



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Update on Avian Influenza

Since our last update of 26 February 2004, 1 new human case of avian influenza has been reported, bringing the total to 33 cases and 22 deaths. To date, 2 Asian countries have reported human cases; and 8 countries, epizootics of Influenza A Subtype H5N1 in birds. The outbreaks detected in the 2 states in the USA and 1 province in Canada are now laboratory confirmed and do not correspond to highly pathogenic Avian Influenza A Subtype H5N1 currently circulating in Asia.

This week, the World Health Organization (WHO) published the [*WHO Interim Guidelines on Clinical Management of Humans Infected by Influenza A \(H5N1\)*](#), based on present knowledge on avian influenza H5N1 (and subject to modification as more knowledge is gained on how the disease works among humans). The *objectives* of the guidelines are as follows:

- Early implementation of infection-control precautions to minimize the nosocomial spread of disease.
- Proper case management to prevent severe illness and death.
- Early identification and follow-up of persons at risk of infection, to facilitate early intervention with antiviral therapy, to reduce morbidity and mortality, and to further limit the spread of the disease.

Table 1: Current Situation of Avian Influenza—Human Cases and Epizootics (as of 4 March 2004)						
<i>Country</i>	<i>Epizootics</i>		<i>Virus subtype identified</i>	<i>Number of confirmed human cases</i>		<i>Comments</i>
	<i>Number of provinces affected</i>	<i>Species of birds affected</i>		<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	
Cambodia	4 out of 19	Chickens: mostly	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic out of control.

		laying/breeder hens				
Canada	1 out of 10	Chickens	H7N3	0	0	Laboratory confirmed.
China	16 out of 31	Ducks, chickens, geese, one peregrine falcon in Hong Kong	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic out of control.
Indonesia	11 out of 26	Laying and breeding hens.	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic widespread, with new affected area in West Kalimantan.
Japan	2 out of 9	Egg-laying poultry	H5N1	0	0	Active outbreaks in Oita and Yamaguchi.
Laos	5 out of 17	Laying hens	H5	0	0	Positive results for Influenza A (H5) in farms from 4 provinces and in Vientiane.
Pakistan	1 out of 7	Egg-laying poultry	H7	0	0	Outbreak confirmed at end of January.
South Korea	6 out of 14	Chickens, ducks	H5N1	0	0	Ongoing investigation.
Taiwan	1 out of 21	Laying hens, colored-feather native chickens	H5N2	0	0	Epizootic out of control.
Thailand	23 out of 76 (in 24 additional outbreaks reported to OIE, localization unavailable)	Chickens (broilers/fryers, laying hens), native poultry, ducks, geese, turkeys, ostrich, quail, peacocks	H5N1	10	7	Epizootic out of control.
USA	5 out of 50	Chickens	H7N2	0	0	Low pathogeneity, under control,

						investigation underway.
			H5N2	0	0	Low pathogenicity, investigation underway.
Viet Nam	57 out of 64	Parent stock for broilers/fryers (chickens)	H5N1	23	15	Investigation of family cluster of confirmed cases of subtype H5N1 showed no genetic recombination with human influenza virus.
Total				33	22	

Sources

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\)—Update 30: Situation \(human\) in Thailand](#) (27 February 2004). Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).
- [Update on Avian Influenza in Animals in Asia](#). *Alerts—Disease Information*. Paris: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). (page routinely updated)

Additional information is available at

- World Health Organization (WHO), [Avian Influenza](#). Geneva: WHO.
- World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](#)) (Paris).
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)) (Rome).

Sources

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\)—Update 30: Situation \(human\) in Thailand](#) (27 February 2004). Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).
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