



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Update on Avian Influenza

Since the beginning of December 2003, 8 countries and territories in Asia (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have confirmed in their reports to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) the existence of outbreaks Avian Influenza A, Subtype H5N1 in different species of birds. Since the beginning of February 2004, no outbreaks have been reported in additional countries, and some countries, e.g. Viet Nam and China, have not reported any new outbreaks since the middle of February. However, 2 Asian countries (Thailand and Viet Nam) have confirmed the occurrence of human cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1), for a total of 34 human cases and 23 deaths (see Table 1 below). The number of human cases has not changed since our last update of 18 March 2004.

An estimated 100 million birds have either died or been put to death in Asia, in accordance with measures recommended by the OIE for disease elimination. In 2 countries (Indonesia and China), vaccination has been used as an additional disease-control measure. Additionally, in Pakistan, extermination and vaccination measures have been combined to control the current outbreak brought on by Influenza A (H7N3).

Other countries in different regions of the world have detected influenza outbreaks in birds of different subtypes than those currently circulating in Asia. Canada and the United States have intensified surveillance of birds and have adopted massive bird-extermination measures among cases where a highly pathogenic strain is confirmed.

Table 1: Current Situation of Avian Influenza—Human Cases and Epizootics (as of 25 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 laying/breeder hens	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic out of control.
Canada	1 out of 10	Chickens	H7N3	0	0	Laboratory results show strains of both low and high pathogenicity. New outbreaks of Subtype H7 confirmed of unconfirmed pathogenicity. Extermination measures underway in 10 farms.
China	6 out of 31 this week (16 out of 31 during the entire outbreak period)	Ducks, chickens, geese, one peregrine falcon in Hong Kong	H5N1	0	0	Quarantine measures lifted in epizootic areas (communication from Ministry of Agriculture to OIE).
Indonesia	12 out of 26	Laying and breeding hens.	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic widespread and out of control.
Japan	4 out of 9	Egg-laying poultry	H5N1	0	0	Confirmed outbreaks in Kyoto and Hyogo.
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	--
Thailand	23 out of 76 (localization unavailable for 24)	Chickens (broilers/fryers, laying hens), native poultry,	H5N1	12	8	New outbreak of 600 cases confirmed in province of

	additional outbreaks reported to OIE)	ducks, geese, turkeys, ostrich, quail, peacocks				Chiengrai (OIE, 12 March 2004).
USA	5 out of 50	Chickens	H7N2	0	0	Low pathogenicity; active surveillance underway; results negative for all tests carried out to date.
			H2N2	0	0	Low pathogenicity; active surveillance underway; results negative for all tests carried out to date.
			H5N2	0	0	High pathogenicity; extermination measures underway.
Viet Nam	57 out of 64	Parent stock for broilers/fryers (chickens)	H5N1	22	15	No new poultry outbreaks reported since mid-February.
Total				34	23	

Sources

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\)—Update 33: Situation \(human\) in Thailand](#) (17 March 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)
- [Information about Influenza A H7 Viruses](#). Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- [Avian Influenza in the United States](#). Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS).
- [Flu Information: Avian Influenza / Renseignements sur la grippe: La grippe aviaire](#). Ottawa: Health Canada / Santé Canada.
- [Avian Influenza—Latest Information / Influenza aviaire—situation actuelle](#). Ottawa: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (ACIA).

*Additional
Information*

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