EARLY DETECTION OF HUMAN CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA A(H5N1)

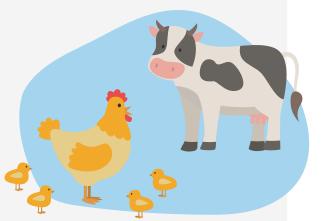
PURPOSE:

To strengthen early detection of human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) through signals of unusual respiratory events

SIGNALS TO DETECT

Potential exposure to the virus:

- Respiratory illness, conjunctivitis, or encephalitis in people with **recent exposure** to animals, contaminated environments, or a suspected or confirmed human case of avian influenza A(H5N1).
- Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) in:
- Healthcare workers caring for potentially exposed patients or suspected or confirmed cases of avian influenza A(H5N1)
- Laboratory workers handling samples or specimens potentially positive for avian influenza A(H5N1)



Clusters of:



- **SARI** in families, workplaces, or social centers.
- Cases with atypical respiratory symptoms.

SURVEILLANCE APPROACHES TO DETECT THESE SIGNS

Surveillance in health facilities

- Train healthcare personnel to quickly identify unusual clinical patterns and potential exposures to the virus.
- Prioritize work with facilities in **areas at risk of exposure** to the virus.



Surveillance of people at risk of exposure

- Reinforced surveillance of people whose professional activities involve contact with wild or farm animals, or with products of animal origin or environments contaminated by them.
- Active monitoring and immediate reporting of symptoms in people exposed to outbreaks of avian influenza A(H5N1) in animals.



Implement standardized guidelines for:

- Immediate **detection and reporting** of signals .
- Verification/classification of signals as events .

REPORTING OF HUMAN CASES

According to Appendix 2 of the IHR, any case of avian influenza A(H5N1) must be reported to the WHO under the International Health Regulations, via **ihr@paho.org**



