



Bird Flu News 19 - 26 February 2007

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

19 February 2007

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		Total	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	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	4	3	22	13
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	11	9	274	167

Total number of cases includes number of deaths. All dates refer to onset of illness.

WHO reports only laboratory -confirmed cases.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2007_02_19/en/index.html



Bird Flu Situation in Pakistan

Date: Tue 20 Feb 2007

In Pakistan, H5N1 infection was recently detected among household poultry, birds and peacocks in the Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Mansehra areas. Migratory birds were believed to have been the source of this infection.

Though the disease has been more or less contained in these areas, further spread of the virus through wild birds is not ruled out. This has also posed a threat to India, as the birds cannot be prevented from flying across the borders.

Kapur said the peak risk period for the appearance of bird flu in India was over, as the migratory winged visitors had begun flying back. But the next 20 to 30 days were still critical, he maintained.

He said the PFI had repeatedly urged the government to take preventive steps by vaccinating the birds in the areas along the migratory routes. The government had not offered any reasons for not doing so.

The bird flu outbreak last year [2006] and the panic created by it among poultry consumers had crippled the poultry industry.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

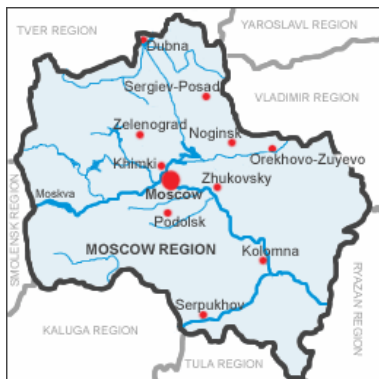
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Bird flu spreads beyond territory of Moscow region

Date: Wed 21 Feb 2007

Bird flu has spread beyond the territory of the Moscow region. Incidents of bird flu have been reported in the Borovskoi district in the Kaluga region, spokesman for the Federal Service for Veterinary Supervision Alexei Alexeyenko told Tass.

In a separate incident in the settlement of Ugino in the Dmitrov district north of Moscow, all the chickens died at a private farm 2 days after its owner bought a few chickens at the notorious Pet Market in Moscow.



Seven territories have been hit by bird flu in the Moscow region by Wednesday [21 Feb 2007], including Domodedovo, Odintsovo, Podolsk, Naro-Fominsk, Taldom, Volokolamsk, Zelenograd.

No human cases of bird flu have been reported, Chief Sanitary Doctor Olga Gavrilenko told Tass earlier.

On Tuesday [20 Feb 2007], the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary Supervision did not rule out a possibility of more incidents of bird flu in the Moscow and neighboring regions.

Given the Pet Market's turnover, more incidents of bird flu are expected in the territory of the Moscow region in the next few days, the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary Service said in a letter to the European Commission.

Source: [Itar-TASS](#)

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Bird flu outbreak outside Moscow : Chronology

Bird flu not confirmed in 3 districts near Moscow

21:22 21/02/2007 Suspected outbreaks of bird flu in three Moscow regions have not been confirmed, the Russian agriculture watchdog said Wednesday.

Ukraine suspends Moscow Region poultry imports over bird flu

20:09 20/02/2007 Ukraine has placed a temporary ban on poultry imports from the Moscow Region over the suspected deadly bird flu virus, the country's veterinary watchdog said Tuesday.

Fowl deaths registered in sixth district near Moscow

12:45 20/02/2007 More fowl deaths have been registered in the southeast of the Moscow Region, the local agriculture ministry said Tuesday.

1 mln birds to be vaccinated from bird flu near Moscow

16:30 19/02/2007 At least a million domestic birds will be vaccinated against avian influenza near Moscow now that the disease has reached areas surrounding the Russian capital, a senior local veterinary official said Monday.

Prosecutors launch probe into bird flu outbreak near Moscow - 1

12:08 19/02/2007

Russia confirms deadly bird flu outbreak outside Moscow - 1

11:09 19/02/2007 The Russian agricultural watchdog confirmed Monday that a bird flu outbreak near Moscow over the weekend involved the deadly H5N1 virus.

Russia confirms deadly bird flu outbreak outside Moscow

10:34 19/02/2007 The Russian agricultural watchdog confirmed Monday that a bird flu outbreak near Moscow over the weekend contained strains of a deadly H5N1 virus.

Third bird flu site detected in Moscow Region - acting governor

17:11 17/02/2007 A third avian flu outbreak has been detected at a private farm in the Moscow Region, the acting governor said Saturday. "A resident of the Podolsk District [south of Moscow] bought a chicken on Moscow's Ptichy pet market, and forty-four birds at his farmstead died as a result," Alexei Panteleyev said.

Poultry products from Moscow region farms safe to eat - watchdog

16:41 17/02/2007 Poultry and eggs produced at farms near Moscow are safe to eat, Russia's animal and plant health watchdog said Saturday. Rosselkhoz nadzor's statement came a day after health officials confirmed avian flu as the cause of chicken and turkey deaths at two private farmsteads outside the Russian capital.

H5N1 caused poultry deaths near Moscow - chief epidemiologist

21:55 16/02/2007 Russia's chief epidemiologist and the head of the government's food security watchdog confirmed Friday that the H5N1 strain of bird flu was the cause of poultry deaths in the south of the Moscow Region.

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KAZAKHSTAN: Preparing for bird flu threat

23 February 2007

Kazakhstan is implementing measures to combat avian influenza as the spring migratory season looms, threatening to spread the disease as birds fly north after the winter, the government says.

"The government has adopted a programme for the prevention of the spread of avian flu in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2007-2008, and a plan of operational measures to combat avian flu," Anatoliy Belonog, Kazakhstan's chief epidemiological official and deputy health minister, told IRIN from the capital, Astana.

Kazakhstan has set up special laboratories to diagnose avian flu and bought antiviral drugs to deal with a possible outbreak among humans. Bird flu could affect up to one million out of a population of 15 million.



"For a detailed study of avian influenza viruses among humans, two reference laboratories have been set up to diagnose avian flu ... A strategic supply of the antiviral medicine Tamiflu for 30,000 patients has been set up in each region," Belonog said. Tamiflu is one of two drugs identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) that may improve survival prospects for humans infected with bird flu.

The government is also seeking to educate the public about the dangers of close contact with dead or infected birds as the main source of human infection.

The European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) this month announced funding for a public-awareness campaign to change behaviour among risk groups, with US\$315,000 from the EC - which has given a total of \$6.6 million to fight bird flu in Central Asia - and \$80,000 from UNICEF.

Adriaan van der Meer, head of the EC delegation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, told IRIN that the aim of the programme for Kazakhstan was to improve public information about the disease.

"This means, for example how to recognise the disease and what to do in case of an outbreak. It also shows which preventive measures to take," Van der Meer said.

The programme, to be implemented with the government, will target farmers, and focus on areas used by migratory birds, he added.

The country faced its worst bird flu outbreak in July 2005, with cases diagnosed among poultry in five northern regions near the Russian border.

In 2006, the H5N1 strain of bird flu was discovered in a dead swan on the Caspian Sea coast in western Kazakhstan, after which mass vaccination of domestic poultry was ordered. The swan was found in Mangystau Region, 2,000km away from the 2005 outbreak, highlighting the geographical spread of the disease and the danger posed by migratory birds.

WHO considers the H5N1 virus of great concern to humans because of the high fatality rate - of the 274 cases reported to date, 167 (or 60 percent) have been fatal.

Source: Reuters

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Afghan Health Ministry Confirms Deadly Bird Flu Virus

23 February 2007



AP Photo

An Afghan Agricultural Ministry worker holds two chickens caught in a house on the outskirts of Kabul, March 22, 2006

Afghanistan's Health Ministry has confirmed the presence of bird flu in eastern Nangarhar province.

Health Ministry Deputy Faizullah Kakar told VOA that the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu virus was confirmed by officials Friday. A team of doctors also suspected a human case of bird flu in the region but discovered the person was suffering from malaria.



The area has been quarantined, and the Health Ministry says officials have begun an information campaign.

Earlier this week, Afghan authorities ordered the slaughter of birds in both Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, suspecting an outbreak of bird flu.

Last year, Afghanistan discovered cases of the H5N1 virus in birds, but not humans.

The deadly strain of the bird flu virus has killed at least 160 people worldwide since 2003.

Source: [VOA News](#)

Egyptian child recovers from bird flu

24 Feb 2007

A five-year-old Egyptian boy who tested positive for bird flu has recovered the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported on Saturday.

Mohamed Ahmed Suleiman recovered after treatment with frontline antiviral Tamiflu and was allowed to go home, MENA quoted Yusri Ragab, director of the Cairo hospital where the child was treated as saying.

Suleiman was the 22nd case to test positive for the H5N1 virus in Egypt, which has the largest bird flu cluster outside Asia. Of the 22 cases, 13 have died.

Most people infected in Egypt had been in contact with live birds kept at home.

Bird flu initially caused panic across the country and did extensive damage to the poultry industry, although the sector has largely recovered.

World Health Organisation officials have said a delay in reporting symptoms in Egypt, where many people keep poultry at home, made the virus harder to fight.

Source: [Reuters](#)

H5N1 bird flu confirmed in Afghanistan

Feb. 24, 2007

The presence of the deadly strain of bird flu in eastern Nangarhar province has been confirmed by Afghanistan's Health Ministry.

Voice of America reported Saturday that the H5N1 strain of the avian virus was confirmed on Friday by Health Ministry Deputy Faizullah Kakar.

VOA said a team of doctors had initially suspected that the virus had made its way to a human, however, it was found that the patient was actually suffering from malaria.

Earlier this week, Afghan authorities ordered the slaughter of birds in the Nangarhar and Kunar provinces after suspecting an outbreak of bird flu. There was another outbreak of the virus in Afghanistan last year that was confined to birds.

The deadly H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus has killed about 160 humans worldwide since 2003.



Bird flu cases in birds in Kuwait but no human infections - health minister

Feb 25, 2007

Bird Flu cases were spotted among birds in Kuwait most of them in falcons, but there were no infections among humans, Kuwait Health Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al -Abdullah Al-Sabah said Sunday.

The national emergency plan, approved by a joint commission to fight bird flu, has been activated, said Al-Sabah and commended the medical teams for their non-stop monitoring of the places in which the bird flu cases were discovered.

The announcement of the bird flu cases has been made after thorough examinations that proved existence of bird flu virus, Al-Sabah said in a statement.

The bird flu commission held an urgent meeting yesterday to discuss a report from an international laboratory proving that bird flu virus existed in the samples taken from the birds.

The virus existed in 20 samples taken from birds, mostly falcons, which were living in area of Wafra, Zoo and Falcons hospital, explained Al-Sabah.

The Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Affairs (PAAFRA) has already adopted precautionary measures and informed the World Health Organization (WHO) and liaison officers in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states about the infected birds, which were immediately quarantined.

The commission said PAAFRA would follow international measures to contain and eradicate the disease.

It said poultry and eggs were safe for human consumption as long as it were cooked by at least 70 degrees celsius. The commission noted that the hot weather would minimize ability of transmission of the virus.

Source: Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

First human bird flu suspected in Laos

Feb 25, 2007



Laos' Public Health Ministry on Monday confirmed that the country's first suspected human case of avian influenza has been detected, following an outbreak of the virus at a poultry farm on the outskirts of Vientiane earlier this month.

The health ministry identified the suspected case as a 15-year-old girl who had been working on a chicken farm in Srirattana district Vientiane, where an outbreak of H5N1 occurred in late January and was confirmed to be bird flu two weeks ago, said Radio Vientiane in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok.



Foreign Ministry spokesman Yong Chanhthalousy confirmed that authorities have received a confirmation from the Mahidol Institute in Bangkok that the girl, who has been moved to Nong Khai Hospital in north-eastern Thailand, has tested positive for H5 but not yet for N1.

"H5 has been confirmed but N1 has not been confirmed according to the result from Thai laboratories, so yesterday we sent a team to Nong Khai to take blood samples to send to Vietnam and Tokyo in collaboration with WHO for a confirmation on this case," said Yong in a telephone interview with Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

The health of the girl, who was first hospitalized in Vientiane on February 15 and later transferred to Nong Khai Hospital on February 24, was improving, according to Yong.

Yong said Laos had taken all the appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the virus from the infected farm, including culling all poultry in the area and 20 surrounding villages and spraying vehicles entering and leaving the "red zone."

Laos, which neighbours Thailand, has reported small outbreaks of bird flu in the past, but has yet to confirm a case of a human contracting the virus.

Bird flu has killed 167 people since 2003, when the virus started to ravage Asia's poultry populations.

Source: [BangkokPost](#)

Bird flu confirmed in chickens in northern Viet nam

26 Feb 2007

Vietnam confirmed a bird flu outbreak in chickens in a northern province only two weeks after it announced the disease had been contained, state media reported on Monday.

The online newspaper VnExpress (www.vnexpress.net) quoted the director of the northern province of Hai Duong's animal health department, Dong Van Chuc, as saying tests on a flock of about 10,500 chickens confirmed the presence of a bird flu virus.

Around 70 chickens died from bird flu a week ago, Chuc said.

The entire flock was immediately culled last Sunday and no new infection had been detected since then, he said.

He did not say if it was the H5N1 virus that has killed millions of poultry in Vietnam since it resurfaced in Asia in 2003. The virus has killed 42 people in Vietnam and 167 worldwide.

On Feb. 13, the Agriculture Ministry said bird flu had been contained more than two months after the H5N1 virus re-emerged in poultry in the southern Mekong Delta region, but officials had said cases could emerge elsewhere in the country.

Vietnam, which has recorded the second-highest number of human deaths from H5N1 after Indonesia, has not had a human case since Nov. 2005.

The Animal Health Department said in a report on Monday that all the Mekong Delta areas where poultry had been infected since December have passed a period of 34 days without a new case.



Agriculture officials have said new outbreaks could hit the Southeast Asian country in March after a ban on hatching waterfowl is lifted at the end of this month and when the effect of the most recent poultry vaccination phase expires.

The virus has been found mainly in ducks in Vietnam. Some ducks can carry the virus without showing symptoms, excreting it in their droppings as they paddle through muddy rice paddies looking for insects and left-over grain.

Neighbouring Laos has found its first suspected human case of bird flu in a 15-year-old girl from an area where the virus broke out in poultry two weeks ago, official media said on Monday.

Source: Reuters

Report on Notifiable Avian Influenza (H5 & H7) in India ending 14/01/07

I, Surveillance/Testing of samples by HSADL, Bhopal **concerning** Notifiable Avian Influenza (H5 & H7) from 18,12.06 to **14.01.07**

Sl. No	Item	Samples from within the country		Samples from imports		Total
		Serum	Morbid material	Serum	Products	
1.	Samples pending for testing at the beginning of the period	1690	938	0	0	2628
2.	Samples received during the period	3438	329.1	695	1	7425
3.	Samples on which testing completed during the period	1871	4162	276	0	6309
4.	Samples under test or pending for test [(1 + 2) -3]	3257	67	419	1	3744
5.	Positive results, if any, during the period	-	-	-	-	-

II. Avian Influenza (AI) status in the country

- (i) A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India on 20,12.06 at 11.00 AM at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi to decide and recommend issues related to vaccination of poultry against HPAI,
- (ii) On 9th January, 2007 the meeting of Joint Monitoring Group on Avian Influenza was held under the chairmanship of the Director General of Health Services, It was attended by Dr. A.B. Negi, Joint Commissioner (LHS) and Dr. M. Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner (Poultry), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, The meeting discussed the overall situation with regard to HPAI in the country.

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

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