Summary

Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere continued to be elevated in some countries. Influenza activity in many countries especially in East Asia and Europe appeared to have already peaked. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) virus was predominant. The majority of influenza viruses characterized so far were similar antigenically to the reference viruses contained in vaccines for use in the 2016-2017 northern hemisphere influenza season. Nearly all tested viruses collected recently for antiviral sensitivity were susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications.

- In North America, influenza activity continued to increase. Influenza-like illness and the number of influenza detections remain elevated in the United States of America with A(H3N2) and B viruses being detected. Influenza activity plateaued in Canada and increased in Mexico with A(H3N2) virus and A(H1N1)pdm09 virus predominating, respectively.
- In Europe, influenza activity remained elevated with influenza A (H3N2) virus being the most prominent subtype. Detections of influenza B virus increased in the recent weeks. Most of the countries reported stable or decreasing trends compared with previous weeks. Persons aged over 65 years were reported most frequently associated with severe disease from influenza infection.
- In East Asia, influenza activity appeared to be decreasing with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulating in the region.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity continued to increase in India and Sri Lanka, with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus reported followed by influenza B virus.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low.
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity continued to decrease; influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B virus detections were reported.
- In West Africa, influenza activity continued to be reported in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Niger, with influenza B being the main virus detected.
- In the Caribbean countries and Central America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in general, except in Puerto Rico where influenza activity remained above the seasonal threshold with influenza A(H3N2) predominating. In Jamaica, severe acute respiratory infection activity increased and peaked above the alert threshold.
- In tropical South America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low, although RSV activity remained elevated in Colombia.
- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity was at inter-seasonal levels.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 91 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 06 February 2017 to 19 February 2017 (data as of 2017-03-03 11:02:59 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested...
more than 187,734 specimens during that time period. 45,504 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 39,002 (85.7%) were typed as influenza A and 6,502 (14.3%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 10,85 (7.5%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 13,342 (92.5%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 4,911 (65.2%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 2,622 (34.8%) to the B-Victoria lineage.

- The vaccine recommendation for the 2017-2018 northern hemisphere influenza season was made and can be consulted at this link below:

### Percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza

#### By influenza transmission zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
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**Notes:** The available country data were joined in larger geographical areas with similar influenza transmission patterns to be able to give an overview of the global influenza situation monitoring. Updated on 08 February 2017 to 19 February 2017, or up to two weeks before final epidemic data were available for that area.

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**Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere**

**North America**

For more information see:

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in North America

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 02/03/17

Europe

For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Northern Europe

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 02/03/17
Influenza update

Northern Africa
In Northern Africa, influenza activity continued to decrease. Detections were reported in Morocco and Tunisia, with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses dominating, while in Egypt the most frequently detected virus was influenza A(H3N2).

Central Asia
For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/

Eastern Asia
In East Asia, influenza activity appeared to be decreasing with influenza A(H3N2) as the dominant virus circulating.

Western Asia
In Western Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease in the countries reporting data during this period. Influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses were co-circulating in the region. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus was detected in Qatar.

Countries in the tropical zone
Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America
For more information see:

African region
In the African region, influenza activity continued to be reported in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Niger, with influenza B being the main virus detected.

Tropical Asia
In Southern Asia influenza activity continued to increase in India and Sri Lanka, with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus reported followed by influenza B.

In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low, with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected in the region.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere
Temperate South America
For more information see:

Southern Africa
In the temperate countries of Southern Africa, influenza remains at inter-seasonal levels.

Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia
In Oceania, influenza virus activity remained at inter-seasonal level.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 02/03/17

Source of data
The Global Influenza Programme monitors influenza activity worldwide and publishes an update every two weeks. The updates are based on available epidemiological and virological data sources, including FluNet (reported by the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System) FluID (epidemiological data reported by national focal points) and influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices and Member States. Completeness can vary among updates due to availability and quality of data available at the time when the update is developed.

Links to web pages
Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:
AMRO: www.paho.org/influenzareports
EMRO: http://www.emro.who.int/entity/surveillance-forecasting-response/index.html
EURO: http://www.flunewseurope.org/
WPRO: http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza

Epidemiological Influenza updates:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance
Epidemiological Influenza updates archives 2015:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_2015_archives

Virological surveillance updates:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport
Virological surveillance updates archives:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/

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