



Bird Flu News 06 - 12 February 2007

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Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO

6 February 2007

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	8	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	0	0	6	6
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	13	8	0	0	22	14
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	10	2	2	20	12
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	19	12	56	46	6	5	81	63
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	3	3	0	0	25	17
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	0	0	93	42
Total	4	4	46	32	97	42	116	80	9	8	272	166

Total number of cases includes number of deaths. WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases. All dates refer to onset of illness.

Avian influenza - situation in Egypt - update 3

6 February 2007

The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population has announced a new human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. The case was confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory and by the US Naval Medical Research Unit No.3 (NAMRU -3).



The 17-year-old female from Fayyoun Governorate developed symptoms on 25 January 2007 and was initially treated for seasonal influenza. She was hospitalized on 1 February with fever and breathing difficulties, and died on 2 February. Initial investigations into the source of her exposure indicate the presence of sick and dead poultry at her home in the days prior to the onset of symptoms.

Of the 20 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 12 have been fatal.

Update: WHO-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) infection, 25 November 2003 - 24 November 2006

An analytical Report on Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER) vol. 82, 6 (pp 41-48)

[Download full text \[pdf 350kb\]](#)

p.41 Update: WHO-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) infection, 25 Nov 2003 - 24 Nov 2006
<http://www.who.int/wer/2007/wer8206.pdf>

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Indonesia: Two more human cases of H5N1 virus infection

Date: Tue 6 Feb 2007



Two more people in hard hit Indonesia, a 15-year-old girl from an upscale Jakarta neighbourhood and a 30-year-old man in West Java, have [contracted] bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Tue 6 Feb 2007. The girl, who lives in the capital's Menteng district where many high ranking officials and foreign

diplomats reside, had caught a wild bird which died 2 days later, Joko Suyono of the Ministry's bird flu centre said.

The West Java man lived in an area where many poultry had died, he said.

Indonesia, where most people keep chickens, has had more human deaths from the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus than another other country -- 63. Six people have died this year [2007] in a country of 17 000 islands and poor infrastructure where most bird flu victims have caught the disease from contact with infected fowl.

Altogether, the virus has killed 165 people in 10 countries [now 11 with one death in Nigeria - Mod.CP] and scientists fear it could mutate into a strain that spreads easily among people, triggering a pandemic that would sweep the globe.

Source: Reuters Foundation AlertNet

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Two cases of bird flu detected in Pakistan: Provinces told to take precautions

Date: 76 Feb 2007



The federal agriculture ministry has asked provinces to take precautions and increase surveillance after two cases of bird flu were found in two small flocks of chickens and peacocks in Rawalpindi and Mansehra district of the NWFP.

"Commercial poultry farms should make sure that their birds are properly vaccinated," warns a statement issued by the federal ministry of food, agriculture and livestock (Minfal) here on Tuesday.

The ministry also warned the people keeping birds in their backyards to be vigilant and report any unusual mortality to local veterinarian.

"People keeping pet birds should not ignore the warning as they have also been advised to vaccinate their birds against avian influenza (H5N1) as soon as possible.

"We are not keeping anything secret from the people and have issued timely advice. We have found no positive signs of the virus in commercial forms so far, but only flocks kept in homes," the federal government's official spokesman for bird flu, Dr Mohammad Afzal, told Dawn.

The northern winter has brought with it a resurgence of avian influenza as quarantine workers slaughtered hundreds of thousands of poultry after fresh outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain in Asia in recent weeks.

Now, the virus has hit Pakistan again and it is expected that many such positive cases may appear in various parts of the country in the coming days, an official of the Ministry of Health told Dawn.

Dr Afzal said on Friday, the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza, Islamabad, received two positive samples of H5N1. The first sample was received from a house in Rawalpindi's Sadar area. The family had 40 birds in the backyard, out of which 18 died. The remaining 22 birds were culled and the affected area was disinfected.

The second sample was received from a pet bird keeper from Mansehra, NWFP, where a few peacocks died. The premises are under quarantine. Both the cases have been reported to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) known as the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The OIE manages the world animal health information system, based on the commitment of member countries to notify to the OIE of the main animal diseases.

Over the last three years, Pakistan has suffered over Rs25billion losses, according to figures released by the Pakistan Poultry Association from time to time.

Dawn newspaper online: <http://www.dawn.com/2007/02/07/nat2.htm>

By Sher Baz Khan

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Cats can spread bird flu, UN agency warns

Friday February 09, 2007

ROME - Cats should be kept away from areas affected by the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus as they can pick up and spread the disease, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on Thursday.

Cats at infected farms should be kept indoors, the agency said, as evidence from Indonesia and other countries showed they could catch bird flu from eating infected poultry or wild birds. The worst fear is that cats could become a host for the virus where it could mutate into a form that may cause a human pandemic, the FAO said.

"Cats could act as intermediary hosts in the spread of the H5N1 virus between species," said FAO's Assistant Director-General Alexander Mueller.

"(Virus) growth in cats might help the H5N1 virus to adapt into a more highly infectious strain that could spark an influenza pandemic."

An outbreak of H5N1 in eastern England last weekend has led several countries to ban poultry exports from Britain which had not been affected by the virus before. More than 30 countries have reported outbreaks in the past year, in most cases involving wild birds such as swans. Cats have been infected in Thailand, Iraq, Russia, the European Union and Turkey, FAO said.

Bird flu remains essentially an animal disease but has killed 166 people since it reemerged in Asia in 2003. Almost all the victims have become infected after contact with sick birds.

- REUTERS

Poultry sales mostly unaffected by bird flu

Fri Feb 9, 2007 4:39 PM GMT



LONDON (Reuters) - Leading supermarket chains say the recent bird flu outbreak in Britain has had little impact on poultry counter sales so far -- a view echoed in other parts of Europe.

Supermarkets Asda, Waitrose and Morrisons all reported no fall in poultry meat sales this week after the discovery last weekend of the deadly H5N1 virus on a turkey farm in eastern England.

"We haven't seen any impact. In fact, since last weekend, we're still selling more (poultry) now than we were (this time) last year," a spokeswoman for Asda told Reuters on Friday.

Tesco reported a small drop in poultry meat sales this week. "We haven't seen an effect on eggs, just a slight dip in poultry meat sales ... we continue to monitor sales and customer buying habits," a Tesco spokeswoman said.

Sainsbury's reported a drop of approximately 10 percent in poultry sales figures as a whole for the past five days compared to the same period last week.

Reuters.uk - UK



CHRONOLOGY - Bird flu developments

Authorities confirmed on Saturday that thousands of turkeys on a farm near Lowestoft had died of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu.

The strain has killed at least 164 people worldwide since 2003, most of them in Asia, and more than 200 million birds have died from it, or been killed to prevent its spread. Scientists fear it could mutate into a form that can be easily transmitted between humans, and trigger a global pandemic.

Here is a brief chronology of some of the major bird flu developments since last year:

February 8, 2006 - The first African cases of the deadly H5N1 strain are detected in poultry in the northern Nigerian states of Kano, Kaduna and Plateau.

February 17 - Egypt finds its first cases of H5N1 in chickens.

February 18 - India announces its first cases of H5N1, finding the virus in poultry in a western state.

February 25 - France confirms H5N1 at a farm in the east where thousands of turkeys have died. It is the first case of the virus in domestic farm birds in the EU.

August 8 - China says its first H5N1 human case was in 2003, and not in 2005 as it had originally reported.

September 28 - China shares long-sought-after samples of H5N1 in what many scientists view as a breakthrough in cooperation.

December 8 - Foreign donors pledge an additional \$476 million for the global fight against the virus at a meeting in Mali.

December 21 - South Korea confirms a fourth case of bird flu in poultry. In November, it had confirmed its first case of H5N1 in about three years.

January 9, 2007 - China says a farmer from the eastern province of Anhui contracted H5N1 in December, the country's first human case in months. He was released from hospital on January 6.

January 15 - Thailand reports its first outbreak of H5N1 in six months in ducks in the northern province of Phitsanulok.

January 16 - Japan confirms its first outbreak of H5N1 in three years, in poultry in the southwestern prefecture of Miyazaki. Three further outbreaks in poultry are confirmed by February 3.

January 24 - Thousands of birds are culled after an outbreak among geese on a farm in Hungary.

January 29 - WHO confirms another death in Indonesia. The global death toll stands at 164.

January 31 - Nigeria says a woman from the commercial capital Lagos is the first confirmed human victim of bird flu in sub-Saharan Africa. Test samples are being sent to foreign laboratories for further confirmation.

February 3 - H5N1 is found to have been responsible for the deaths of 2,500 turkeys on a farm in southeast England -- the first outbreak in British poultry

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Three hospitalised in Turkey over bird flu scare

Date: 2/10/2007



Two women and a three year-old boy were admitted to hospital in Turkey Saturday after coming into contact with birds that could have avian flu, local health authorities were quoted as saying.

Anatolia news agency quoted officials as saying the three, from the village of Bogazkoy, in the southeast, were hospitalised with high temperatures.

A quarantine zone had already been imposed within a 10-kilometre (six mile) radius around Bogazkoy, where 170 birds died, including three other villages nearby, the Turkish health ministry said.

Earlier, the ministry announced that three of four children from the same village who were tested for possible bird flu infection after the potentially lethal H5N1 strain of the virus resurfaced in Turkey do not have the disease.

Samples from the fourth child, aged 18 months, from the village in the mainly Kurdish southeastern province of Batman, were inadequate and new tests would be carried out, the health ministry said.

The two women from the village now admitted to hospital are aged 33 and 68.

"The threehad been in contact with fowl and have been transferred to the university hospital at Dicle", Hasan Demir, head of the local health authority was quoted as saying.

The hospital is in Diyarbakir, main town of southeastern Turkey.

"They will remain in hospital under observation until the results of tests are made known," the official said.

A man who had been in close contact with infected birds was already under observation but was displaying no symptoms, the ministry said.

Samples from dead chicken, where bird flu in poultry was confirmed last Thursday, determined that the virus was of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, the Turkish agriculture ministry said Friday.

All poultry in the four villages, totalling some 1,350 chickens, turkeys and ducks, had been slaughtered by Saturday, Anatolia reported.

No trace of the virus had been detected by Saturday in provinces neighbouring Batman.

A major bird flu outbreak in Turkey claimed the lives of four teenagers in January last year in a remote region near the border with Iran, from where the virus quickly spread to more than a half of the country's 81 provinces.

Turkey's east and southeast are the country's poorest regions, where people are traditionally in close contact with poultry as backyard breeding is often their only source of livelihood.



The four children from Bogazkoy who were tested are aged between 18 months and 15 years.

The eldest child was in close contact with dead and sick birds, but had so far shown no symptoms of the disease, the health ministry said.

The other three children showed symptoms of respiratory tract infection, but had not been in close contact with birds.

Prior to this week's outbreak, bird flu had been eliminated in Turkey since the last recorded case on March 31, the agriculture ministry said. More than 2.5 million birds were culled across the country during last year's outbreak.

The four teenagers who succumbed to the disease a year ago -- three siblings and their cousin -- became the first human casualties of the H5N1 strain outside Southeast Asia and China.

Eight other people confirmed as H5N1 carriers by the WHO recovered after treatment.

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Most bird flu victims under 40, WHO analysis finds

Mon Feb 12, 2007 7:16 AM IST

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Ninety percent of the people infected with bird flu have been under the age of 40, and 60 percent of them have died, according to the latest analysis from the World Health Organization.

But the WHO researchers stressed their analysis did not suggest why this might be and noted there are several theories on why the H5N1 virus seems to attack younger people.

The H5N1 avian influenza virus has infected 272 people in 10 countries since it re-emerged in 2003. It has killed 166 of them.

It remains mostly a virus of birds and has killed or forced the culling of more than 200 million chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and other fowl.

But its occasional attack on a human being has researchers worried. They fear it could mutate into a form more like seasonal flu, in which case it would be spread around the world by people and could kill millions.

So WHO is watching it very carefully and keeping statistics on every case. This kind of work, called epidemiology, can help scientists understand diseases, who they infect and who is most in danger.

WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record, published on its Internet Web site at <http://www.who.int>, analyzes all laboratory-confirmed human cases of H5N1 infection reported between late November 2003 and late November 2006.

The analysis said the median age of people confirmed infected was 18 years old and ranged from 3 months to 75 years.

"Just over half of all cases (52 percent or 132 out of 256) were aged under 20 years, and 89 percent were aged under 40 years."



This could be because it usually requires intense contact with a sick bird for a person to become infected, and in most countries, it is younger people, often children, who tend to poultry.

But there could be other reasons, such as immune system response to infection, scientists say.

The WHO researchers found that H5N1 has killed 60 percent of its victims and found big differences in fatality by age.

"The highest case fatality rate (76 percent) was found among those aged 10 to 19 years; the lowest case fatality rate (40 percent) was found among those aged over 50 years," the report reads.

Bird flu killed 44 percent of victims under the age of 5 and 66 percent of those aged 30 to 39.

WHO scientists plan a meeting in Turkey next month to talk about why such differences may exist.

Source: By Maggie Fox, Health and Science Editor

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