

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: 3
 Date: 21 November 2005
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 Website: www.arphs.govt.nz (+ follow links)

National

New Zealand Pandemic Action Plan updated 16/11/05, MoH. Version 14 of appendix III to the National Health Emergency Plan: Infection Diseases has been released. This plan is a working document providing a framework to support preparedness efforts at a number of levels, and will be updated as planning efforts progress. Changes and additions since the last publicly-available version (v11, 13/09/05) include the following:

- Description of roles and composition of health sector pandemic planning groups established by the Ministry of Health: the Pandemic Influenza Technical Advisory Group (PITAG), a group of experts to inform MoH policy (chair: Andrea Forde); and the Pandemic Influenza Reference Committee (PIRC), a group of stakeholder representatives to help coordinate planning in the wider health sector (chair: John Ayling).
- A summary of the New Zealand pandemic planning strategy, based on Planning ("Plan for it"); Border Management ("Keep it out"); Cluster Control ("Stamp it out"); Pandemic Management ("Manage it"); and Recovery ("Recover from it").
- Summaries of statutory powers available to agencies responsible for undertaking pandemic response actions.
- The threshold for triggering alert code red (activation) has been shifted to include situations where clusters of human-to-human transmission have occurred offshore, reflecting the importance of border control at this stage. Previously, this code would not be triggered until clusters of cases had occurred onshore. Code red is the point at which the DHB CIMS structure and Regional Co-ordination Teams are activated.
- Identification of key decisions that will require involvement of Domestic and External Security Group (DES) within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Examples of these decision points include quarantine of aircraft passengers, closure of educational facilities and issuance of travel restrictions.
- Summary of work programmes of pandemic interagency workgroups (border, education, welfare, etc).
- Interim guidelines for personal protective equipment and infection control.

The full document can be found [here](#).

International

Confirmed human H5N1 cases in China 17/11/05, WHO. The China Ministry of Health has confirmed the country's first two human cases of H5N1 infection: a 24-year-old female poultry worker from Anhui (south-east China) who became unwell 1 November and died 10 days later of severe pneumonia, and a 9-year-old boy from Hunan (southern China) hospitalised on 17 October and now recovered. Samples are inadequate to conclusively diagnose a suspected third case, the boy's 12-year-old sister who died 17 October due to severe pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. Full WHO report [here](#).

Pandemic Postings

Global spread of avian influenza to date
 Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), to 17 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	2	1	60
Croatia	-	-	2
Hong Kong	-	-	4
Indonesia	11	7	216
Japan	-	-	10
Kazakhstan	-	-	1
Korea (South)	-	-	19
Laos	-	-	1
Malaysia	-	-	10
Mongolia	-	-	2
Romania	-	-	5
Russia	-	-	51
Thailand	21	13	1161
Turkey	-	-	1
Vietnam	92	42	1838
TOTAL	130	67	3396

Notes:

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

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

Ministry of Health sector update 3 17/11/05, MoH. An MoH update on pandemic planning in the health sector is available, although not yet on the MoH website. Key points not elsewhere mentioned in Pandemic Postings include the following:

- National stockpile of Tamiflu has reached 855,000 treatment courses.
- Policy being developed for distribution and use of the antiviral stockpile. Broadly, antivirals will be used in support of border control and cluster control operations in the early stages of a pandemic, and for treatment of the sick if the pandemic spreads.
- MoH information kits for primary care will be circulated before the end of November.
- Draft document discussing role and function of community-based assessment centres (CBACs) will also be forwarded before the end of November.

Contact [Pandemic Postings](#) to receive a copy of the update.

Reserve Bank issue Business Continuity Plan 18/11/05, Reserve Bank. Key points in the Reserve Bank's Business Continuity Plan for a pandemic at code red stage 3 concern staff policies ("go home stay home" for unwell staff, working from home, revocation of travel) and actions to be taken if a run on cash is detected. Full plan available [here](#).

Sanofi Pasteur announces H5N1 vaccine supply contracts 11/11/05 ([Sanofi Pasteur press release](#)). H5N1 Vaccine supply agreements announced with French Ministry of Health, US and Australian governments

[Links](#) to key pandemic planning sites NZ/worldwide

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