



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

Vol. 2, No. 8—26 February 2004

Update on Avian Influenza

Since our last update of 19 February 2004, 1 new human case of avian influenza has been reported, bring the total to 32 cases and 22 deaths. To date, 2 Asian countries have reported cases in humans; and 8, epizootics of influenza A subtype H5N1 in birds. The outbreaks detected in the USA and Canada do not correspond to the highly pathogenic strain of avian flu (H5N1) currently in circulation in the Asian countries.

The following strategies have been implemented to control the epizootics:

- Planning or implementation of mass extermination in Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Pakistan, China, and Taiwan.
- Vaccination in China (central and southern regions), Taiwan, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

The report issued by the FAO on 23 February 2004 pays special attention to those aspects of zoonotic diseases that exert socioeconomic impact with international repercussions. It also offers [recommendations](#) on measures to prevent epizootics of influenza A subtype H5N1 in small and industrial poultry facilities, as well as information on how to send samples to reference laboratories for diagnosis (see annexes from aforementioned document).

Table 1: Current Situation of Avian Influenza—Human Cases and Epizootics (as of 26 February 2004)						
Country	Epizootics		Virus subtype identified	Number of confirmed human cases		Comments
	Number of provinces affected	Species of birds affected		Cases	Deaths	
Cambodia	1 out of	Chickens: mostly	H5N1	0	0	Several localized

	19	laying/breeder hens				outbreaks around Phom Penh.
Canada	--	Chickens	H7	0	0	Investigation underway.
China	16 out of 31	Ducks, chickens, geese, one peregrine falcon in Hong Kong	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic out of control (49 confirmed outbreaks).
Indonesia	11 out of 26	Laying and breeding hens.	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic widespread, out of control.
Japan	1 out of 9	Egg-laying poultry	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic under control since January. New minor outbreak in Oita confirmed as H5N1.
Laos	1 out of 17	Laying hens	H5	0	0	Epizootia limited to one area in Vientiane.
Pakistan	1 out of 7	Egg-laying poultry	H7	0	0	Epizootic localized but widespread; etiology as yet unconfirmed.
South Korea	8 out of 14	Chickens, ducks	H5N1	0	0	--
Taiwan	1 out of 21	Laying hens, colored-feather native chickens	H5N2	0	0	Epizootic under control since January.
Thailand	29 out of 76	Chickens (broilers/fryers, laying hens), native poultry, ducks, geese, turkeys, ostrich, quail, peacocks	H5N1	9	7	Epizootic out of control; bird-human transmission, with 14 new outbreaks reported to WHO.
USA	4 out of 50	Chickens	H7	0	0	Low pathogenicity, under control, investigation underway.

			H5N2	0	0	Low pathogeneity, 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 shows no genetic recombination with human influenza virus.
Total				32	22	

Sources

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\): Update 29](#) (23 February 2004). Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).
- [Update on Avian Influenza in Animals in Asia](#). Paris: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). (page routinely updated)
- [Bird Flu in Asia: Control Campaigns Need to Continue](#) (25 February 2004). Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

For more information, see the WHO page on [Avian Influenza](#), the International Organization on Animal Health ([OIE](#)), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)).

Sources (Consult for additional information.)

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\): Update 29](#) (23 February 2004). Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).
- [Update on Avian Influenza in Animals in Asia](#). Paris: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). (page routinely updated)
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