

Summary

1. The Government has raised the influenza response level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Alert" to "Serious" as a chicken carcass sample taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market tested positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus on December 20, 2011. All the poultry at the concerned market were culled. The Centre for Health Protection has also enhanced surveillance on human influenza A (H5N1) infection. At the moment, there is no human case of avian influenza infection in Hong Kong.
2. Globally, the latest human case of H5N1 avian influenza occurred in Egypt and was reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 21, 2011.
3. From 2005 to 2007, about 100 confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza were reported to WHO annually. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, 44, 73 and 48 cases were confirmed, respectively. In 2011 (as of December 24), 58 cases were confirmed.

This week's update

<i>(as of Dec 24, 2011)</i>		Confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza (no. of deaths)	Reports in poultry / wild birds
		Source: WHO	Source: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
This week	Hong Kong	0 (0)	2 [^]
	Outside HK	1 (1)	1
	Affected countries	Egypt	Hong Kong & Bangladesh
	Details	<p>Egypt: A 29-year-old male from Dakahlia governorate was confirmed positive for H5N1 avian influenza and passed away. He had exposure to backyard poultry. (<i>WHO</i>, Dec 21, 2011)</p>	<p>Hong Kong⁰:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dead Oriental Magpie Robin was found in Tin Shui Wai. It was confirmed positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus. (<i>AFCD</i>, Dec 20, 2011) - A chicken carcass was found in Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market. It was positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus. (<i>AFCD</i>, Dec 20, 2011) <p>Bangladesh: Poultry in Dhaka and Khulna died from H5N1 avian influenza. (<i>OIE</i>, Dec 21, 2011)</p>

Cumulative since Nov. 2003	Hong Kong	1 (0)	82 dead birds confirmed H5N1 positive (Total in 2011: 11 ^θ)
	Outside HK	573 (337)	
	Affected countries	15 *	63 #

^θ For further information, please visit the website of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/qua_vetlab/qua_vetlab_nldr/qua_vetlab_nldr.html

* The 15 affected countries included Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (18 provinces/cities including Anhui, Beijing, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hong Kong, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, and Zhejiang), Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Laos, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

For details of the OIE reported cases in poultry/wild birds, please visit: http://web.oie.int/eng/info_ev/en_AI_factoids_2.htm

[^] Source: The Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department, Hong Kong (AFCD)

Table 1.

Confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza reported to WHO since 2003 (by onset date)[§]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Overall
Cases	4	46	98	115	88	44	73	48	58	574
Deaths	4	32	43	79	59	33	32	24	31	337
Case Fatality Rate	100%	69.6%	43.9%	68.7%	67.0%	75.0%	43.8%	50.0%	53.4%	58.7%

[§] 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 with confirmed H5N1 avian influenza cases in the past 6 months

WHO Region	Date of last report	Country	In the past 6 months, H5N1 avian influenza infections were confirmed in		
			Human	Poultry	Wild bird
Western Pacific	20/12/2011	China (Hong Kong)		✓ [#]	✓ [@]
	12/12/2011	China (Tibet)		✓	
	10/11/2011	Vietnam		✓	
	07/11/2011	Cambodia	✓	✓	✓
	13/10/2011	Iran		✓	
South-East Asia	02/12/2011	Nepal		✓	
	15/11/2011	Indonesia ^{&}	✓	✓	
	19/09/2011	India		✓	
	21/12/2011	Bangladesh		✓	
Eastern Mediterranean	21/12/2011	Egypt ^{&}	✓		
Africa	05/12/2011	South Africa [^]		✓	
Europe	--	--			
The Americas	--	--			

[&] OIE has reported that H5N1 avian influenza is endemic in poultry in these countries.

[^] Avian influenza of H5N2 subtype was reported on commercial ostrich farms in South Africa.

[#] A chicken carcass sample taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market was tested positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus. Source: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong.

@ An Oriental magpie robin found in Tin Shui Wai was confirmed positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus. Source: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong.

Note: Check marks in bold “✓” indicate occurrence of the most recent case.

Table 3.

Confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza reported to WHO since 2003

Country	Cumulative no. of cases (December 2003 to December 2011)	No. of recent cases (September to December 2011)
Azerbaijan	8	0
Bangladesh	3	0
Cambodia	18	2
China	40	0
Djibouti	1	0
Egypt	156	6
Indonesia	182	4
Iraq	3	0
Laos	2	0
Myanmar	1	0
Nigeria	1	0
Pakistan	3	0
Thailand	25	0
Turkey	12	0
Vietnam	119	0
Overall	574	12

Table 4.

Details of the recent confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza reported to WHO (September to December 2011)

Date of report by WHO ^σ	Country	Province	District	Sex	Age	Outcome at the time of reporting
21/12/2011	Egypt	Dakahlia	-	M	29	Fatal
15/12/2011	Egypt	Dakahlia	-	F	-	Fatal
15/12/2011	Egypt	Dakahlia	-	-	-	Stable condition
29/11/2011	Egypt	Dakahlia	Meet Salseel	F	31	Critical condition
15/11/2011	Indonesia	Bali	Bangli	F	29	Fatal
02/11/2011	Egypt	Gharbia	Mahala	M	1	Recovered
26/10/2011	Indonesia	Bali	Bangli	F	5	Fatal
26/10/2011	Indonesia	Bali	Bangli	M	10	Fatal
10/10/2011	Indonesia	DKI Jakarta	West Jakarta	F	1	Fatal
19/08/2011	Cambodia	Kampong Cham	Cheung Prey	F	6	Fatal
09/08/2011	Egypt	Behira	Demnhoor	F	6	Recovered
02/08/2011	Cambodia	Banteay Meanchey	Mongkul Borei	F	4	Fatal

^σ Source: World Health Organization

Avian Influenza Report is a weekly report produced by the Respiratory Disease Office of the Centre for Health Protection when the alert response level under the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic in Hong Kong has been activated. This report highlights global avian influenza activity in humans and birds.