



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Update on Avian Influenza

Since our last update on 12 February 2004, 6 new human cases of avian flu H5N1 and ensuing 3 deaths have been reported, which brings the total to 31 human cases and 22 deaths. To date, 2 countries have reported human cases; and 8 countries, epizootics among poultry.

Table 1: Current Situation of Avian Influenza—Human Cases and Epizootics (as of 19 February 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	1 out of 19	Chickens: mostly laying/breeder hens	H5N1	0	0	Several localized outbreaks around Phom Penh.
China	16 out of 31	Ducks, chickens, geese, one peregrine falcon in Hong Kong	H5N1	0	0	Epizootic out of control: 43 farms affected, with Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet) and Jilin province the areas most recently affected.
Indonesia	11 out of 26	Laying and breeding hens.	H5N1	0	0	Epizootia widespread, out of control.

Japan	1 out of 9	Egg-laying poultry	H5N1	0	0	Minor outbreak in Oita prefecture caused by subtype H5; further testing underway to confirm possible involvement of H5N1 strain.
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	16 new outbreaks reported.
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 in various provinces.
Viet Nam	57 out of 64	Parent stock for broilers/fryers (chickens)	H5N1	22	15	Cluster of confirmed cases of subtype H5N1 in a Vietnamese family: investigation carried out on the virus isolated in a 23-year-old woman (see WHO Updates 19 and 20) to evaluate the possibility of person-to-person transmission; genetic material of the virus isolated in this patient and in her 30-year-old sister

						was of avian origin and contains no human influenza genes.
Total				31	22	

Sources

- *Avian Influenza A (H5N1)*. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO)
 - [Update 27](#) (19 February 2004).
 - [Update 26](#) (18 February 2004).
 - [Update 25](#) (17 February 2004).
 - [Update 24](#) (16 February 2004).
 - [Update 23](#) (13 February 2004).
 - [Update 21](#) (11 February 2004).
 - [Update 20](#) (09 February 2004).
 - [Update 19](#) (06 February 2004).
- [Update on Avian Influenza in Animals in Asia](#), 19 February 2004. Alerts—Disease Information. Paris: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). (Chart continually updated.)

Additional online information is available via the WHO [Avian Influenza](#) page, from the [Newsroom](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in an OIE Press Release entitled [Avian Influenza has stopped spreading beyond the countries currently infected](#), among other press releases in the OIE [Highlights](#) section.

Sources (Consult for additional information.)

Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Updates. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO)

- [Update 27](#) (19 February 2004).
- [Update 26](#) (18 February 2004).
- [Update 25](#) (17 February 2004).
- [Update 24](#) (16 February 2004).
- [Update 23](#) (13 February 2004).
- [Update 21](#) (11 February 2004).
- [Update 20](#) (09 February 2004).
- [Update 19](#) (06 February 2004).
- [Alerts—Disease Information](#). Paris: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- [Control of Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\): Public-Health Concerns](#) (11 February 2004). Geneva: World Health Organization.