

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Pandemic Postings

Current Alert Level: **WHITE** ([what does this mean?](#))
Update number: 5
Date: 12 December 2005
Prepared by: [Dr Craig Thornley](#)
Website: www.arphs.govt.nz (+ follow links)

National

Pandemic influenza messages on Family Health Diary. 08/12/05, MoH. The Ministry of Health will next week be promoting generic pandemic influenza messages on the Family Health Diary (TVOne and TV2). The Family Health Diary module starts on Tuesday 13 December and will run through to Friday 23 December. The key messages on Family Health Diary are in line with our communications focus on informing New Zealanders about the importance of planning for an influenza pandemic, and how to protect yourself at home.

Community Based Assessment Centres 08/12/05, MoH. The Ministry of Health has released a draft consultation document to provide interim guidance to DHBs and PHOs on the role and function of Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs) in a pandemic. CBACs would provide primary care surge capacity arising from sudden increase in demand, support home-based self care, and provide telephone triage and advice. Establishment of a CBAC must be planned and organised by DHBs in partnership with primary health care and the community. Comments on the draft document are welcomed: direct requests for the full document and any comments to Ailsa_Jacobson@moh.govt.nz.

Global spread of avian influenza to date
Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), to 7 December 2005,¹ and animal outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza A/H5,² to 1 December 2005

	Human ¹		Animal ²
	cases	deaths	outbreaks
Cambodia	4	4	15
China	4	2	77
Croatia	-	-	2
Hong Kong	-	-	4
Indonesia	13	8	216
Japan	-	-	11
Kazakhstan	-	-	1
Korea (South)	-	-	19
Laos	-	-	1
Malaysia	-	-	10
Mongolia	-	-	2
Romania	-	-	11
Russia	-	-	51
Thailand	21	13	1164
Turkey	-	-	1
Vietnam	93	42	2141
TOTAL	135	69	3726

Notes:

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

Background

Nonpharmaceutical interventions for pandemic influenza control [Emerg Infect Dis](#), ahead of print. Two WHO-authored articles published online address the evidence for nonpharmacologic recommendations to control pandemic influenza. Key points are as follows:

- Difficulties in influenza control include peak infectivity early in illness, short interval between cases, and (to a lesser extent) transmission from persons with incubating or asymptomatic infection.
- Entry screening at national borders did not substantially delay virus introduction in past pandemics, except in some island nations. The principal focus of intervention should be at national and community levels rather than at borders.
- Ill persons should remain at home at first symptoms, but forced isolation and quarantine are ineffective and impractical
- Social distancing measures, such as school closures, should be considered.
- Hand and respiratory hygiene should be routine, and contaminated surfaces disinfected.
- Nonessential routine travel to affected areas should be deferred.
- Legal authority and procedures for implementing interventions should be understood in advance and should respect cultural differences and human rights.

Ethical considerations in pandemic planning [Report, University of Toronto](#). This report from the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics discusses and provides recommendations around four key ethical issues expected to be very important during an influenza pandemic: health workers' duty to provide care during a pandemic; restricting liberty in the interests of public health (ie, by quarantine); priority setting, including allocation of scarce resources such as vaccines and antivirals; and global governance implications, such as travel advisories.

International

Ukraine reports avian influenza in poultry [05/12/05, CIDRAP](#). Russian news agencies have reported that large numbers of deaths among domestic poultry in the Crimea region of Ukraine are due to H5 avian influenza virus, although further testing in British and Italian laboratories is necessary before determining whether the virus is H5N1. Quarantine has been imposed on affected villages in the three involved districts; all poultry within quarantined areas will be destroyed and napalm used to dispose of carcasses.

US business planning checklist released [09/12/05, CDC](#). The US Department of Health and Human Services has prepared a two-page checklist businesses can use to assess their pandemic preparedness. The list offers 35 suggested activities, and may be a useful planning framework.

World Bank may provide finance to tackle bird flu [08/12/05, NZ Herald](#). The World Bank is likely to approve a US\$300-500million line of credit to assist the global avian influenza response. The World Bank has estimated that an influenza pandemic lasting a year could cost the global economy up to US\$800 billion.

Contact phone numbers

Ministry of Health advice line: **0800 AVN FLU (286 358)**
MAF Hotline (for suspect animal cases): **0800 809 966**
[Links](#) to key pandemic planning sites NZ/worldwide