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.

<p>| Table 1: Current Situation of Avian Influenza—Human Cases and Epizootics (as of 4 March 2004) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country | Epizootics | Virus subtype identified | Number of confirmed human cases | Comments |
| | Number of provinces affected | Species of birds affected | Cases | Deaths | |
| Cambodia | 4 out of 19 | Chickens: mostly | H5N1 | 0 | 0 | Epizootic out of control. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affected Out of Total</th>
<th>Type of Poultry</th>
<th>Species Affected</th>
<th>Virus</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1 out of 10</td>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>H7N3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Laboratory confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>16 out of 31</td>
<td>Ducks, chickens, geese, one peregrine falcon in Hong Kong</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Epizootic out of control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>11 out of 26</td>
<td>Laying and breeding hens.</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Epizootic widespread, with new affected area in West Kalimanta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>2 out of 9</td>
<td>Egg-laying poultry</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Active outbreaks in Oita and Yamaguchi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>5 out of 17</td>
<td>Laying hens</td>
<td>H5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Positive results for Influenza A (H5) in farms from 4 provinces and in Vientinae.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1 out of 7</td>
<td>Egg-laying poultry</td>
<td>H7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Outbreak confirmed at end of January.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>6 out of 14</td>
<td>Chickens, ducks</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ongoing investigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>1 out of 21</td>
<td>Laying hens, colored-feather native chickens</td>
<td>H5N2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Epizootic out of control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>23 out of 76 (in 24 additional outbreaks reported to OIE, localization unavailable)</td>
<td>Chickens (broilers/fryers, laying hens), native poultry, ducks, geese, turkeys, ostrich, quail, peacocks</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Epizootic out of control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>5 out of 50</td>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>H7N2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Low pathogenicity, under control,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Investigation underway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affected Farms</th>
<th>Parent stock for</th>
<th>H5N1</th>
<th>H5N2</th>
<th>Pathogeneity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>57 out of 64</td>
<td>broilers/fryers</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(chickens)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>pathogeneity, investigation underway.</td>
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Investigation of family cluster of confirmed cases of subtype H5N1 showed no genetic recombination with human influenza virus.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources


Additional information is available at

- World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](https://www.oie.int)) (Paris).
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](https://www.fao.org)) (Rome).

Sources