

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

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International situation

Egypt [WHO, 27/12/06](#). Three human cases of H5N1 avian influenza have been identified in Egypt: a 30-year-old female, a 15-year-old girl and a 16-year-old male. Each of the patients died due to the illness. All were part of one extended family in Gharbiyah province, 80km northwest of Cairo. The cases reportedly fell ill after contact with sick ducks. The human cases have occurred in the context of 15 outbreaks of H5N1 infection in poultry in Egypt since 17 October 2006 (reported in [OIE, 21/12/06](#)).

Indonesia [WHO, 09/01/07](#); [WHO, 12/01/07](#). Three cases of H5N1 avian influenza have been identified in Indonesia: a 37-year-old female and a 22-year-old female from Tangerang, and a 14-year-old boy from West Jakarta. Two of the three cases subsequently died. Initial investigations for the two Tangerang cases suggest exposure to sick poultry. A [CIDRAP 11/01/07](#) news item reports that the husband and son of the 37-year-old woman have also been hospitalised with fever and respiratory illness, suggesting a possible case cluster, and states that the 14-year-old was also from Tangerang.

China [WHO, 10/01/07](#). A case of H5N1 avian influenza in a 37-year-old man has been identified in Anhui Province in China. He became symptomatic on 10 December and was discharged from hospital on 6 January: close contacts were placed under medical observation but are all well and have now been discharged. Information provided to WHO indicates that the man is a farmer and may have kept backyard poultry.

South Korea [OIE, 09/01/07](#). Outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry have been identified at four different locations in South Korea since November. The outbreaks have occurred in chicken and duck breeding farms and a quail egg-laying farm. Control measures include slaughter of birds and establishment of quarantine zones. The [Bloomberg News site](#) has reported that a worker at one of the outbreak-affected farms has tested positive for H5N1 infection.

Vietnam [OIE, 04/01/07](#). 34 poultry outbreaks of H5N1 infection have been reported to OIE by Vietnam. The earliest outbreak commenced on 7 December 2006; all have occurred in the southern provinces of Hau Giang, Ca Mau and Bac Lieu.

Other regions The CIDRAP news site ([22/12/06](#)) has reported that H5N1 outbreaks in poultry have been recently identified in Nigeria, although this information has not been formally reported by OIE. The Japan Times has reported ([14/01/07](#)) that an outbreak that killed 750 chickens in Miyazaki Prefecture in Japan last week has been identified to be due to an influenza virus of the "H5 family".

Background

WHO rapid advice guidelines for pharmacological management of sporadic human infection with H5N1 avian influenza virus [Schünemann et al. Lancet Infect Dis 2007; 7: 21-31](#). Print version of recommendations for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of sporadic H5N1 infection, developed by a WHO-convened panel and released [online](#) in May 2006 (as mentioned in Pandemic Postings #15).

Pandemic Postings

Current global avian influenza activity
Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), 19 Dec 2006 – 12 Jan 2007,¹ and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in poultry, 15 Dec 2006 – 12 Jan 2007,² by country. The complete list of human cases and poultry outbreaks to date can be found on the [ARPHS website](#).

	Human ¹		Poultry ²
	cases	deaths	outbreaks
China	1	-	-
Egypt	3	3	15
Indonesia	3	2	-
Korea (South)	-	-	3
Vietnam	-	-	34
TOTAL	7	5	54

Notes:

1 As reported by [World Health Organization](#)

2 As reported by the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

Background (contd)

Avian Influenza Risk Perception, Europe and Asia [de Zwart et al. Emerg Infect Dis \[serial on the Internet\]. 2007 Feb \[cited 15/01/07\]](#). Brief paper reporting results of 3436 interviews on risk perception and beliefs related to avian influenza, conducted autumn 2005 in 5 European and 3 Asian countries. Perception of risk was higher in Asia than in Europe; belief that protective actions would be efficacious was lower in Europe than in Asia.

Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness using ICD-9 codes [Marsden-Haug et al. Emerg Infect Dis \[serial on the Internet\]. 2007 Feb \[cited 15/01/07\]](#). Paper reporting results of study to identify which subsets of International Classification of Diseases ninth revision (ICD-9) codes would be most useful for influenza-like illness surveillance.

The waiting time for inter-country spread of pandemic influenza. [Caley et al. PLoS ONE 2007; 2\(1\): e143. \[cited 15/01/07\]](#). Paper from Australia reporting results of study modelling speed of international pandemic influenza spread. Authors conclude that "The delay until an epidemic of pandemic strain influenza is imported into an at-risk country is largely determined by the course of the epidemic in the source region and the number of travellers attempting to enter the at-risk country, and is little affected by non-pharmaceutical interventions targeting these travellers."

Inactivation of avian influenza virus in drinking water and domestic wastewater treatment systems [Lucio-Forster et al. Environ Eng Sci 2006; 23\(6\): 897-903](#). Report from study examining ability of drinking water and domestic wastewater treatment systems to eradicate H5N2 (used as a surrogate for H5N1). The authors report that "[g]reater than 2-log inactivation of H5N2 was achieved by UV and chlorine disinfection and anaerobic digestion under typical drinking water and wastewater treatment conditions."

Estimation of potential global pandemic influenza mortality on the basis of vital registry data from the 1918-20 pandemic: a quantitative analysis [Murray et al. Lancet 2006; 368: 2211-8](#). Paper reporting results of study using mortality registration data to estimate excess mortality during the 1918-20 influenza pandemic. Authors report that mortality varied 30-fold across countries; per-capita income explained large proportion of this variation; extrapolation of 1918-2000 data to 2004 indicates that an estimated 62 million people would be killed by a similar influenza pandemic, and 96% of these deaths would be in developing countries.

Ministry of Health advice line: 0800 AVN FLU (286 358)

MAF Hotline (for suspect animal cases): 0800 809 966

Disclaimer: Background material is listed in Pandemic Postings to alert recipients to new publications on highly-pathogenic avian and pandemic influenza topics. While efforts are made to maintain quality by only including material from reputable sources, it is beyond the scope of this bulletin to independently establish the veracity of this material, or to place the material within the local pandemic planning context: such assessments are left to the judgement of the readership. Conclusions made by authors of material cited in this bulletin do not necessarily represent policy or opinions of Auckland Regional Public Health Service, of Waitemata, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs, or of the Ministry of Health.