

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Current Alert Level: WHITE (see [NHEP:ID](#) for definition)
Update number: 2
Date: 11 November 2005
Prepared by: Dr Craig Thornley, Dr Sheryl Jury
Website: www.arphs.govt.nz (+ follow links)

National

Ministry of Health factsheet 09/11/05, MoH: The MoH has prepared a new factsheet containing measures people can do to prepare for a pandemic. The resource, *Getting ready for a pandemic*, contains the following recommendations:

- Have a plan for what you and your family would do if required to stay at home for several weeks
- Build up an emergency supplies kit
- Brush up on hygiene (ie, learn and practise basic infection control measures)
- Consider a flu jab
- Plan how to keep your business running (if applicable)

The full factsheet can be downloaded [here](#).

International

Global meeting 09/11/05, WHO: A global meeting sponsored by WHO, FAO, World Bank, and the World Organisation for Animal Health held in Geneva 7-9 November has identified key components of a global action plan to control avian influenza, which are as follows: (full WHO press release [here](#))

- Control at source in birds
- Surveillance (strengthening early detection and rapid response systems; building laboratory capacity)
- Rapid containment (of animal and human cases/clusters)
- Pandemic preparedness (building/testing plans, global response exercise, training clinicians)
- Integrated country plans
- Communications

Possible human H5N1-infection cases in China 07/11/05, Xinhuanet: H5N1 infection is being actively considered by the China Ministry of Health and WHO as a possible cause of three pneumonia cases (including one death) that occurred in Hunan Province in October 2005. The three cases occurred following an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in local poultry. No cases of human H5N1 infection have been confirmed in China previously. [more...](#)

Tamiflu production. 07/11/05. Roche have announced that production capacity will have increased to produce 300 million Tamiflu treatments annually by end-2006. Roche have also entered into discussions with third parties, including the Taiwanese and Vietnam governments, to further expand worldwide supply. Further information, and Roche's brief summary of literature describing efficacy of Tamiflu, is found in the [press release](#).

Risk communication. Outbreak communication guidelines have been posted on the WHO website. Key points are to build and maintain trust, both with the public and within the organisation; announce the outbreak early; be transparent; understand the public; plan well. ([Full list of key points](#))

Avian Influenza bulletin 05/11/05 FAO: The latest avian influenza bulletin from the FAO is available. This bulletin summarises the global spread of avian influenza to date and contains a comprehensive set of links to documents providing background material on avian influenza. [Link...](#)

Pandemic Postings

Global spread of avian influenza to date
Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), to 9 November 2005,¹ and animal outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza A/H5,² to 10 November 2005

	Human ¹ cases	deaths	Animal ² outbreaks
Cambodia	4	4	15
China	-	-	60
Croatia	-	-	2
Hong Kong	-	-	4
Indonesia	9	5	216
Japan	-	-	10
Kazakhstan	-	-	1
Korea (South)	-	-	19
Laos	-	-	1
Malaysia	-	-	10
Mongolia	-	-	2
Romania	-	-	5
Russia	-	-	51
Thailand	20	13	1161
Turkey	-	-	1
Vietnam	92	42	1838
TOTAL	125	64	3396

Notes:

1 As reported to [World Health Organization](#)

2 As reported to [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#)

International (contd)

Food safety 04/11/05: International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) has released an information note on food safety implications of avian influenza outbreaks in poultry; may be useful for counselling travellers to affected areas. Key points:

- Cooking to temperatures at or above 70°C throughout food item will inactivate the H5N1 virus. Properly cooked poultry meat is therefore safe to consume. Consumption of raw or undercooked poultry or poultry products should be considered a high-risk practice and discouraged.
- The H5N1 virus, if present in poultry meat, is not killed by refrigeration or freezing.
- Home slaughtering and preparation of sick or dead poultry for food is hazardous: this practice must be stopped.
- Eggs can contain H5N1 virus both on the outside (shell) and the inside (whites and yolk). Eggs from areas with H5N1 outbreaks in poultry should not be consumed raw or partially cooked (runny yolk) or used in foods that will not be cooked.
- The greatest risk of exposure to the virus is through the handling and slaughter of live infected poultry. Good hygiene practices are essential to prevent exposure via raw poultry meat or by cross contamination. ([full document](#))

Links to key pandemic planning sites NZ/worldwide

Now on the ARPHS Pandemic Influenza [website](#)

Background information about pandemic/avian influenza

[Ten things you need to know about pandemic influenza \(WHO\)](#)

[Avian influenza \(US National Wildlife Center\)](#)

[New England Journal of Medicine review paper](#)

Contact phone numbers

Ministry of Health advice line: 0800 AVN FLU (286 358)

MAF Hotline (for suspect animal cases): 0800 809 966

Pandemic Postings supplement

Risk communication. Outbreak communication guidelines based on the WHO Expert Consultation on Outbreak Communications held in Singapore 21-23 September 2005 have been posted on the WHO website. Key points of the guidelines are as follows; the full document can be found [here](#).

- Communicate with the public in ways that build, maintain or restore **trust**. Building trust internally between communicators, policy-makers and technical staff is also critical. Mechanisms of accountability, involvement and transparency are important to establish and maintain trust.
- **Announce early.** The timing, candour and comprehensiveness of the first official announcement of an outbreak establish the parameters of trust and make it the most important of all outbreak communications. Disadvantages of early announcement of an outbreak, such as causing surprise for important stakeholders, can be mitigated by having good well-established communication systems in place.
- Be **transparent**: ie, communicate in ways that are candid, easily understood, complete and factually accurate.
- Understand the **public**. The public is entitled to information that affects their health and the health of their families; learning what the public think is critical to successful outbreak communication.
- **Planning**: The decisions and actions of public health officials have more effect on trust and public risk perception than communication. There is risk communication impact in everything outbreak control managers do, not just in what is said.