

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

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Prepared by: Dr Pip Anderson, [Dr Craig Thornley](#)
Website: www.arphs.govt.nz (+ follow link)

International situation

China [WHO, 6/12/07](#). A 24 year old male from the Jiangsu Province (see [map](#)) became unwell on 24 November and died on 2 December. His 52-year old father developed symptoms on 3 December and has subsequently been confirmed as a case.

Indonesia [WHO, 12/12/07](#); [WHO, 13/12/07](#); [WHO 18/12/07](#). Two further fatal cases of human influenza H5N1 have been reported in Indonesia. The first case was a 28-year-old female from Tangerang City, Banten Province (see [map](#)) who developed symptoms on 1 December and died on 10 December. The case worked as a road side seller of decorative plants. Poultry and poultry cages were located in the vicinity of her business. The second case was a 47-year-old male, also from Tangerang City, who developed symptoms on 2 December and died on 13 December. The source of infection is under investigation.

Myanmar [WHO, 14/12/07](#). The first human case of avian influenza has been reported in Myanmar. This case was a 7-year-old female from Kyaing Tone Township, east Shan State (see [map](#)) detected through surveillance following an outbreak of H5N1 in poultry in mid-November. The case developed symptoms on 21 November and was hospitalised on 27 November.

Pakistan [WHO, 15/12/07](#). Pakistan has informed WHO of 8 suspected human cases of H5N1 avian influenza in the Peshawar area of the North-West Frontier Province (see [map](#)). Two cases have since died. Samples from the patients have tested positive for H5N1 in the national laboratory, but the results of confirmatory testing in the WHO reference laboratory is awaited. These cases have therefore not been included in the surveillance table opposite.

Poultry outbreaks

Poultry outbreak summary [OIE](#). Poultry outbreaks of H5N1 have been reported in Benin, Egypt, Germany, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom: see next page for further details.

Background

H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine consultation document [MoH 12/07](#). The Ministry of Health manages 100,000 vaccination courses of an H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine, made from a currently circulating H5N1 avian influenza strain. Should a human H5N1 influenza virus emerge, the vaccine will be offered to key front-line health workers and other pandemic response personnel. A consultation document providing information about the vaccine, identifying the groups to be offered the vaccine, and providing some operational details, is now available on the Ministry website at this [link](#). Responses to the consultation document are welcomed, with closing date 15/02/08.

Responses to avian influenza and state of pandemic readiness: third global progress report. [UN/World Bank 29/11/07](#).

This report is the third in a series of reports to document global progress with control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and preparedness for the next influenza pandemic. The report covers developments over the past two years, with a specific focus on the six month period January - June 2007. The report considers the implications of progress to date for future national and international investments in animal and human health security.

Pandemic Postings

Current global avian influenza activity

Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), 12 Nov - 18 Dec 2007¹, and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in poultry 12 Nov - 17 Dec 2007.² 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
Benin	-	-	3
China	2	1	-
Egypt	-	-	1
Germany	-	-	1
Indonesia	2	2	-
Myanmar	1	-	1
Pakistan	-	-	4
Poland	-	-	8
Romania	-	-	1
Russia	-	-	1
Saudi Arabia	-	-	4
United Kingdom	-	-	2
Total	5	3	26

Notes:

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

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

Background (contd)

Influenza virus samples, international law, and global health diplomacy [Fidler DP. Emerg Infect Dis. 2008 Jan; \[Epub ahead of print\]](#). Indonesia's decision to withhold samples of avian influenza virus A (H5N1) from the WHO for much of 2007 caused a crisis in global health. The World Health Assembly produced a resolution to try to address the crisis at its May 2007 meeting. This article examines how the parties to this controversy used international law in framing and negotiating the dispute. The author states that the incident involving Indonesia's actions with virus samples illustrates both the importance and the limitations of international law in global health diplomacy.

Earth monitoring: Vigilance is not enough. [Boyce W. Nature 2007; 450: 791-2](#). In this commentary piece Walter Boyce highlights that the importance of wild birds in the replication and spread of H5N1 between countries and continents is still not well understood. He states that it is time to change the surveillance approach to H5N1 and other influenza subtypes and suggests three steps to move this process forward.

Influenza in migratory birds and evidence of limited intercontinental virus exchange. [Krauss S et al. PLoS Pathogens 2007; 3 \(11\): e167 doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030167](#).

This article addresses the question why HPAI H5N1 has not yet reached the Americas despite the overlap in migratory bird flyways. An analysis of influenza viruses collected from North America migratory birds over a 6 year period suggests that wild birds rarely carry avian flu viruses between Eurasia and North America: American influenza viruses occasionally include single or multiple Eurasian-origin genes, but never an entire Eurasian genome. The authors suggest that the H5N1 virus is more likely to reach the western hemisphere via birds moved by humans than by wild birds.

Pandemic flu: A national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic [UK Dept of Health, 22/11/07](#). The UK government document provides guidance to public and private organisations developing response plans, and includes an ethical framework and operating guidance for adult social care, ambulance services, community and acute healthcare.

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.

Details of recently-reported poultry outbreaks

Benin OIE, 17/12/07. The first poultry outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza in Benin have been reported. These were in the coastal departments of Ouémé (Adjara commune) on 7 November (mixed-poultry population of 37 susceptible birds), Ouémé (Akpro-Misserete commune) on 1 December (mixed-poultry population of 129 susceptible birds) and Littoral (Cotonou commune) on 3 December (poultry type not defined; 308 susceptibles). See [map](#) for department locations.

Egypt OIE, 3/12/07. Egypt has reported 617 back-dated outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza in poultry in a single report to OIE; of these, however, only one has occurred since the last Pandemic Postings. This outbreak occurred in Al Jizah on 24 November and involved a population of “rooftop ducks”. The size of the outbreak is not reported.

Germany OIE, 17/12/07. A poultry outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in a backyard poultry flock of 11 susceptible birds has been reported in Oberhavel county, Brandenburg, Germany (see [map](#)).

Myanmar OIE, 23/11/07. There was an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza on 4/11/07 in Shan State (See [map](#)) involving backyard poultry. There were 2591 susceptible birds, 2058 cases all of which died. The remaining 533 susceptible birds were destroyed.

Pakistan OIE, 12/12/07. Four poultry outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza have been reported in Pakistan. The first was on 19/10/2007 in the North-Western Frontier province (see [map](#)) and involved a flock of 2200 29-week-old broiler breeders; the second outbreak started 23/10/07, also in the North-Western Frontier province, and involved 45270 susceptible birds; the third started 27/11/07 in Punjab Province and involved an 18000-bird commercial broiler flock; the fourth started 28/11/07 in North-Western Frontier Province and involved 13457 susceptible birds.

Poland OIE, 13/12/07. Eight poultry outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza have been reported in Poland. Five were in the Mazowieckie voivodeship (see [map](#)): the first in Uniejous on 30/11/2007 involving a flock of 3520 12-week-old turkeys; the second and third in Mysliboryzycze, on 30/11/2007 (1085 turkeys) and 3/12/2007 (15 laying hens) respectively; the fourth in Karniszyn on 8/12/2007 (119,900 22-week-old laying hens); and the fifth in Sadlowo on 10/12/07 (385407 20-week-old hens). The remaining three outbreaks were in Warminsko-Mazurskie voivodeship: in Krzykaly on 11/12/07 (15 mixed birds, including poultry, in a wild animal shelter); and two linked outbreaks in Lepno on 12/12/07 (39 and 165 birds respectively).

Romania OIE, 28/11/07. There was one outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza reported in Romania (28/11/2007) on a farm in the province of Tulcea (see [map](#)). It involved 80 susceptible birds. There were 31 cases and 31 deaths.

Russia OIE 12/12/07. One poultry outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza has been reported in Russia. The outbreak occurred on 1/12/07 in Rostostovskaya Oblast and involved a flock of 468164 layer chickens.

Saudi Arabia OIE, 19/11/07. There were 4 outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza reported in Saudi Arabia. The outbreaks occurred in Al-Kharji (12/11/2007), Al-Muzahmiah (14/11/2007), Dhuma (14/11/2007) and Hiathen (14/11/2007)(see [map](#)). All of the outbreaks involved broiler and breeder chickens.

United Kingdom OIE, 30/11/07. There were two outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza reported in England. One outbreak occurred in Redgrave 11/11/2007. There were 6500 susceptible birds identified, 350 cases, 200 deaths and 6300 birds destroyed. The other outbreak occurred in Knettishall on the 14/11/2007. Three cases were identified, no deaths reported but all 9000 susceptible birds were destroyed.