

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5) viruses

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus

From 22 to 29 April 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 29 April 2016, 238 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 56%.

Table 1: Cumulative number laboratory-confirmed human cases (C) and deaths (D) of influenza A (H5N1) virus infection reported to WHO (January 2003 to 4 April 2016), Western Pacific Region.

Country	2003-2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		Total	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Cambodia	10	8	8	8	3	3	26	14	9	4	0	0	0	0	56	37
China	40	26	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	5	1	1	0	53	31
Lao PDR	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Viet Nam	119	59	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	127	64
Total	171	95	9	9	9	6	30	17	13	6	5	1	1	0	238	134

From February 2003 to 29 April 2016, there have been 850 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 52.8%.

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) virus

On 26 April 2016, one (1) new case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) virus was reported by China. The case is an 11-year-old female from Hunan Province. Date of illness onset was on 11 April 2016. The case was in stable condition at the time of report. Since May 2014, a total of twelve laboratory confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A (H5N6) virus have been reported. All cases have been 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/

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

On 19 April 2016, one (1) new case of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China was reported. The case is an eighty (80) year old male with an underlying illness. Between 1 April and 5 April 2016, the case had travelled to Dongguan, Guangdong Province, China. On 3 April 2016, he purchased a chicken from a wet market and slaughtered the chicken on the same day. On 6 April 2016, he developed symptoms (productive cough and headache) and on 14 April he developed fever. On 17 April 2016, he was hospitalised and was in stable condition.

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. Human infections with the A (H7N9) virus are unusual and need to be monitored closely in order to identify changes in the virus and/or its transmission behaviour to humans as it may have a serious public health impact.

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/

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

Animal infection with avian influenza

From 22 to 29 April 2016, one new animal outbreak with avian influenza virus was reported in the Western Pacific Region, in Viet Nam (HPAI H5N1).

HPAI (H5N1) outbreak in birds in, Can Tho, Viet Nam

One new outbreak of HPAI (H5N1) infection in birds was reported in Truong Long Phong Dien Can Tho, Viet Nam. The outbreak started on 23 April 2016. In total, 140 of 395 susceptible birds died due to the infection and 255 were destroyed during this outbreak.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=20103

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/aq/aqainfo/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

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

- Epidemiology:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance
- Virology:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport

Other updates

Influenza at the human-animal interface — Summary and assessment as of 4 April 2016

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/Influenza_Summary_IRA_HA_interface_04_04_2016.pdf

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

WHO Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2016-2017 northern hemisphere influenza season—25 February 2016

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2016_17_north/en/

Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines—25 February 2016

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/

H7N9 situation update (FAO) —20 April 2016

http://www.fao.org/aq/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres/H7N9/wave_4/Situation_update_2016_04_20.html