

## Human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses

### Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus

From 15 to 24 January 2016, **no new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region.

From February 2003 to 14 December 2015, 237 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus were reported from four countries within the Western Pacific Region (Table 1). Of these cases, 134 were fatal, resulting in a case fatality rate (CFR) of 57%.

**Table 1: Cumulative number laboratory-confirmed human cases (C) and deaths (D) of influenza A(H5N1) virus infection reported to WHO (January 2003 to 14 December 2015), Western Pacific Region.**

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		Total	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	8	8	3	3	26	14	9	4	0	0	56	37
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	13	8	5	3	4	4	7	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	5	1	52	31
Lao PDR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	8	5	6	5	5	5	7	2	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	127	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>134</b>

From February 2003 to 14 December 2015, there have been 844 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus reported from 16 countries worldwide. Of these cases, 449 were fatal, resulting in a CFR of 53%.

### Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus

From 15 to 24 January 2016, **no new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus from the Western Pacific Region were reported on the Disease Outbreak News. Since May 2014, eight human cases of influenza A(H5N6) have been reported. All eight cases were reported from China.

### Public health risk assessment for human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses

Whenever avian influenza viruses are circulating in poultry, sporadic infections and small clusters of human cases are possible in people exposed to infected poultry or contaminated environments, therefore sporadic human cases would not be unexpected.

With the rapid spread and magnitude of avian influenza outbreaks due to existing and new influenza A(H5) viruses in poultry in areas that have not experienced this disease in animals recently, there is a need for increased vigilance in the animal and public health sectors. Community awareness of the potential dangers for human health is essential to prevent infection in humans. Surveillance should be enhanced to detect human infections if they occur and to detect early changes in transmissibility and infectivity of the viruses.

*For more information on confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5) virus reported to WHO, visit:*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/en/)

## Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in China

From 15 to 24 January 2016, **ten new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus from the Western Pacific Region were reported on the Disease Outbreak News. All cases were reported from China. The cases were reported in the provinces of Zhejiang (6), Jiangsu (2), Guangdong (1) and Jiangxi (1). The median age of the patients is 52.5 years old (ranging from 29 to 77 years old). The cases are split equally between men and women. One of the patients is a health care worker. All cases reported a history of exposure to live poultry. Date of illness onset ranged from 24 November to 24 December 2015. As of 11 January 2016,, 3 of the 10 cases died. <http://www.who.int/csr/don/19-january-2016-avian-influenza-china/en/>

WHO is continuing to assess the epidemiological situation and will conduct further risk assessments with new information. Overall, the public health risk from avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses has not changed.

Further sporadic human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection are expected in affected and possibly neighbouring areas. Should human cases from affected areas travel internationally, their infection may be detected in another country during or after arrival. If this were to occur, community level spread is considered unlikely as the virus does not have the ability to transmit easily among humans.

### Public health risk assessment for avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses

On 23 February 2015, WHO conducted a public health risk assessment for avian influenza A(H7N9). This assessment found the overall public health risk from avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses has not changed since the previous assessment, published on 2 October 2014. To date, there has been no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

*For more information on human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus reported to WHO:*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/influenza\\_h7n9/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/)

*For more information on risk assessment for avian influenza A(H7N9) virus:*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/influenza\\_h7n9/RiskAssessment\\_H7N9\\_23Feb20115.pdf](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/RiskAssessment_H7N9_23Feb20115.pdf)

## Animal infection with avian influenza

From 15 to 24 January 2016, 10 new animal outbreaks with avian influenza virus were reported in the Western Pacific Region; seven (7) in Taiwan, China [seven H5N2], two (2) in mainland China [one H5N6, one H5N1] and one (1) in Viet Nam [H5N6].

### HPAI H5N2 outbreak in poultry and wild bird, Taiwan, China

Seven (7) new outbreaks of HPAI H5N2 infection in birds were reported in Yunlin County (2), Chiayi County (2), Changhua County (1), Kaohsiung (1), and Taipei City (1). The first outbreak started on 15 December 2015 and the last one on 7 January 2016. In total, 11,123 birds died due to infection and 21,188 were destroyed.

[http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19509](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19509)

### HPAI H5N6 outbreak in poultry, China

One (1) new outbreak of HPAI H5N6 infection in poultry was reported in Hunan Province. The outbreak started on 9 January 2016. In total, 91 birds died due to infection and 1,132 were destroyed.

[http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19542](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19542)

### HPAI H5N1 outbreak in poultry, China

One (1) new outbreak of HPAI H5N1 infection in poultry was reported in Guizhou Province. The outbreak started on 11 January 2016. In total, 5,617 birds died due to infection and 29,528 were destroyed.

[http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19567](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19567)

### HPAI H5N6 outbreak in poultry, Viet Nam

One (1) new outbreak of HPAI H5N6 infection in poultry was reported in Lang Son. The outbreak started on 2 January 2016. In total, 155 birds died due to infection and 65 were destroyed.

[http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page\\_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19524](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=19524)

*For more information on animal infection with avian influenza viruses with potential public health impact, visit:*

- World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) web page:  
<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/>  
and <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/update-on-avian-influenza>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) webpage: Avian Influenza:  
<http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html>
- OFFLU:  
<http://www.offlu.net/>
- EMPRES:  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres.html>

## Latest information on human seasonal influenza

For the latest information on the seasonal influenza situation in the Western Pacific Region, visit:

[http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging\\_diseases/Influenza/en/index.html](http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/index.html)

For latest information on the global seasonal influenza situation, visit:

- Epidemiology: [http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance)
- Virology: [http://www.who.int/influenza/qisrs\\_laboratory/updates/summaryreport](http://www.who.int/influenza/qisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport)

## Other updates

*Influenza at the human-animal interface — Summary and assessment as of 14 December 2015*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/Influenza\\_Summary\\_IRA\\_HA\\_interface\\_14\\_Dec\\_2015.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/Influenza_Summary_IRA_HA_interface_14_Dec_2015.pdf?ua=1)

*WHO Risk Assessment of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus  
23 February 2015 posted on WHO website*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/human\\_animal\\_interface/influenza\\_h7n9/RiskAssessment\\_H7N9\\_23Feb20115.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/RiskAssessment_H7N9_23Feb20115.pdf?ua=1)

*WHO Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2016 southern hemisphere influenza season—24 September 2015*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2016\\_south/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2016_south/en/)

*Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines—24 September 2015*

[http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics\\_virus\\_vaccines/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/)

*H7N9 situation update (FAO) —18 January 2016*

[http://www.fao.org/ag/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres/H7N9/Situation\\_update.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres/H7N9/Situation_update.html)