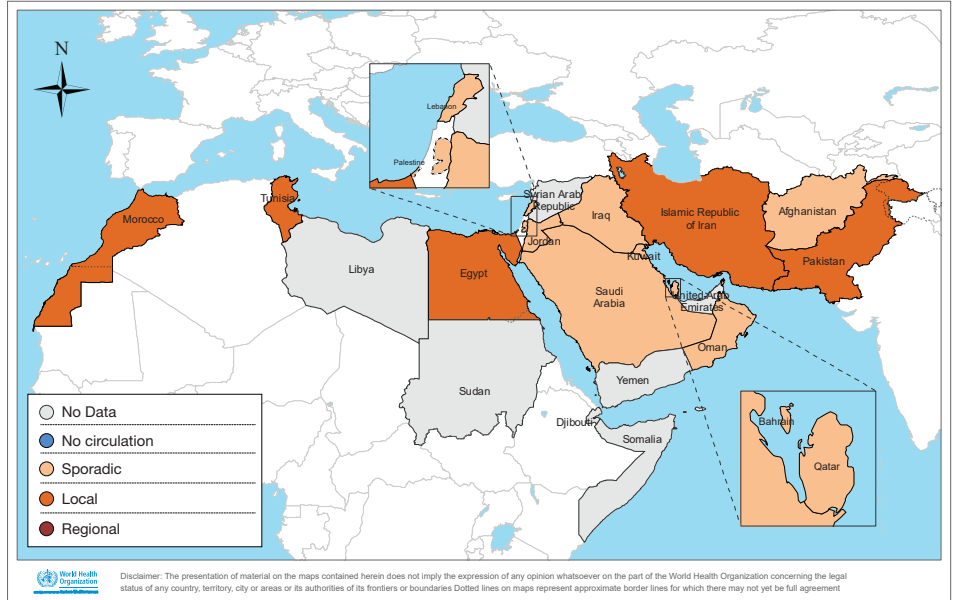
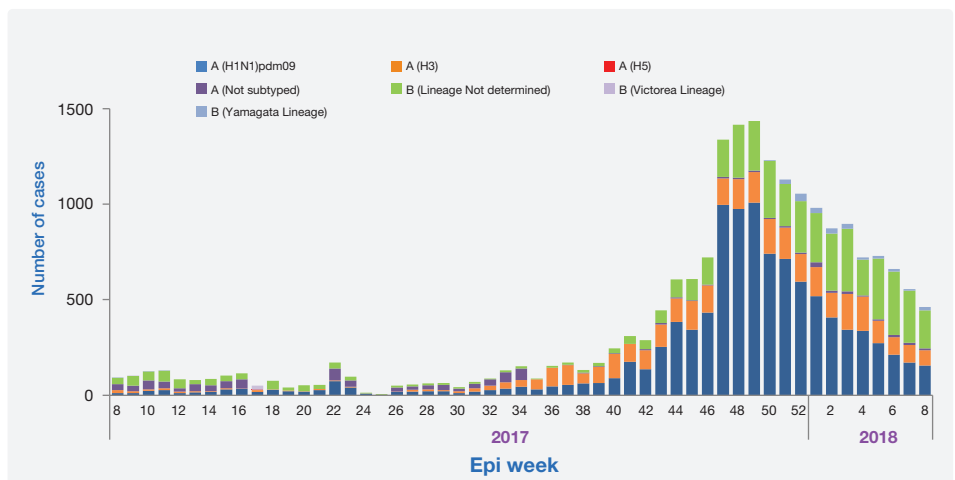
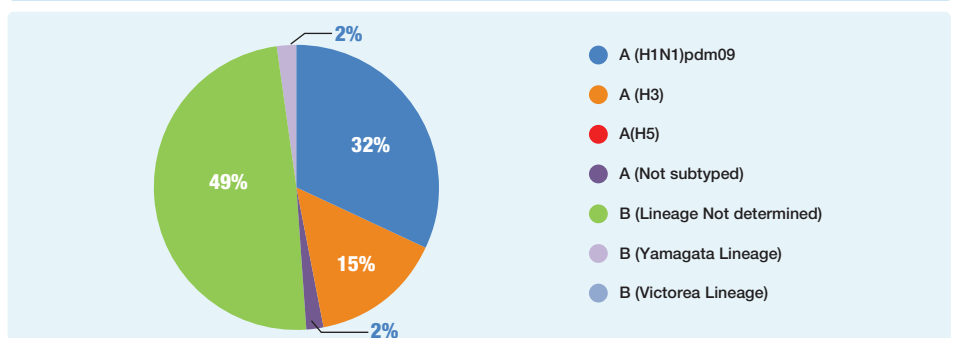


Figure 2. Weekly positive cases of influenza by subtype, Epi week 8/2017–2018



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

Figure 3. Circulating influenza viruses in the EMR by subtype, Epi week 5-8, 2018



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