

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** ([definition](#))
Update number: 42
Date: 10 July 2007
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International situation

Viet Nam [WHO, 29/06/07](#). The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has confirmed two new human cases of influenza A(H5N1) virus infection, the first human cases to have been reported from Viet Nam since November 2005. The first case is a 29 year old male from Vinh Phuc Province (see [map](#)). He developed symptoms on 10 May some days after slaughtering poultry for a wedding. He was admitted to hospital on 15 May and was discharged on 11 June. The second case is a 19 year old male from Thai Nguyen Province. He developed symptoms on 20 May following exposure to poultry at a slaughter house. He was admitted to hospital on 25 May and remains in hospital in a stable condition.

To date, there has been no evidence of an epidemiological link between the human cases, and no evidence of infection in close contacts of the cases. These human cases have coincided with a large number of new poultry outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza reported in Viet Nam during May and June this year.

Poultry outbreaks:

- Czech Republic [OIE, 04/07/07](#). One further poultry outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza reported from the Czech Republic, dating from 25 June and involving a broiler chicken farm comprising 27528 susceptible birds in Pardubický province (see [map](#)).

Background

Getting through together: ethical values for a pandemic . [MoH, 07/07](#). The National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) has completed its work on ethical values for a pandemic. The resulting document, *Getting Through Together*, is based on consultation on a 2006 discussion document. *Getting Through Together* introduces the statement of ethical values and describes how it could be used, uses case studies to explore ethical challenges, and describes in a range of settings why NEAC thinks that the shared values in the statement are important. NEAC hopes that a wide range of people, including health professionals, planners, policy makers and members of the public and business community, can use *Getting Through Together* as they plan for, and think about, their potential response to a pandemic. Emphasis is given to using shared values to assist people to care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and using shared values to make decisions in situations of overwhelming demand.

Epidemiology of cases of H5N1 virus infection in Indonesia, July 2005–June 2006 [Sedyaningsih ER et al, J Infect Dis 2007;196 \[Epub ahead of print\]](#). Paper reporting results of epidemiologic analysis of 54 H5N1 avian influenza cases in Indonesia. The case-fatality rate for these cases 76%. The median age was 18.5 years, and 57.4% of patients were male. More than one-third of cases occurred in 7 clusters of blood-related family members. Seventy-six percent of cases were associated with poultry contact, and the source of H5N1 virus infection was not identified in 24% of cases. [edited from abstract only: full paper not reviewed]

Pandemic Postings

Current global avian influenza activity
Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), 26 - 29 June 2007,¹ and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in poultry, 25 June - 5 July 2007,² by country. The complete list of human cases and poultry outbreaks to date can be found on the [ARPHS website](#).

	Human ¹		Poultry ²
	cases	deaths	outbreaks
Czech Republic	-	-	1
Vietnam	2	-	-
TOTAL	5	2	5

Notes:

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

Background (contd)

US poll shows waning interest in avian influenza [CIDRAP, 6/7/07](#). According to a national survey conducted in the US, only 27% of Americans describe themselves as concerned about avian influenza, down from 35% last year.

Duration of Influenza A Virus Shedding in Hospitalized Patients [Leekha S et al, Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2007;28 \[Epub ahead of print\]](#). Paper reporting results of study into duration of viral shedding among hospitalised influenza A patients. The authors report that their results suggest hospitalized influenza A can shed detectable virus beyond the 5- to 7-day period traditionally considered the duration of infectivity. [edited from abstract only: full paper not reviewed]

Student-designed telephone hotline for pandemic influenza information [CIDRAP, 06/07/07](#). A group of Stanford University engineering students have proposed a model for local pandemic influenza information hotline staffed by home-based volunteers, and the public health department in San Jose, California, US, is helping the students make the project a reality, according to a CIDRAP news report. The students were assigned the project as part of a programme enabling students to produce innovative, technology-based proposals with potential for social benefit. Other groups of students developed plans for two other pandemic-related projects: (1) an internet site or home page with local, timely pandemic information and (2) a school curriculum to educate children and parents and develop "community resiliency" by fostering and mobilizing community support networks. Reports on all the proposals are available on a [Stanford website](#); the full hotline proposal is also available [online](#).

Avian influenza (H5N1) susceptibility and receptors in dogs. [Maas R et al, Emerg Infect Dis 2007 Aug; \[Epub ahead of print\]](#). Paper reporting results of study in which beagle dogs were inoculated with influenza A(H5N1) virus. The authors state that "inoculation of influenza (H5N1) into beagles resulted in virus excretion and rapid seroconversion with no disease. Binding studies that used labelled influenza (H5N1) showed virus attachment to higher and lower respiratory tract tissues. Thus, dogs that are subclinically infected with influenza (H5N1) may contribute to virus spread." [edited from abstract only: full paper not reviewed]

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

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

Disclaimer: Background material is listed in Pandemic Postings to alert recipients to new publications on highly-pathogenic avian and pandemic influenza topics. While efforts are made to maintain quality by only including material from reputable sources, it is beyond the scope of this bulletin to independently establish the veracity of this material, or to place the material within the local pandemic planning context: such assessments are left to the judgement of the readership. Conclusions made by authors of material cited in this bulletin do not necessarily represent policy or opinions of Auckland Regional Public Health Service, of Waitemata, Auckland or Counties Manukau DHBs, or of the Ministry of Health.