

# Global Respiratory Virus Activity Weekly Update N° 475

Summarizing data through Week 18, ending 05 May 2024

## Summary

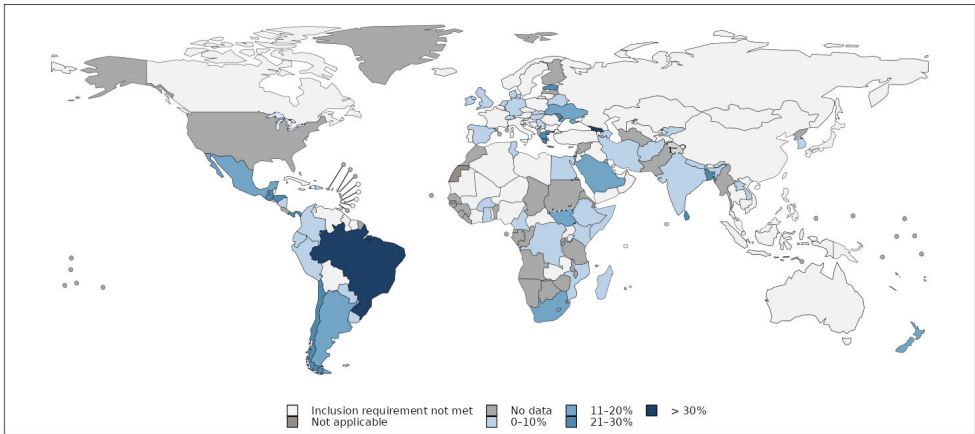
### Influenza

- In the Northern Hemisphere, influenza activity was stable or declined in most countries. Elevated activity continued to be reported in Central America and the Caribbean, due primarily to influenza A viruses, and in some parts of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, due primarily to influenza B viruses. A few countries in Western Africa and Middle Africa reported increased activity relative to previous weeks.
- In the Southern hemisphere, several countries in South America reported elevated influenza activity, with mainly influenza A viruses detected. In Southern Africa, activity was elevated and increased relative to prior weeks, with influenza A viruses predominant.

### SARS-CoV-2

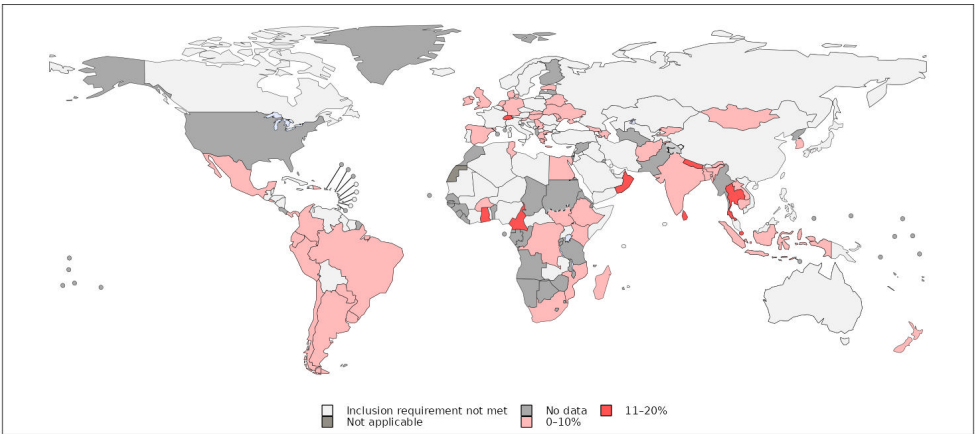
- SARS-CoV-2 activity, as reported from sentinel surveillance in 57 countries/areas/territories that met inclusion criteria, was low overall, but remained elevated in some countries in Western Africa, Western Asia, South Asia, and South East Asia. Activity was stable in most countries, with small increases reported in very few countries in South-East Asia, Northern Africa and Middle Africa.

### Influenza activity

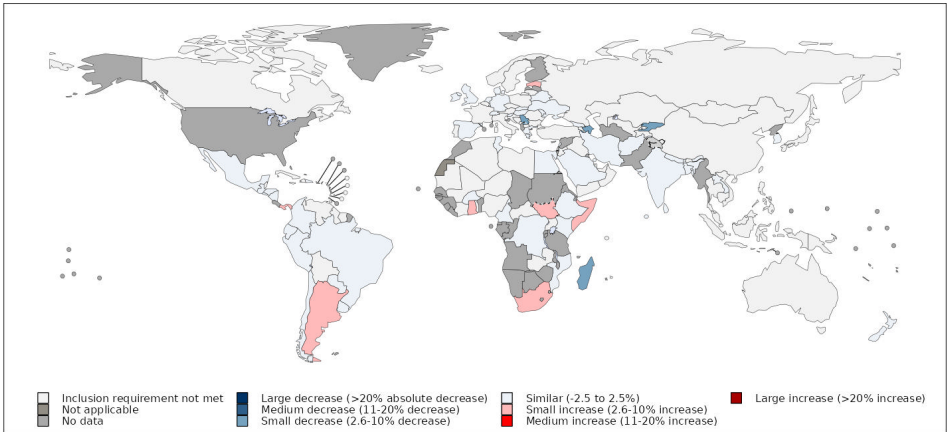


Proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza

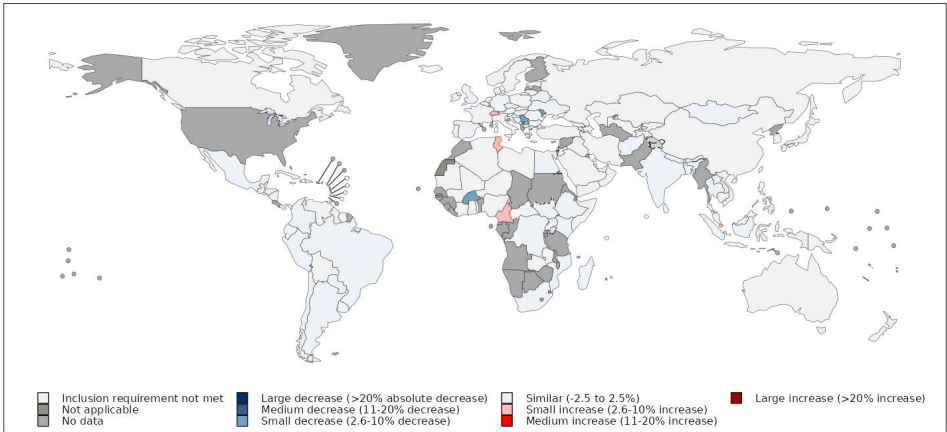
### SARS-CoV-2 activity



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

### 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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