

# Pandemic Postings

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 Prepared by: **Dr Craig Thornley**  
 Website: [www.arphs.govt.nz](http://www.arphs.govt.nz) (+ follow [link](#))

## National

**3 in 5 New Zealanders think New Zealand taking pandemic threat "seriously enough"** [Scoop, 03/02/06](#). The Ministry of Health recently commissioned a phone survey on public awareness and perceptions about the level of pandemic preparedness. 3 in 5 of those surveyed thought New Zealand is taking the pandemic threat 'seriously enough'; nearly two-thirds have seen information on how to prepare for a pandemic. However, the data also shows that most New Zealanders have not taken steps to prepare themselves for a pandemic: only around 32% of those surveyed have made preparations, with the majority of prepared households having stocked an emergency supply kit. The survey will be repeated in March and May.

## International

### Africa

**Nigeria** [WHO, 09/03/06](#). Outbreaks of H5N1 infection in poultry have now occurred in 11 of Nigeria's 37 states; the Nigerian government has launched a scheme to compensate farmers for bird losses. Specimens from people have been tested with WHO/US CDC support; all have been negative for H5N1.

**Niger** [OIE, 02/03/06](#). An outbreak of H5N1 infection in domestic ducks was identified in the Zinder region of Niger on 28 February. As in Nigeria, no human cases have been reported.

### Central and Southern Asia

**Azerbaijan** [WHO, 10/03/06](#). A cluster of 10 people in Salyan Rayon, eastern Azerbaijan, have been under investigation for suspected H5N1 infection since early March. Salyan Rayon is located near wetlands frequented by migratory birds, and recent deaths of poultry in the area have been reported, although the cause of deaths has not been determined. Following the deaths of two young women with respiratory illnesses health workers conducted house-to-house investigations and identified eight further people with respiratory symptoms or fever. Of these, one (a 17-year-old girl) has died, a 16-year-old boy is in a critical condition, and the remaining six have recovered uneventfully. Results of tests for H5N1 are awaited.

### Europe

**Germany** [WHO, 09/03/06](#). Officials in Germany have confirmed H5N1 infection in a stone marten, a predatory **mustelid**, on the Baltic island of Rügen. This follows identification of H5N1 infection in domestic cats and wild birds on the island. Infection in the mammals is thought to be due to consumption of infected birds. H5N1 infections in non-human mammals are rare

**Albania** [CIDRAP, 07/03/06](#). Albania becomes the latest European country to identify avian H5N1 infection, with the report of a positive test result from a chicken in the southern state of Vlore. 60 birds died in the outbreak.

### Eastern Asia

**Indonesia** [WHO, 10/03/06](#) and [WHO, 13/03/06](#). In central Java, a 12-year-old girl and an unrelated 4-year-old boy have died due to confirmed H5N1 infection. Chickens in both children's immediate environments had died prior to the children's symptom onset. The girl's 10-year-old brother died on 28 Feb with a clinical diagnosis of dengue haemorrhagic fever; no testing for H5N1 was carried out, and the possibility of co-infection exists.

**Global spread of avian influenza to date**  
 Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), to 13 March 2006,<sup>1</sup> and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza A/H5 in poultry, to 9 March 2006<sup>2</sup>

	Human <sup>1</sup>		Poultry <sup>2</sup>
	cases	deaths	outbreaks
Albania	-	-	1
Azerbaijan	-	-	2
Cambodia	4	4	14
China	15	10	79
Egypt	-	-	15
France	-	-	1
India	-	-	1
Indonesia	29	22	209
Iraq	2	2	3
Japan	-	-	7
Kazakhstan	-	-	1
Korea (South)	-	-	19
Laos	-	-	1
Malaysia	-	-	11
Niger	-	-	1
Nigeria	-	-	39
Pakistan	-	-	2
Romania	-	-	47
Russia	-	-	121
Taiwan	-	-	2
Thailand	22	14	1078
Turkey	12	4	126
Ukraine	-	-	22
Vietnam	93	42	2312
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>4114</b>

Notes:

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

## Background information and planning resources

**Updated UK algorithm for managing suspected avian influenza HPA, 09/03/06**. The UK HPA has provided an updated algorithm for managing febrile respiratory illness in returning travellers and visitors from countries affected by H5N1 avian influenza. The algorithm includes an updated list of affected regions as the basis for the case definition.

**Avian influenza, or "bird flu": what you need to know** [ACSH, 09/03/06](#). The American Council on Science and Health, a non-governmental non-profit organisation that seeks to "bring the message of sound science to consumers", has published online a summary of key issues around avian/pandemic influenza in a question and answer format that is appropriate for members of the public. The document has some useful diagrams showing (in a simplified manner) the mechanism of action of different antiviral agents.

**Avian influenza maps in Google Earth** [Declan Butler, 04/01/06](#). Avian influenza outbreaks and human cases between Dec 2003 and 15 Dec 2005 have been plotted onto Google Earth, and can be downloaded from this [link](#). To view the file, you must first download and install [Google Earth](#).

**US planning checklist for ambulatory medical services** [HHS/CDC, 13/03/06](#). A US checklist has been developed to assist outpatient and other ambulatory (presumably including community-based) medical services to improve pandemic influenza preparedness. The basic framework for the checklist may have value in the New Zealand context.