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Avian Influenza: Current Global Situation Update

AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN HUMANS

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/latestupdate.htm>

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) Reported to WHO through April 11, 2007. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases. **There have been no new human cases if H5N1 since last newsletter reported by WHO.**

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = 291
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1 = 172

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/cases_table_2007_04_11.html

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.

World Health Organization (WHO)

April 26, 2007

Countries and vaccine manufacturers, meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva, agreed it may be feasible to create a stockpile of H5N1 vaccine, and to separately develop a mechanism to ensure broader access to pandemic influenza vaccine for developing countries in the advent of a pandemic.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007.html>

April 10, 2007

As part of a concerted effort to ensure more equitable access to a potential pandemic influenza vaccine, six developing countries are being awarded grants to establish in-country manufacturing capacity for influenza vaccine. The countries are Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Up to US\$ 2.5 million from the governments of Japan and the United States of America will go towards each of the six countries as immediate funding to begin the process of acquiring the needed technology. Japan has provided US\$ 8 million and the United States US\$ 10 million for technology transfer.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007.html>

March 19—21, 2007

The WHO released a summary of the second WHO consultation on clinical aspects of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. Since the last meeting in Hanoi, May 2005, eight new countries have reported human infections with avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses. Clinicians, epidemiologists, virologists and public health specialists from the countries with human cases, and experts in pulmonary medicine, critical care, and influenza attended the meeting to share their experiences.

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/meeting19_03_2007.html

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases
- New! Avian Flu Travel Information
- New! CA Public Health Emergency Preparedness Web site



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Resources from the World Health Organization (WHO)

Effective communication informs and empowers people to respond appropriately to a crisis. The rapidly spreading outbreaks of Avian Influenza (bird flu) among wild and domestic birds and the rare but increasing cases of bird flu among people are alarming. If the H5N1 virus changes into a human strain, it would make it possible for person to person transmission and trigger a human flu pandemic. The world must prepare for such a pandemic.

The online resource centre for avian and pandemic influenza communication resources has been developed under the aegis of the UN System Influenza Coordinator (UNSIC) as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO). This site has been made possible through financial assistance from the Government of Japan.

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/indonesia_36115.html

AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS

Update on Avian Influenza in animals (Type H5)

Since January 2007 twenty (20) countries have reported cases of H5N1.

<http://www.oie.int/htm>

San Diego County
Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Avian Influenza Tests on Chickens, Wild birds, Ducks and Others:
Of the 9 samples tested on April
2007, all are negative.

NATIONAL NEWS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) April 19, 2007

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation is hosting a roundtable pandemic preparedness discussion and exercise for CDC leadership and corporate executives on April 18, 2007, at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta. The roundtable meeting will help attendees better anticipate and plan for the challenges that may arise if and when a pandemic of influenza emerges.

http://www.cdc.gov/news/2007/04/pandemic_exercise.html

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USDA)

April 18, 2007

The FDA announced the first approval in the United States of a vaccine for humans against the H5N1 influenza virus, commonly known as avian or bird flu.

The vaccine could be used in the event the current H5N1 avian virus were to develop the capability to efficiently spread from human to human, resulting in the rapid spread of the disease across the globe. Should such an influenza pandemic emerge, the vaccine may provide early limited protection in the months before a vaccine tailored to the pandemic strain of the virus could be developed and produced.

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01611.html>

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

Local News

No new updates at this time.

Local Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in the regions continue with more than 99,594 educational brochures distributed to various locations (e.g., schools, clinics, local businesses, community organizations). In addition, a total of 122 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents; 2 more presentations are scheduled through the coming weeks.

State News

No new updates at this time.

AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

CIDRAP News - Updated April 26, 2007

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu): Implications for Human Disease

http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/biofacts/avflu_human.html

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu): Agricultural and Wildlife Considerations

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/avianflu.html>

Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America - April 23, 2007

The onset and intensity of the 1918 influenza pandemic varied in different U.S. cities. Independent studies by Richard Hatchett *et al.* and Martin Bootsma and Neil Ferguson gathered historical data on the timing and nature of nonpharmacological interventions (NPIs), such as school closures and quarantine of patients, used by U.S. cities during the 1918 influenza pandemic and tested whether NPIs correlated with fewer influenza deaths.

Both studies found that early implementation of NPIs correlated with reduced weekly peak death rates and, to a lesser extent, with fewer total deaths. Hatchett *et al.* further report that the number of deaths during second waves of infections, which many cities experienced after NPIs were relaxed, was inversely correlated with the number of deaths during the first wave. Bootsma and Ferguson developed an epidemic model that incorporates the observed timing of NPIs and reproduces the patterns of deaths in different cities. The model suggests that second waves of infections occurred if early interventions were, paradoxically, too effective. By preventing infections, NPIs kept herd immunity low and, in the absence of a vaccine, the population remained vulnerable to renewed spread of the virus after NPIs were relaxed. The studies conclude that early implementation of NPIs, before 1% of the population has been infected, can prevent infection of more people than necessary to establish herd immunity and thereby reduce deaths by 30-40%. More influenza deaths could be avoided by using NPIs aggressively until a vaccine becomes available to protect the population. — F.H.

<http://www.pnas.org/misc/highlights.shtml>



Urban Archives/Temple University Libraries,
via The Philadelphia Inquirer

CIDRAP News - April 19, 2007

The final epidemiologic report on the United Kingdom's first H5N1 avian influenza outbreak says the source of the virus remains unknown but might have been contaminated turkey meat imported from Hungary.

Investigators from the National Emergency Epidemiology Group explored all possible ways the virus could have arrived at the Bernard Matthews turkey farm in Suffolk in February, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) said in a press release.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/avianflu/news/apr1907.html>

New York Times - April 17, 2007

When the Spanish flu reached the United States in the summer of 1918, it seemed to confine itself to military camps. But when it arrived in Philadelphia in September, it struck with a vengeance.

By the time officials there grasped the threat of the virus, it was too late. The disease was rampaging through the population, partly because the city had allowed large public gatherings, including a citywide parade in support of a World War I loan drive, to go on as planned. In four months, more than 12,000 Philadelphians died, an excess death rate of 719 people for every 100,000 inhabitants.



St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Read more at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/17>

Voice of America .com - April 12, 2007

Nigerian health authorities say they are testing nearly a dozen people in Lagos for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. This after they developed what experts say may be symptoms of the disease.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2007-04-12.cfm>

Announcements

- ◆ **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Schools - Satellite Broadcast & Tabletop Exercise**
Date: May 17, 2007 *Place:* Health Services Complex - Rosecrans, Coronado Room
Time: 9:00am - 12:00 Noon 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92110
The broadcast will cover topics such as school closure, continuity of education, average daily attendance, issues specific to certain populations, and ways schools can incorporate pandemic flu planning into their existing safe school plans.
For more information, please contact Margarita Brooks at (619) 285-6473.

Resources

- **County Vector Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636)** for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- **HHS's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900** for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpanicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Health and Human Services Agency



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Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Public Health Officer

Kay Scavulli, RN, PHN
Epidemiology/Bioterrorism PHN

Margarita Brooks
Newsletter Editor

Please e-mail should you note any written errors or discrepancies or if you have any questions or comments to:
Margarita.Brooks@sdcounty.ca.gov or Kay.Scavulli@sdcounty.ca.gov