

**Summary**

1. In the past three years, about 100 cases of human avian influenza infection were confirmed by the WHO annually.
2. The cases occurred in the Western Pacific, South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean WHO regions. More cases were reported around January to March each year.
3. In 2008, there were 36 cases so far and the majority occurred in Indonesia (55.6%), Egypt (19.4%) and Vietnam (13.9%).
4. A total of 7 wild birds in Hong Kong have tested H5N1 positive so far this year. The most recent was a house crow found in Sham Shui Po district (confirmed H5N1 positive on Oct 20, 2008). In comparison, 22 wild birds had tested positive in 2007.

**This week's update**

(as of 29 November 2008)		WHO	OIE	Details of H5N1 cases/outbreaks
		Confirmed human cases (deaths)	Wild birds/poultry reports	
This week	Hong Kong	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India:</b> H5N1 found in backyard poultry. (Nov 28, OIE)</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> H5N1 found in ducks. (Nov 27, OIE)</li> </ul>
	Outside HK	0	2	
	Affected countries	-	India, Vietnam	
Cumulative since November 2003	Hong Kong	0	46 wild birds <sup>θ</sup>	
	Outside HK	387 (245)		
	Affected countries	15 *	61 <sup>#</sup>	

<sup>θ</sup> Includes only wild birds detected since 2006. Details of 2008 available at AFCD website: ([http://www.afcd.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/whatsnew/what\\_qua/files/common/h5n1\\_2008.pdf](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/tc_chi/whatsnew/what_qua/files/common/h5n1_2008.pdf))

\* The 15 affected countries included Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, 14 provinces in China (Anhui, Beijing, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Liaoning, Shanghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Zhejiang), Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Laos, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

<sup>#</sup> Details of the OIE reported cases in poultry/wild birds: ([http://www.oie.int/eng/info\\_ev/en\\_AI\\_factoids\\_2.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/info_ev/en_AI_factoids_2.htm))

Table 1.

**WHO confirmed human cases of avian influenza (H5N1) by the year since 2003 (as of 29 November 2008)**<sup>§</sup>

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Overall
<b>Cases</b>	4	46	98	115	88	34	387
<b>Deaths</b>	4	32	43	79	59	26	245
<b>Case Fatality Rate (CFR)</b>	100.0%	69.6%	43.9%	68.7%	67.0%	76.5%	63.3%

<sup>§</sup> Further breakdown by countries is available at the government website "Prevention of Avian Influenza" (<http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/global.htm>)

Table 2.

**Countries/areas affected by avian influenza (H5N1) in the last 6 months (as of 29 November 2008)**

WHO Region	Countries	Affected by H5N1 in	Date of last report
Western Pacific	<b>China</b> (Hong Kong SAR)	Poultry, <b>Wild bird</b>	2008-10-20 <sup>#</sup>
	<b>Vietnam</b>	Poultry	2008-11-27
	<b>Laos</b>	Poultry	2008-11-10
	<b>China</b> (Guangdong)	Poultry	2008-06-20
	<b>Japan</b>	Wild bird	2008-06-01
South-East Asia	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Human</b> , Poultry	2008-09-10
	<b>Bangladesh</b>	Human, <b>Poultry</b>	2008-11-20
	<b>India</b>	Poultry	2008-11-28
	<b>Thailand</b>	Poultry	2008-11-17
Eastern Mediterranean	<b>Egypt</b>	Poultry	2008-07-07
	<b>Pakistan</b>	Poultry	2008-06-22
Europe	<b>Germany</b>	Poultry	2008-10-10
Africa	<b>Togo</b>	Poultry	2008-09-18
	<b>Benin</b>	Poultry	2008-08-25
	<b>Nigeria</b>	Poultry	2008-07-25
The Americas	--	--	--

<sup>#</sup> Source: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong.

Table 3.

**WHO confirmed human cases of H5N1 since 2003 (as of 29 November 2008)**

Country	Cumulative no. of cases (November 2003 to November 2008)	No. of recent cases (August to November 2008)
Azerbaijan	8	0
Bangladesh	1	0
Cambodia	7	0
China	30	0
Djibouti	1	0
Egypt	50	0
Indonesia	137	2
Iraq	3	0
Laos	2	0
Myanmar	1	0
Nigeria	1	0
Pakistan	3	0
Thailand	25	0
Turkey	12	0
Vietnam	106	0
<b>Overall</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 4.

**Details of the recent WHO confirmed human cases of H5N1 (August to November 2008)**

Date of report	Country	Province	Region	Sex	Age	Outcome
10 Sep 08	Indonesia	Tangerang	Banten	M	38	Fatal
10 Sep 08	Indonesia	Tangerang	Banten	M	20	Fatal

**Avian Influenza Report** is a weekly report produced by Respiratory Disease Office of Centre for Health Protection during the alert level of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic in Hong Kong. This report aims to highlight any important international development of avian influenza preparedness and control and to monitor global avian influenza activity in humans and birds.

*Sources:* World Health Organization (WHO); World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)