

3 SEASONAL DISEASES

a The influenza season, South Africa, 2016

The 2016 influenza season started in week 19 (the week starting 09 May 2016, Figure 2), when the Viral Watch detection rate rose to 19%, and peaked late in the season, in week 35 (week starting 29 August). The season ended in week 40 (week ending 9 October). Over the past 12 years the season has on average peaked in week 29 (second last week of July).

To date (19 November) influenza has been detected in 982/5967 individuals tested from three surveillance programmes (influenza-like illness (ILI) at primary health care clinics; ILI at general practitioners; national syndromic surveillance for pneumonia) carried out by the NICD. The season started with

influenza B accounting for the majority of detections until week 28 (week ending 17 July). After this time point, influenza A(H3N2) has accounted for the majority of detections apart from weeks 32 (8 August) and 37 (12 September) when A(H1N1)pdm09 accounted for the largest proportion.

Data on vaccine effectiveness for this year's season will be available at the end of 2016. The WHO recommendations for the 2017 vaccine have included an updated strain of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 compared to the 2016 southern hemisphere influenza vaccine.

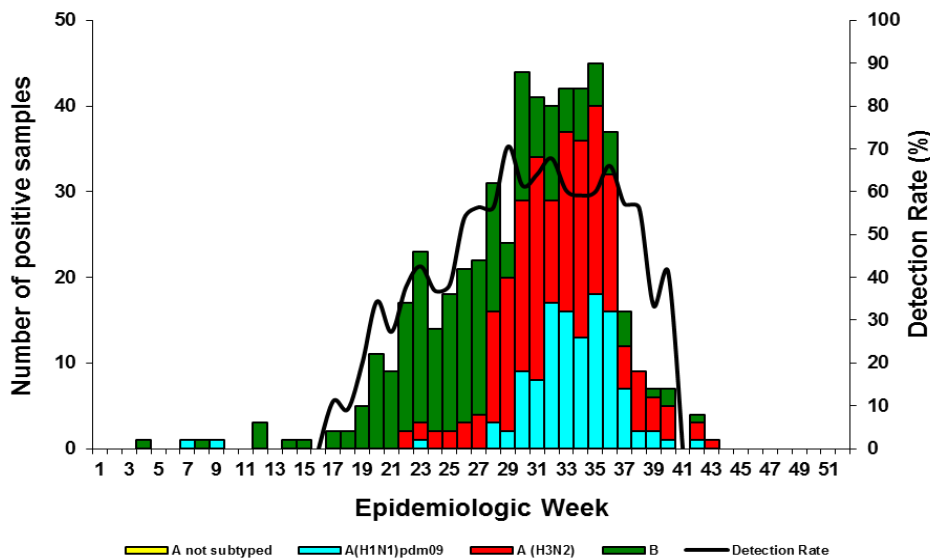


Figure 2. Number of influenza types and subtypes and detection rate by week, Viral Watch: 2016

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