



CONTENTS

1 SEASONAL DISEASES

- a Influenza 1
- b Meningococcal disease 3

2 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- Diphtheria: update on outbreak in KwaZulu-Natal Province 3

3 ZOOBOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

- a Rabies 4
- b Dengue fever 4

4 MISCELLANEOUS OUTBREAKS OF INTEREST

- Tumbu fly cutaneous myiasis in KwaZulu-Natal Province 6

5 INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAKS OF IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICAN TRAVELLERS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- a Middle East respiratory coronavirus (MERS-CoV): update and relevant information for South African healthcare professionals 7
- b Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: update 9

6 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

- Update on carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae 10

7 BEYOND OUR BORDERS 12

1 SEASONAL DISEASES

a Influenza

Influenza data from the Viral Watch surveillance programme

The influenza season, which started in epidemiologic week 19 (week ending 10 May 2015) continues, though the number of specimens submitted by Viral Watch sites has started to decline.

To date (13 July 2015), influenza has been detected in 446/816 (55%) of specimens submitted by Viral Watch sites. Of the influenza cases, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 has been detected in 54% (240/446), influenza A(H3N2) in 41% (184/446), influenza B virus in 4% (18/446) of patients; the remaining four cases are influenza A but are as yet untyped (Figure 1). In addition, 38 specimens have been received from patients at a point of entry into South Africa; influenza was detected in 24 of these

patients.

Influenza data from the national syndromic surveillance for pneumonia

From 01 January to 13 July 2015, 1 894 specimens from patients admitted with severe respiratory illness were tested from the six national syndromic surveillance for pneumonia programme sentinel sites.

The detection rate for influenza was 7% (124/1 894). Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was detected in 57% (71/124), influenza A(H3N2) pdm09 in 35% (44/124), and influenza B in 7% (9/124) of these specimens. In addition, other respiratory viruses were detected: 17% (330/1893) were positive for respiratory syncytial virus and 14% (265/1890) were positive for rhinovirus.

The 2015 influenza season

This year to date, influenza A is the predominant circulating virus type, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 being the most common subtype. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, previously known as the 'swine flu', has been circulating as one of the influenza seasonal strains since 2010. Identification of patients with this strain during the influenza season should be treated as other influenza cases,

and there is no specific public health intervention recommended. Influenza A(H3N2) is circulating at increasing levels in recent weeks. Influenza immunisation is safe and effective and is the single most important way to prevent influenza and influenza-related complications. It's never too late to vaccinate!

Source: Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis, NICD-NHLS

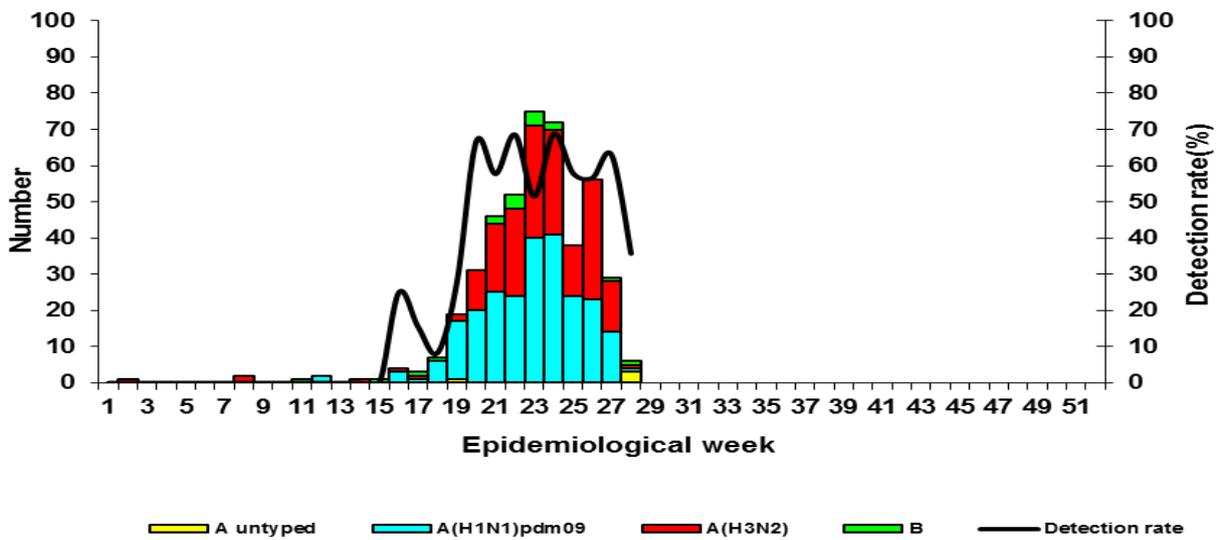


Figure 1. Number of positive samples by influenza types and subtypes and detection rate by week, Viral Watch programme, 2015