

### 3 SEASONAL DISEASES

#### a The influenza season, South Africa, 2016

The 2016 influenza season which started in week 19 (the week starting 09 May 2016), when the Viral Watch detection rate rose to 19%, has peaked in week 35 (week starting 29 August) and is beginning to decline.

To date (14 October) influenza has been detected in 532/1105 (48%) individuals who presented with influenza-like illness (ILI) and were tested for influenza at the viral watch sentinel surveillance sites. The 2016 influenza season has been dominated by influenza B, comprising 40% (213/532) of detections, with majority of the influenza B cases detected during the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the season. There has also been co-circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm 09, influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B during the latter part of the season.

The WHO has made the recommendation for the composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017 southern hemisphere influenza season. The following strains are recommended for the vaccine:

- an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like

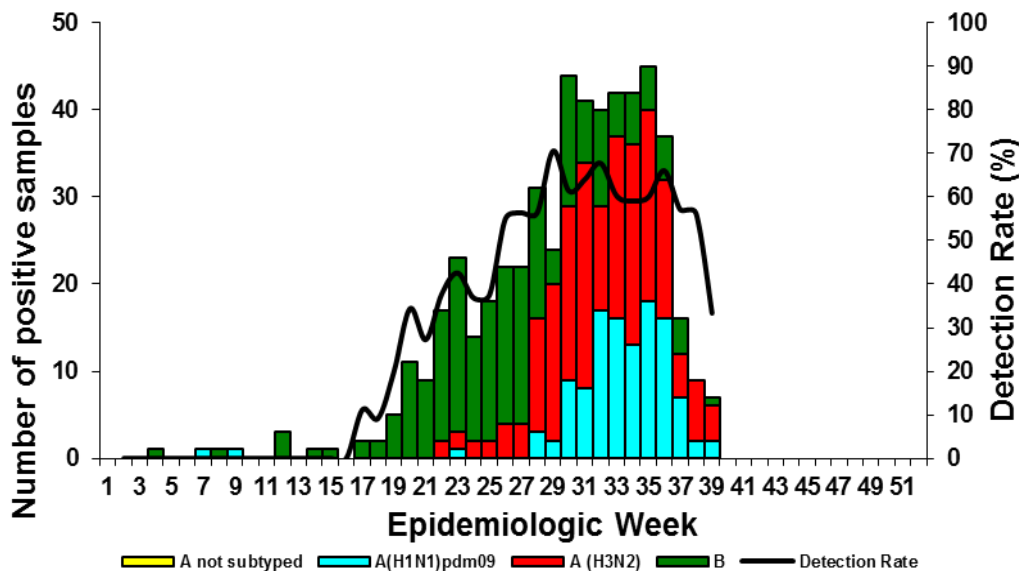
virus;

- an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

These recommendations include an updated strain of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 compared to the 2016 southern hemisphere influenza vaccine. The update includes a replacement of the A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-likevirus component with an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus.

Recommendations can be accessed at: [http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/201609\\_recommendation.pdf?ua](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/201609_recommendation.pdf?ua)

**Source:** Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis, NICD-NHLS; (cherylc@nicd.ac.za)



**Figure 1.** Number of influenza types and subtypes and detection rate by week, influenza-like illness surveillance, Viral Watch, 2016