

## Bird Flu News 27 – 29 April 2006

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### Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza

27 April 2006

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	8	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	6	6
China	0	0	0	0	8	5	10	7	18	12
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	12	4
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	17	11	15	13	32	24
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	0	0	22	14
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	93	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>113</b>

Total number of cases includes number of deaths.  
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.

### Ivory coast reports bird flu cases

27/04/2006 - 18:00:13



Ivory Coast has reported its first cases of H5N1 bird flu, in both domestic poultry and in wild birds, the World Organisation for Animal Health said today.

The Paris-based agency said Ivory Coast informed it yesterday. The bird flu cases were reported in the commercial capital, Abidjan, in backyard free-range chickens, ducks and a sparrowhawk, according to a statement from the agency, known by the initials OIE.



Ivory Coast becomes the sixth African nation to report cases of the deadly H5N1 virus, after Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt and Niger, said OIE spokeswoman Maria Zampaglione.

She said that Sudan has also reported the H5-subtype of bird flu, although tests are still ongoing to determine whether it is H5N1.

Some experts fear H5N1 could mutate into a form that could spread easily between humans, sparking a global pandemic.

Ivory Coast, in its report to the OIE, said the outbreak started on March 30 - nearly a month before it was confirmed.

Zampaglione noted that such delays in reporting outbreaks can favour the spread of bird flu. But rather than wilful deception on the part of Ivorian authorities, she said the delay was likely due to weak veterinary services, a problem faced by many African countries, and the difficulties they often have testing for bird flu.

“Some African nations are not able to react quickly as they should,” she said. “It is not a lack of will.”

The Central Veterinary Laboratory and the Pasteur Institute in Ivory Coast confirmed the bird flu diagnosis, the OIE’s statement said.

The OIE could not confirm the outbreak itself, because its lab in Italy was still conducting tests.

Those results are expected quickly, perhaps by the end of the week, said Zampaglione.

Ivory Coast told the OIE that it is imposing quarantines and controls on movements, disinfecting infected zones and taking other measures to control the outbreak.

- Ireland Online

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## Chicken cull after bird flu find

27 April 2006, 19:18 GMT



Farmers have been told to keep up high standards of biosecurity. Some 35,000 chickens at a poultry farm in Norfolk are being slaughtered after dead birds tested positive for a strain of bird flu. The dead chickens were found on Witford Lodge Farm in North Tuddenham, about 13 miles (20km) west of Norwich.

The government's chief vet said it was likely to be the H7 strain, virulent among chickens but less of a threat to humans than the H5N1 variant.

Dr Debby Reynolds added she did not know where the flu had come from.

Last month a swan in Cellardyke, Fife, tested positive for H5N1 - the only confirmed case in the UK so far.

Dr Reynolds said there was no evidence of the H5N1 strain in the chickens from the Norfolk farm.

There is a risk to the human population amongst those who are in very close contact with infected birds .

Dennis Foreman, director of Banham Poultry Ltd, the company which owns Witford Lodge Farm, said the number of dead birds had been "minimal".

An outbreak of an H7 variation, called H7N7, in the Netherlands led the Dutch government to order the slaughter of more than 30 million birds in 2003.

The cases in Norfolk were found in samples taken from chickens on the farm, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said.

The birds at the farm are used to produce eggs that are hatched elsewhere, to create more chickens.

Movement restrictions are in place on the affected farm, with no movements allowed on or off the premises except under licence from the veterinary inspectors, a Defra spokesman said.

The same restrictions apply at 30 other premises in Norfolk owned by the company as a precautionary measure.

The spokesman said the possibility of introducing an exclusion zone was not being ruled out but any decision would await the findings of tests.

- BBC

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## Egypt needs bird flu awareness: WHO

April 27, 2006

Cairo: Egypt needs to raise public awareness of how to avoid bird flu, which the government says has killed one person and infected four others this month, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official said on Thursday.

There was no sign of human-to-human transmission in Egypt, said Hassan al-Bushra, WHO regional adviser for communicable diseases surveillance. "You need to do more health education. Most of the cases are backyard farms and people who are not really abiding by the instructions of the Ministry of Health," Bushra said.

Some, for example, had moved their poultry indoors after being told to dispose of the birds, he said. Bird flu, which has spread from Asia to the Middle East, Africa and Europe, remains essentially an animal disease but can infect people who come into contact with sick poultry.

The virus was first reported among birds in Egypt in February. The first human infection appeared in mid-March. A US military laboratory in Egypt has confirmed that four people have caught the virus.

The health authorities, which carry out initial tests on sick people, announced a fifth suspected case on Wednesday. Two of the infected people left hospital on Wednesday, having been treated with Tamiflu, which experts say is the best drug for fighting the virus in humans.

"These cases were expected. I expect them to disappear soon because (the government) now have even more strict measures in place," Bushra said. "The most important thing is that these cases are not related. It's not human-to-human transmission and all of them were in close contact with poultry," he added.

The WHO has yet to independently confirm any of the infections of humans in Egypt. The WHO confirms suspected cases in Egypt through laboratory tests in Britain, Bushra said.

- Reuters

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## China confirms 18th human bird flu case

27 Apr 2006 16:25:10 GMT

SHANGHAI, April 27 (Reuters) - An eight-year-old Chinese girl has been infected with the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, China's Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday, bringing the total number of confirmed such cases in the country to 18.

The girl, from southeast China's Sichuan province, is being treated in a local hospital, Xinhua said, citing the country's Ministry of Health.

The case was confirmed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"She developed symptoms of fever and pneumonia on April 16. She remains hospitalised," the WHO said in a statement.

Local health authorities had put people who were in close contact with the patient under medical observation, Xinhua said, adding that none had so far shown any abnormal symptoms.

Poultry deaths had occurred in the patient's house before she caught the disease, Xinhua said.

Source: Reuters

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## Deadly bird flu claims its 25th victim in Indonesia

Fri 28 Apr 2006

AN Indonesian man has become the country's 25th person to be killed by bird flu.

An eight-year-old Chinese girl has also been infected by the deadly H5N1 virus.

The revelations are a blow to global efforts to tackle the outbreak.

The 30-year-old man from Indonesia is understood to have come into contact with his neighbour's chickens.

A swab and blood sample have been sent to a World Health Organisation-sanctioned laboratory in Hong Kong for confirmation.

Meanwhile, the Chinese girl showed symptoms of fever and pneumonia on April 16 and has been treated since at a hospital in Suining.

Poultry deaths were reported at her home before she got sick.

People who have come into close contact with the girl have been put under medical observation but none have shown any symptoms.

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## Eye infection diagnosed in bird flu farm worker

April 29, 2006

A POULTRY worker has contracted conjunctivitis from birds on the Norfolk farm infected with a low pathogenic strain of H7 avian flu virus.

The man, who has not been named, suffered red irritable eyes yesterday. He was immediately treated and is now said to be in good health. His family have been examined but show no signs of this mild infection.

The worker, employed by Banham Poultry UK Ltd, is one of 70 people who are also being treated with Oseltamivir, the antiviral drug, to protect them from bird flu. No one else has shown symptoms of sickness.

The incident yesterday was not linked with an avian flu outbreak and medical experts said that the dust and dry conditions in chicken sheds make workers more prone to conjunctivitis.

Debby Reynolds, the Government's chief vet, last night confirmed that the virus infecting 35,000 birds at Whitford Lodge farm in North Tuddenham, near Dereham, was the less virulent H7N3 flu strain. This was last seen in Britain in 1979 and has no resemblance to the lethal H5N1 virus.

A cull of the chickens was under way, after being delayed by 24 hours because of an error that required a new firm to be called in to assist.

The H7N3 virus is endemic in poultry in parts of America and has also been reported recently in chickens in Canada and Italy. It is not easily passed between humans or birds.

However, Dr Reynolds has ordered extra checks on bird samples to make certain that there is no evidence of the highly pathogenic strain of the virus that could decimate commercial poultry flocks. A 1 km (2/3 ml) surveillance zone is in place around the infected Witford Lodge farm and movement restrictions on all birds and eggs are in place on 30 other premises in Norfolk and Suffolk owned by Banham.

Three years ago, during the outbreak of H7 Asian flu in the Netherlands, 88 people suffered conjunctivitis and of these 10 per cent also had severe respiratory problems.

Government vets are still investigating the cause of the outbreak at the Norfolk farm, but suspect that the virus arrived from another infected farm or from wild birds.

By Valerie Elliott, Countryside Editor, The Times On line

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## Japan suspends British poultry imports over bird flu

29 Apr 2006 16:21:06 GMT

TOKYO, April 29 (Reuters) - Japan has suspended poultry imports from Britain to prevent the spread of bird flu to domestic fowl, Japan's Agriculture Ministry said on Saturday.

The announcement came after an outbreak of a less-virulent strain of the bird flu virus, the H7N3, was found at a poultry farm in eastern England.

"In order to do the utmost to prevent the disease from entering our country, the imports of poultry as well as poultry meat ... from Britain has been temporarily suspended effective today," the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said it had been informed of the outbreak by British authorities and was seeking detailed information.

But Britain's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said it had not been informed of the Japanese suspension of poultry imports.

"If it is the case we will contact the Japanese embassy to explain our view on it which is that a ban would not be appropriate given the circumstances and that would be consistent with the World Animal Health Organisation guidelines," said a spokesman for the department.

A farm worker in Norfolk contracted an eye infection caused by the virus, but Britain's Health Protection Agency said H7N3 did not transmit easily from poultry to person or from person to person and the chance of it spreading was low.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed 113 people in nine countries since 2003. Scientists fear bird flu could become highly dangerous to humans if the virus mutates into a form easily passed on from one person to another.

In 2004, Japan had four outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry between January and March, including one in Kyoto in western Japan that led to the destruction of 240,000 chickens and 20 million eggs.

Several outbreaks of the less virulent H5N2 strain occurred in poultry last year on farms near Tokyo.

Scotland is to lift its surveillance zone for wild birds on Monday, almost a month after a dead swan was found to have the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu. (Additional reporting by Kate Holton in London)

- Reuters

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