

Global Respiratory Virus Activity Weekly Update N° 473

Summarizing data through Week 16, ending 21 April 2024

Summary

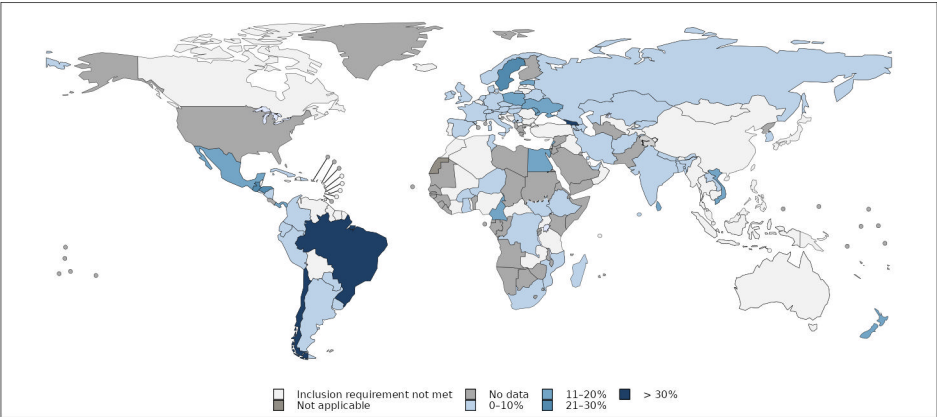
Influenza

- In the Northern Hemisphere, influenza activity continued to decline in most countries. Some countries in Central America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Western Asia, and South East Asia are reporting some continued influenza activity. Influenza A and B viruses were detected, with influenza A viruses more commonly detected in Central America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and South East Asia.
- In the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained low. Some countries in South America have seen increases in influenza activity, with mainly influenza A viruses detected. Some countries in Oceania are also reporting increased activity from prior weeks, however overall activity in that area remained low.

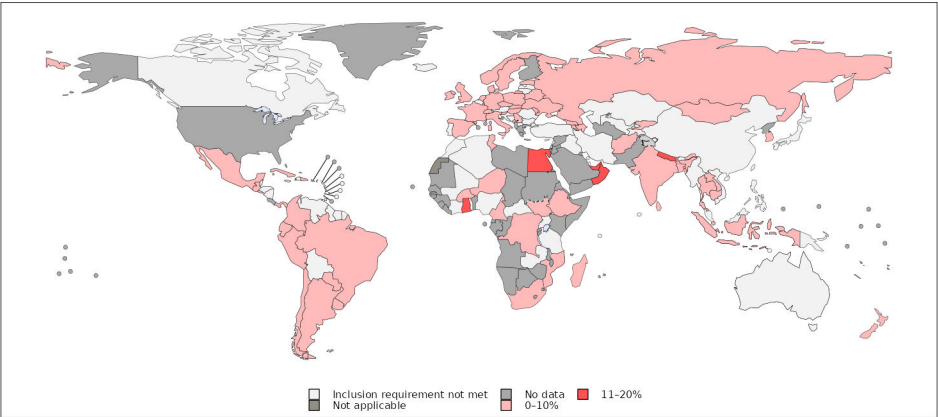
SARS-CoV-2

- SARS-CoV-2 activity, as reported from sentinel surveillance in 68 countries/areas/territories that met inclusion criteria*, overall remains low. Activity is elevated and increasing in some countries in Western Africa, Western Asia, and South Asia.

Influenza activity

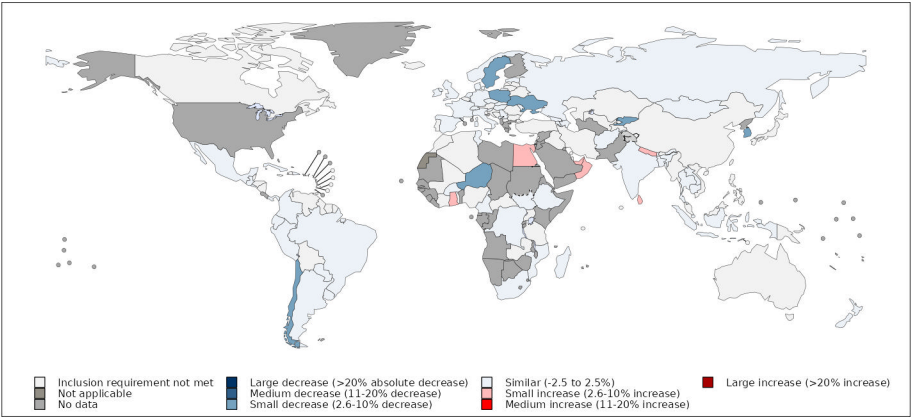
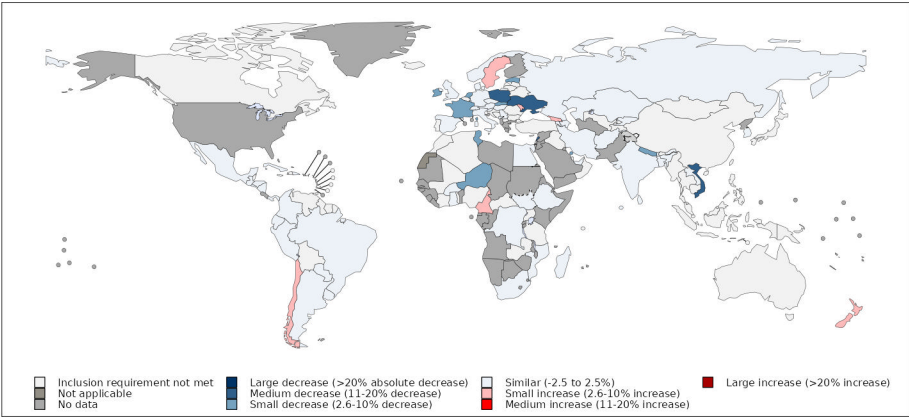


SARS-CoV-2 activity



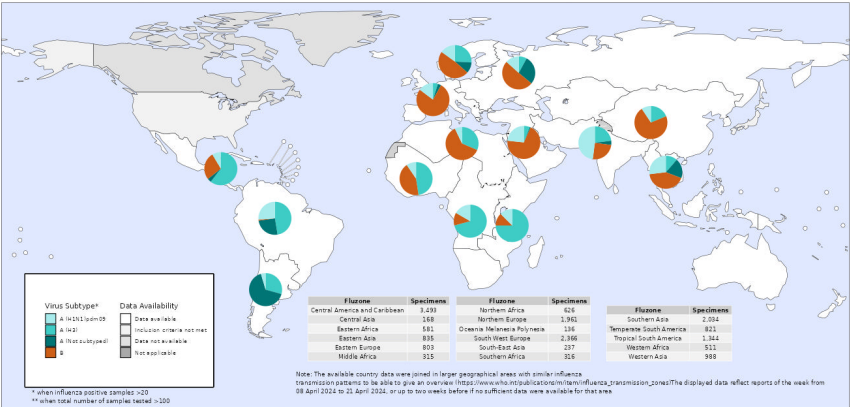
Proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza

Proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2



Change in proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza

Change in proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2



Sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza, by virus type and subtype

*Additional information

Only data on respiratory specimens tested for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 and reported to RespiMart from sentinel surveillance were included in the report. Countries may monitor respiratory virus activity using other surveillance approaches; however, those data were not included. Data from other sources of respiratory virus surveillance reported to RespiMart can be viewed [here](#). Additional information on COVID-19 is reported on the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#). Data on respiratory virus surveillance are provided to WHO through participation or collaboration with the [Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System \(GISRS\)](#)

The proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 was smoothed over a 3-week period among countries who reported testing at least 10 specimens for 2 weeks of the 3-week period. The change in smoothed proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for each virus was calculated as the absolute difference from the smoothed value during the prior reporting week.

Activity is summarized by geographical groupings of countries, areas, and territories. These groupings were used for their geographical description and do not imply similarity of respiratory virus transmission within each group. More information about the geographical groupings can be found [here](#).

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