

### Summary

SARI sentinel surveillance in Lebanon commenced at the end of the year 2014. Since the 1st Jan 2018, 8 sentinel sites have been active and total of 701 SARI cases were reported, and 597 were tested with an influenza yield of 15.6%. The season 2017/2018 included 3 dominant viruses: A(H1N1)pdm, A(H3N2) and B(Yamagata). Those strains are available in the quadrivalent seasonal influenza vaccine. The 2018/2019 is announced by A(H3N2) found in weeks 31, 35 and 42.

### Objectives and Methods

The main objective is to monitor influenza virus circulation by time and place.

A case is defined as an acute respiratory infection with fever or history of fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), cough, ill within 10 days, and requiring hospitalization.

The focal point at the sentinel site finds cases and reports electronically to the Ministry of Public Health. Specimens are taken from cases using nasopharyngeal swabs and are sent to the National Influenza Center at Rafic Hariri University Hospital, where PCR testing is performed.

The results represent all cases reported via DHIS platform

### Results

Table 1: Summary results

Indicator	Nb	%
<b>Sentinel Sites</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>SARI cases</b>	<b>701</b>	
<b>Tested cases</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>85.1%</b>
<b>Influenza cases</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
<b>* Influenza A</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62%</b>
Influenza A(H1N1) pdm	24	26%
Influenza A(H3N2)	34	36%
Influenza A(H5N1)	0	0%
Influenza A(other)	0	0%
<b>* Influenza B</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36%</b>
Victoria	1	1%
Yamagata	32	35%
<b>* Mixed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2%</b>

linked with NIC results.

Information is shared through WHO platforms (Flunet , Fluid and Emflu), accessible via:

[http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs\\_laboratory/flunet/](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/)

Fig 1: Distribution of all SARI patients and % of positive influenza testing by week of admission, 2018W01-2018W48

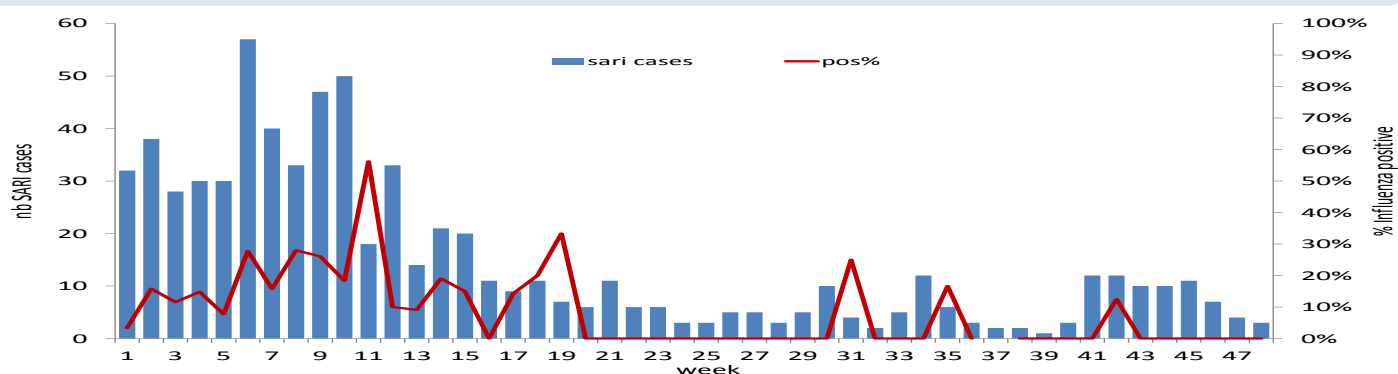
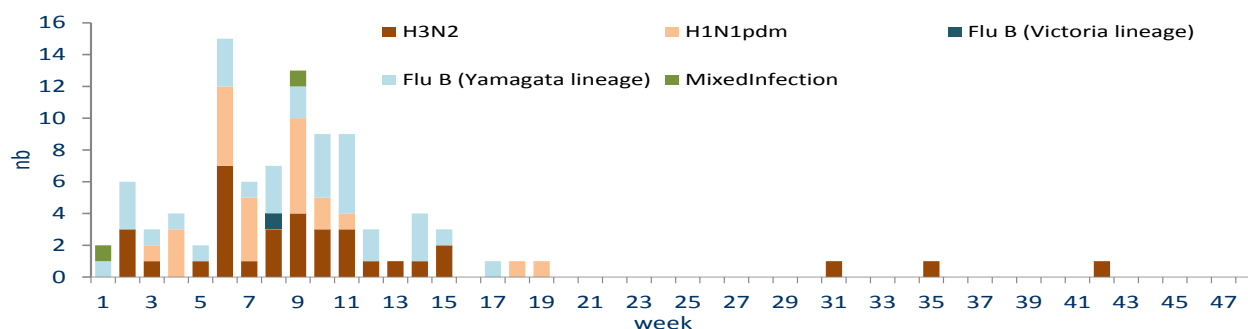


Fig 2: Distribution of Influenza positive patients by week of admission, 2018W01-2018W48



Acknowledgements (Alphabetical order): Ain wa Zein hospital, American University of Beirut Medical Center, Elias Hraoui/Zahleh gov hospital, Hammoud hospital, Khoury Hospital (Zahleh), Notre Dame de Secours hospital, Rafic Hariri University hospital, Saida gov hospital, with support of the World Health Organization under the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.