

Human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses

Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus

Between 9 and 15 March 2018, no new cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region.

As of 15 March 2018, a total of 238 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus were reported from four countries within the Western Pacific Region since January 2003 (Table 1). Of these cases, 134 were fatal, resulting in a case fatality rate (CFR) of 56%. The last case was reported from China, with onset date of 27 December 2015 (1 case, no death).

Table 1: Cumulative number laboratory-confirmed human cases (C) and deaths (D) of influenza A(H5N1) virus infection reported to WHO, by date of onset (January 2003 to 19 October 2017), Western Pacific Region.

Country	2003-2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		Total	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Cambodia	10	8	8	8	3	3	26	14	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	37
China	40	26	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	53	31
Lao PDR	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Viet Nam	119	59	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	127	64
Total	171	95	9	9	9	6	30	17	13	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	238	134

Globally, from January 2003 to 7 December 2017, there were 860 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus reported from 16 countries worldwide. Of these 860 cases, 454 were fatal (CFR of 52.8%). The last case was reported from Indonesia on 26 September 2017.

(Source: http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/HAI_Risk_Assessment/en/)

Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus

Between 9 and 15 March 2018, no new cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region. To date, a total of 19 laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A(H5N6) virus, including six deaths, have been reported to WHO from China since 2014.

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

Whenever avian influenza viruses are circulating in poultry, there is a risk for sporadic infection and small clusters of human cases due to exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environments. Therefore sporadic human cases are not unexpected.

With continued incidence of avian influenza due to existing and new influenza A(H5) viruses in poultry, there is a need to remain vigilant 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 continued to detect human cases and 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 information on monthly risk assessments on Avian Influenza, visit: http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/HAI_Risk_Assessment/en/

Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N4) virus in China

Between 9 and 15 March 2018, no new cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N4) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region. To date, only one laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with influenza A(H7N4) virus has been reported to WHO. This case was reported from China on 14 February 2018. <http://www.who.int/csr/don/22-february-2018-ah7n4-china/en/>

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

As of 15 March, a total of 1,567 laboratory-confirmed human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus have been reported to WHO since early 2013, including 40 instances of 2-3 person clusters.

Between 9 and 15 March 2018, no new human cases with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H7N9) virus have been reported by the China CDC. A total of 32 human cases of HPAI A(H7N9) virus were reported during the 5th wave. These 32 cases were from Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hebei, Henan, Hunan, Shaanxi, Taiwan, China (the case had travel history to Guangdong), and Yunnan. No increased transmissibility or virulence of the virus within human cases has been detected related to the HPAI A(H7N9) virus.

(Source: <http://www.chinaivdc.cn/cnic/en/Surveillance/WeeklyReport/>)

WHO is continuing to assess the epidemiological situation and will conduct further risk assessments as new information becomes available. The number and geographical distribution of human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses in the fifth epidemic wave (since October 2016) is greater than previous waves.

Further sporadic human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus infection 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. However, if this were to occur, community level spread is considered unlikely as the virus does not have the ability to transmit easily among humans.

To date, there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. Human infections with the A(H7N9) virus are unusual and need to be monitored closely in order to identify changes in the virus and transmission behaviour to humans as this may have serious public health impacts.

For more information on human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus reported to WHO:
http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/

Human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) in China

Between 9 March 2018 and 15 March 2018, no new cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) virus were reported to WHO in the Western Pacific Region. There have been three human cases of avian influenza A(H9N2) reported from China to WHO in 2018, and a total of 17 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) in China have been reported since December 2015.

Animal infection with avian influenza virus

Between 9 and 15 March 2018, outbreaks of avian influenza were reported in Japan and Taiwan, China.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N6) virus infection in wild birds in Japan

On 9 March 2018, 12 cases of avian influenza A(H5N6) among wild birds (Large-billed Crows) in Itami city, Hyogo prefecture, Japan were notified to OIE.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=26116

Highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N2) virus infection in ducks and chickens in Taiwan, China

On 15 March 2018, 7 outbreaks of avian influenza A(H5N2) among duck and chicken farms in Yunlin county and Pingtung county, Taiwan, China were notified to OIE. Among 54,403 susceptible birds, 810 died and the rest have been culled.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=26154

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/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI
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/ag/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres.html>

Other updates

WHO Risk Assessment of human infection with avian influenza A virus. 25 January 2018

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/Influenza_Summary_IRA_HA_interface_25_01_2018_FIN_AL.pdf?ua=1

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2018 southern hemisphere influenza season. 28 September 2017

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2018_south/en/

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017-2018 northern hemisphere influenza season. 2 March 2017

http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2017_18_north/en/

Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines. 22 February 2018

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

H7N9 situation update (FAO). 28 February 2018

http://www.fao.org/ag/aqainfo/programmes/en/empres/h7n9/situation_update.html

TIPRA Frequently Asked Questions. March 2017

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