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.


- 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).