



Bird Flu News 27 February - 05 March 2007

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WHO Reports on Avian Human Influenza, A/(H5N1)

1 March 2007

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza

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	1	0	23	14
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	10	5	3	23	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
Lao's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
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	14	9	277	167

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



Avian influenza - situation in Lao People's Democratic Republic

The Ministry of Health in Lao People's Democratic Republic has today reported the first human case of infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

The 15-year-old female was from Vientiane, where she developed influenza-like symptoms on 10 February and was hospitalized in Vietiane with fever and respiratory symptoms on 15 February. She sought medical care in neighbouring Thailand on 17 February and is currently in Nongkhai public hospital where she remains in stable condition. Samples taken by Lao epidemiologists and Thai clinicians were tested by the National Institute of Health in Thailand and were positive for H5N1 infection. The Lao Government is also providing samples to a WHO collaborating centre for examination.

On February 24 and 25, a team from the Thai and Lao ministries of health and WHO officials investigated the situation in the girl's village and those districts where poultry deaths had occurred earlier. Close contacts of the girl have been identified and are being monitored daily. The adults were provided prophylaxis with oseltamivir and to date, all of these people remain healthy.

Avian influenza - situation in China

The Ministry of Health in China has reported one case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

The case is a 44-year-old woman from Jian'ou county, Fujian province. She became ill with fever and pneumonia on 18 February and was hospitalized on 22 February where she remains in critical condition. The case was laboratory confirmed by the Fujian provincial laboratory on 26 February and by the national laboratory the next day.

Information provided to WHO indicates that she is a farmer who kept birds in her back yard and was possibly exposed to sick birds. An investigation is under way to determine if this exposure was the source of her infection. Close contacts have been placed under medical observation.

Of the 23 cases confirmed to date in China, 14 have been fatal.

Avian influenza - situation in Egypt - update 7

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 4-year-old girl was from Dakahlea Governorate. She developed symptoms on 25 February, was admitted to hospital on 26 February and her condition remains stable. The girl was exposed to sick birds at her home one week prior to the onset of symptoms. Contacts of the girl remain healthy and are being closely monitored.

Of the 23 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 13 have been fatal.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

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Seven new bird flu cases, including one falcon

Feb 27, 2007

Seven new cases of bird flu-related deaths were reported Tuesday by the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Head of the Health Ministry's Media and Public Awareness Authority and Member of the Anti-Bird Flu National Committee Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the new cases included two turkeys and four hens in Wafra as well as one falcon in Rabia bringing to 39 the total number of cases discovered in Kuwait in the past three days.

All seven birds died from the H5N1 virus.

Al-Shatti said the owner of the Wafra poultry farm, where the dead birds were reported, had also reported the death of 95 other birds last week. But only four of them, including two turkeys and two hens, were attributed to the deadly virus in that non-commercial farm.

But, on all commercial farms, there has been no confirmed bird flu cases as reported by the tests conducted by health authorities, Al-Shatti said.

Meanwhile, an amateur falcon breeder reported to the national committee the death of one of his birds because of bird flu.

In all cases of bird flu-related deaths, all birds suspected of having been in contact with the contaminated birds were disposed off in line with international norms for public safety. The premises, where the cases were reported were disinfected, the national committee said.

It added that the government was determined to report to the public any new cases of migrating birds, that are found to have died from the disease on Kuwaiti soil.

Al-Shatti stressed that a 24-hour hotline was available in case any new cases should be reported and he praised the positive response by the public to the awareness campaign. He also called members of the public and owners of poultry farms to abide by the government guidelines regarding the disease to prevent further worsening.

[Source: Kuwait News Agency - Kuwait](#)

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Outbreak investigation of Highly pathogenic AI in Kuwait

Summary

Report type:	immediate notification
Start date:	13 Feb 2007
Date of confirmation of event:	18 Feb 2007
Date submitted to OIE:	27 Feb 2007
Reason for notification:	first occurrence of a listed disease
Manifestation of disease:	clinical disease
Causal agent:	highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, Serotype H5N1
Nature of diagnosis:	suspicion, laboratory (basic), laboratory (advanced), necropsy
Report pertains to:	entire country



New outbreaks

Outbreak 1:	Kuwait Zoo, Al Omaria, Al Omaria (Al Farwaniyah)
Date of start of outbreak:	17 Jan 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)
Species:	birds
Susceptible:	1000
Cases:	7
Deaths:	5
Destroyed:	2
Affected population:	Different types of birds are kept in the zoo; however, only falcons were affected by the disease. In response to the outbreak, other susceptible birds in the zoo were vaccinated.
Outbreak 2:	Wafra, Wafra, Al Wafra (Al Ahmadi)
Date of start of outbreak:	13 Feb 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)
Epidemiological unit:	farm
Species:	birds
Susceptible:	15
Cases:	15
Deaths:	15
Outbreak 3:	Nwasib, Al Nwasib, Al Nwasib (Al Ahmadi)
Date of start of outbreak:	22 Feb 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)
Epidemiological unit:	farm
Species:	birds
Susceptible:	114
Cases:	20
Deaths:	20
Destroyed:	94
Affected population:	a backyard farm with different types of birds including chickens, turkeys, ducks, and pigeons. Chickens and turkeys were affected by the disease.
Outbreak 4:	Wafra, Al Wafra, Al Wafra (Al Ahmadi)
Date of start of outbreak:	20 Feb 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)
Epidemiological unit:	farm
Susceptible:	670
Cases:	2
Destroyed:	668
Affected population:	a backyard farm that includes chickens, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, and pigeons. Infection was detected in the farm during surveillance following the 1st confirmed case in the area. Antibody was detected in 2 guinea fowls.
Outbreak 5:	Um Alhiman, Um Alhiman, Um Alhiman (Al Ahmadi)
Date of start of outbreak:	17 Feb 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)
Epidemiological unit:	farm
Susceptible:	47
Cases:	2
Deaths:	2
Destroyed:	45
Affected population:	backyard chickens
Outbreak 6:	Wafra, Al Wafra, Al Wafra, (Al Ahmadi)
Date of start of outbreak:	22 Feb 2007
Outbreak status:	continuing (or date resolved not submitted)



Epidemiological unit: farm
 Susceptible: 1805
 Cases: 1
 Deaths: 1
 Destroyed: 1804
 Affected population: A backyard farm with a variety of birds including chickens, ducks, turkeys, and pigeons. Tissue sample from a dead turkey tested positive for H5N1.

Summary of outbreaks

Total outbreaks: 6
 Species: Birds
 Susceptible: 3651
 Cases: 47
 Deaths: 43
 Destroyed: 2613

Outbreak statistics

Species: Birds
 Apparent morbidity rate: 1.29 per cent
 Apparent mortality rate: 1.18 per cent
 Apparent case fatality rate: 91.49 per cent
 Proportion susceptible removed*: 72.75 per cent
 * Removed from the susceptible population either through death, destruction, or slaughter

Epidemiology

Source of infection: unknown or inconclusive
 Epidemiological comments: the 1st case occurred in falcons and then reports of mortality in poultry followed. The 1st mortality report of chickens was received from 2 individuals. The individuals purchased the birds from markets 2 days before their death. Consequently, surveillance was intensified across the country.

Note by the OIE Animal Health Information Department: The 1st occurrence of the highly pathogenic avian influenza infection was reported in November 2005 (see Disease Information 2005; 18[46]: 445, 18 Nov [at <http://www.oie.int/wahid-rod/reports/en_051118v18n46.pdf>]). This is the 1st occurrence of the disease in this country.

Diagnostic test results:

Laboratory name and type: Department of Veterinary Laboratory and Research (National laboratory)

Species: birds
 Test: rapid tests
 Test date: 18 Feb 2007
 Result: positive
 Species: birds
 Test: real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 Test date: 20 Feb 2007
 Result: positive

Laboratory name and type: VLA Weybridge, UK (OIE's Reference Laboratory)
 Species: birds
 Test: real-time PCR
 Test date: 23 Feb 2007
 Result : positive

Source: OIE Disease Information,

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Young girl infected with bird flu in Egypt

Published: 2/28/2007

CAIRO - A four-year-old girl became Egypt's latest victim of bird flu, the 23rd to be diagnosed since the virus was detected in the country, the official MENA news agency said on Wednesday.

Sara Essayed Borhan, from the Nile Delta region of Dahaqliya, tested positive for the virus and was transferred to Cairo's Manshiet al-Bakri hospital late on Tuesday, the agency said, quoting its director Yussri Ragab.

The child was being treated with Tamiflu and was in a stable condition, while her family had all tested negative for the virus.

Thirteen people have died of bird flu since the H5N1 strain of the disease was first diagnosed in humans in Egypt in March 2006.

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country with more than 73 million people, has been the country hardest hit outside of Asia by bird flu. Egyptians consume about 800 million fowl every year.

Source: Turkish Press - Plymouth,MI,USA

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China confirms another human case of bird flu

Thursday, March 1, 2007

BEIJING (AP) - A farmer in southeast China has contracted the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, state media reported today.

Xinhua News Agency said it was China's first human case of bird flu since Jan. 10, when the government said a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province in eastern China had contracted bird flu but had recovered.

In the latest case, in coastal Fujian province, Xinhua said a 44-year-old farmer with the surname Li was diagnosed on Feb. 18 after he developed a fever and began coughing.

Xinhua said tests by the provincial disease control and prevention center showed Li had been infected with the H5N1 virus strain and that the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the result on Feb. 27.

The report did not say whether the farmer worked with poultry or if infected birds were found. Human cases of bird flu have been traced to birds, but experts fear the virus could mutate into a form that can pass between people, triggering a pandemic.

China reported its first human case of bird flu in 2005, while the virus was tearing through Vietnam and Thailand. The government disclosed last year that new tests on the body of a 24-year-old soldier who died in 2003 confirmed that he succumbed to the disease.

China has suffered 14 human deaths from bird flu and dozens of cases in the country's vast poultry flocks. Millions of birds have been destroyed in order to contain outbreaks on farms.

The H5N1 virus has been found in migratory birds in China.



Xinhua said China's Health Ministry has notified the World Health Organization about the case.

Source: Coos Bay World - Coos Bay,OR,USA

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Indonesia, WHO Near Resolving Dispute Over Bird Flu Samples

March 2, 2007

Indonesia is expected to resume supplying samples of bird flu virus to the World Health Organization after receiving a guarantee they won't be used to develop a commercial vaccine it cannot afford, the health minister said Thursday.

Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said a letter of guarantee from WHO Director General Margaret Chan was expected to arrive Thursday, after which "Indonesia will resume sending as soon as possible."

"A guarantee signed by the director general is strong enough," Supari said.

The agreement will almost certainly resolve the stand off between WHO and Indonesia, which triggered a storm of criticism last month by withholding samples from the U.N. health body.

The country hardest hit by bird flu is worried that large drug companies will use its H5N1 strain to make vaccines that will be too expensive for developing nations in the event of a global pandemic that could kill millions.

Several countries are developing vaccines to protect against H5N1, the strain of bird flu responsible for 166 human deaths worldwide, more than one-third of them in Indonesia. The virus remains essentially an animal disease, but experts fear it may mutate into a form easily spreadable between humans.

Source: JAKARTA (AP)--

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Chinese farmer cured of bird flu donates serum

March 4, 2007

A Chinese farmer who recovered from an infection with the deadly strain of bird flu has donated his serum for treatment of the latest victim of the avian virus, a woman.

The farmer from East China's Anhui Province, identified only by his surname, Li, contracted the H5N1 strain last December but was later cured.

Doctors in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, on Thursday received the serum from Li and administered it to the woman, who is the second human case of the flu this year in China.

"Medical workers have carried out the first round of injection on the woman who was just confirmed of being infected of the lethal strain of the avian disease," Xinhua news agency quoted a local health official as saying.

"The method is new but is for sure to be of some effect in improving the woman's capability of fighting against new rounds of infection," he said while acknowledging that it would take some time before the woman could develop immunity of her own against the disease.



The woman, who kept five chickens at her home, developed symptoms including fever on February 18. She had visited village clinics and township hospitals before being hospitalised on February 24 in the Jian'ou City hospital.

She is known to have eaten two chickens she had raised, but her husband and son, who also ate the chicken, have not developed bird flu.

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No new bird flu virus detected on dead fowls in Myanmar

March 05, 2007

No new bird flu virus continued to be detected on some 26 dead crows, quails, pigeons and sparrows in over 10 townships in Myanmar's Yangon amid the latest outbreak of the disease in the former capital city since early last week, an official newspaper reported Monday.

The dead fowls, after undergoing laboratory test on Sunday, found no new bird flu virus, the New Light of Myanmar quoted the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) as saying.

The LBVD has urged breeders to control the movement of crows and sparrows which are likely to carry bird flu virus and to avoid eating, selling and undisciplined dumping of dead fowls and birds as well as to pay serious attention to bio-security at poultry farms.

It was the second day that no new bird flu virus continued to be detected following Saturday when some dead fowls, after being tested, found no such virus and was then concluded that the deaths might be due to the residue of disinfectant used in the poultry farms among measures taken against the bird flu outbreak.

The LBVD had also urged pet keepers to keep their dogs and cats away from eating dead crows, sparrows, pigeons and wild birds, and not to directly use concentrate disinfectant on infected farms.

However, the deaths of some layers, found in the township of Hlaingtharya earlier on Friday, was detected with suspicious H5N1 virus.

So far, there has been four townships in Yangon -- Mayangon, Thingungyun, Insein and Hlaingtharya detected with the bird flu virus.

More preventive measures against the avian influenza are continuously being taken in the aftermath of its outbreak in the city which include poultry culling, pesticide spraying in the areas where some layers, domestic chickens, ducks and crows were found dead and local people are being urged to contact the department when finding dead fowls and birds.

Days after the outbreak, the prices of chickens declined from 10 to 20 percent in Yangon livestock markets.

Suspicious avian influenza was first detected in a small private poultry farm in northwestern Yangon's Mayangon suburban township after laboratory test was done on some dead chickens on Tuesday.

The authorities have placed the areas in a radius of one kilometers (km) to the affected farm as restriction zone and three townships of Mayangon, Yankin and South Okkalapa in a



radius of 10 km as bird movement control zone, temporarily closing livestock trading markets within the control zone for three weeks.

Deepened detection of the root cause of the disease has been underway since then.

When the bird flu was first reported early last week, a total of over 1,300 chickens suspected of carrying the deadly H5N1 virus were slaughtered as an initial step by the authorities to deal with the fresh outbreak of the disease.

The recurrence of the deadly influenza came nearly six months after Myanmar declared itself bird-flu-free in the country in September last year after making sure then that no virus had been present in the country during a three-month program on detection of avian influenza carried out with the cooperation of foreign experts.

Myanmar was first struck by an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in March 2006 in two divisions of Mandalay and Sagaing and since then altogether 342,000 chickens, 320,000 quails and 180,000 eggs as well as 1.3 tons of feedstuff were destroyed at 545 poultry farms.

So far, there has been no human cases detected with H5N1 in the country.

Source: Xinhua

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