

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5) viruses

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus

From 9 to 15 October 2015, **no new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region.

From February 2003 to 24 September 2015, 237 cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus were reported from four countries within the Western Pacific Region (Table 1). Of these cases, 134 were fatal, resulting in a case fatality rate (CFR) of 57%.

Table 1: Cumulative number laboratory-confirmed human cases (C) and deaths (D) of influenza A (H5N1) virus infection reported to WHO (January 2003 to 10 September 2015), Western Pacific Region.

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		Total	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	8	8	3	3	26	14	9	4	0	0	56	37
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	13	8	5	3	4	4	7	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	5	1	52	31
Lao PDR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	8	5	6	5	5	5	7	2	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	127	64
Total	4	4	29	20	73	28	15	10	16	11	11	9	13	9	10	4	9	9	9	6	30	17	13	6	5	1	237	134

From 2003 to 15 October 2015, there have been 844 cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus reported from 16 countries worldwide. Of these cases, 449 were fatal, resulting in a CFR of 53%.

Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) virus

From 9 to 15 October 2015, **no new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region. Since May 2014, four human cases of influenza A (H5N6) have been reported, globally, all four cases were reported from China.

Public health risk assessment for human infection with avian influenza A (H5) viruses

Whenever avian influenza viruses are circulating in poultry, sporadic infections and small clusters of human cases are possible in people exposed to infected poultry or contaminated environments, therefore sporadic human cases would not be unexpected.

With the rapid spread and magnitude of avian influenza outbreaks due to existing and new influenza A (H5) viruses in poultry in areas that have not experienced this disease in animals recently, there is a need for increased vigilance in the animal and public health sectors. Community awareness of the potential dangers for human health is essential to prevent infection in humans. Surveillance should be enhanced to detect human infections if they occur and to detect early changes in transmissibility and infectivity of the viruses.

For more information on confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5) virus reported to WHO, visit:

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/en/

For more information on risk assessment on influenza at the Human-Animal interface, visit:

Human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus in China

From 9 to 15 October 2015, **no new cases** of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region. Previously reported human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus based on information gathered from media reports (AI weekly number 503) have been under confirmation.

WHO is continuing to assess the epidemiological situation and will conduct further risk assessments with any new information. Overall, the public health risk from avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses has not changed. Since the 16 July 2015, no new laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus infection were reported to WHO.

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/18-july-2015-avian-influenza-china/en/>

Further sporadic human infections with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus are expected in affected and possibly neighbouring areas. Should human cases from affected areas travel internationally, their infection may be detected in another country during or after arrival. If this were to occur, community level spread is considered unlikely as the virus does not have the ability to transmit easily among humans

Public health risk assessment for avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses

On 23 February 2015, WHO conducted a public health risk assessment for avian influenza A (H7N9). This assessment found the overall public health risk from avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses has not changed since the previous assessment, published on 2 October 2014. To date, there has been no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A (H7N9) virus.

For more information on human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus reported to WHO, visit:

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/

For more information on risk assessment on avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, visit:

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/RiskAssessment_H7N9_23Feb20115.pdf

Animal infection with avian influenza

Adding to the previous report, from 2 to 8 October 2015, in the Western Pacific Region, one outbreak of avian influenza virus in poultry was reported in Lao PDR.

HPAI H5N6 outbreak in poultry, Lao PDR

An outbreak of HPAI H5N6 infection in poultry was reported in Xayabury province. The outbreak started on 3 October 2015 with 314 cases.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=18797

From 9 to 15 October 2015, in the Western Pacific Region, three outbreaks of avian influenza virus in poultry were reported in Viet Nam.

HPAI H5N1 outbreak in poultry, Viet Nam

An outbreak of HPAI H5N1 infection in poultry was reported in Kon Tum province. The outbreak started on 4 October 2015 with 2,685 cases.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=18831

HPAI H5N6 outbreak in poultry, Viet Nam

Two outbreaks of HPAI H5N6 infection in poultry was reported, one is Thai Binh and the other in Tuyen Quang province. The outbreaks started on 8 and 9 October 2015 in with 2,000 and 316 cases occurring respectively.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=18856

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=18851

For more information on animal infection with avian influenza viruses with potential public health impact, visit:

- *World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) web page:*

<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/>

and

<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/update-on-avian-influenza>

- *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) webpage: Avian Influenza:*

<http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html>

- *OFFLU:*

<http://www.offlu.net/>

- *EMPRES:*

<http://www.fao.org/aq/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres.html>

Latest information on human seasonal influenza

For the latest information on the seasonal influenza situation in the Western Pacific Region, visit:

http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/index.html

For latest information on the global seasonal influenza situation, visit:

- Epidemiology:

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance

- Virology:

http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport

Other updates

Influenza at the human-animal interface — Summary and assessment as of 4 Sep 2015

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/Influenza_Summary_IRA_HA_interface_04_September_2015.pdf?ua=1

*WHO Risk Assessment of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus
23 February 2015 posted on WHO website*

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/RiskAssessment_H7N9_23Feb20115.pdf?ua=1

WHO Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2016 southern hemisphere influenza season—24 September 2015

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2016_south/en/

Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines—24 September 2015

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/

H7N9 situation update (FAO) —13 October 2015

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/H7N9/Situation_update.html