

Pandemic Postings

Current Alert Level: [WHITE \(definition\)](#)
Update number: 35
Date: 03 April 2007
Prepared by: [Dr Craig Thornley](#), [Dr Andrew Old](#)
Website: www.arphs.govt.nz (+ follow [link](#))

National

Exercise Cruickshank information. Further Exercise Cruickshank information has been released by the Ministry of Health:

- **Health Sector General Instruction, v1 MOH, 21/03/07.** This document deals with health sector-specific aspects of Exercise Cruickshank, and provides more detail on reporting requirements and the 'scope of play' in each exercise day.
- **Facilitator Instructions, v1.1 MOH, 20/03/07.** Provides detail about the role of facilitators in Exercise Cruickshank. Facilitators provide exercise inputs, monitor progress and ensure that actions expected from inputs are completed.
- **Evaluator Instructions, v1.4 MOH, 22/03/07.** Instructs designated exercise evaluators in procedures and responsibilities for exercise evaluation, to determine through the evaluation process whether Exercise Cruickshank met its objectives.
- **Situation Report Form template MOH** (no version information)
- **Request for Assistance Form template MOH** (no version information)

International situation

China [WHO, 29/03/07](#). One new fatal case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus has been reported in China. The case was a 16-year-old male from Anhui province (see [map](#)) who developed symptoms on 17 March and died 27 March. Investigations to identify the source of his exposure are ongoing.

Egypt [WHO, 02/04/07](#); [WHO, 28/03/07](#); [WHO, 27/03/07](#); [WHO, 20/03/07](#); [WHO, 19/03/07](#). Eight new human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection in Egypt have been reported by WHO, all in children. Three cases, a 10-year-old girl, a 2-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl, were from Aswan Governorate (see [map](#)). Onset of illness or hospitalisation dates were 13 March, 15 March and 22 March respectively. All are in a stable condition. No epidemiologic links have been identified between the three cases; all had histories contact with backyard poultry. Two cases, a 6-year-old girl and her 4-year-old brother, were from Qena (Qina) Governorate. The hospitalisation date and symptom onset date for the two were 25 March and 26 March respectively. Both are in a stable condition and had been exposed to sick birds. The three remaining cases were a 5-year-old boy, a 7-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl; from Menia (Al Minya), Sohag (Suhaj) and Qalubia (Al Qalyubiyah) governorates respectively, with illness onset dates 25 March, 26 March and 29 March. All had a history of exposure to sick birds, and are in a stable condition.

Laos [WHO, 16/03/07](#). A second fatal case in Laos, a 42-year-old female from Vientiane Province (see [map](#)), has been reported by WHO. The case became unwell 26 February and died 4 March. Investigations have found that a duck positive for H5 in the woman's household. No close contacts have shown signs of infection.

Poultry outbreaks in other regions [OIE](#). Poultry outbreaks of H5N1 have been reported in multiple regions in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam: see next page for further details.

Current global avian influenza activity
 Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), 12 Mar - 02 Apr 2007,¹ and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in poultry, 20 Mar - 02 Apr 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 |
| Bangladesh | - | - | 3 |
| China | 1 | 1 | - |
| Egypt | 8 | - | - |
| Laos | 1 | 1 | - |
| Myanmar | - | - | 3 |
| Pakistan | - | - | 11 |
| Russia | - | - | 2 |
| Thailand | - | - | 1 |
| Vietnam | - | - | 4 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 2 | 24 |

Notes:

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

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

Background

Efficacy of oseltamivir for H5N1 infection, assessed using animal model [Govorkova et al, Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2007; 51: 1414-24](#). Paper reporting study using oseltamivir for early postexposure prophylaxis and for treatment in ferrets exposed to two H5N1 virus clades with different pathogenicity profiles. A dose of 5mg/kg/day was protective against fatal outcomes from the A/Vietnam/1203/04 (H5N1) virus if given 4 hrs after virus inoculation, but higher daily doses (25 mg/kg) were required if initiated 24 hrs after virus inoculation. Lower doses were sufficient to protect against a less pathogenic H5N1 strain. All ferrets that survived the initial infection were completely protected from reinfection if rechallenged with the same virus 21 days later.

Correct use of respirator masks [Cummings et al. Emerg Infect Dis \[serial on the internet\] 2007; May \[cited 02/04/07\]](#). Paper reporting results of evaluation of correct use of N95 masks by members of the public involved in mould remediation in post-hurricane New Orleans. Only 129 (24%) participants demonstrated proper mask wearing. Errors included nose clip not tightened (71%) and straps incorrectly placed (52%); 22% put on the mask upside down.

Pandemic Flu and Potential for US Economic Recession [TFAH, 03/07](#). A report from the US Trust for America's Health uses a model based on the 1918 pandemic to estimate the economic impact of an influenza pandemic in the United States. The report finds that a severe influenza pandemic could result in the second worst recession since World War II, with a 5.5% drop in the US GDP. States with high levels of tourism and entertainment would be worst hit.

Inactivated whole virus H5N1 vaccine [Vajo et al, Emerg Infect Dis \[serial on the internet\] 2007; May \[cited 02/04/07\]](#). Letter reporting findings of trial of an egg-grown, formaldehyde-inactivated, whole virus vaccine developed in Hungary. 146 participants each received a single dose of 0.5ml vaccine containing 6µg hemagglutinin based on a reference H5N1 virus. 15.7% experienced pain at injection site within the first 48 hours; all symptoms resolved within 1 day. 67.3% had seroconverted by day 90, leading the authors to conclude that the vaccine was safe and immunogenic following a single low dose.

Details of regions with recently-reported poultry outbreaks

Bangladesh OIE, 30/03/07. Three H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks reported amongst farmed poultry: All three in Dhaka province (see [map](#)) and all amongst chickens. Number of susceptibles ranging from 1,000 - 32,000.

Myanmar OIE, 01/04/07. Three further H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks have been reported from Yangon province (see [map](#)); all have been in farms with layer or broiler chickens, with numbers of susceptible birds ranging from 7602 to 22,337.

Pakistan OIE, 31/03/07. Eleven H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks reported in Pakistan: 9 in North-Western province (number of susceptibles in affected farms ranging from 5 - 2000); 1 from Punjab province (chickens, 5 susceptibles); and 1 from Islamabad Capital Territory province (among geese and turkeys at Islamabad Zoo, susceptibles = 42). See [map](#) for province locations.

Russia OIE, 19/03/07. Two H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks in Respublika Adygeya province (see [map](#)). Both in backyard poultry with susceptible populations of 45 and 91 respectively.

Thailand OIE, 29/03/07. One H5N1 avian influenza outbreak in Mukdahan province, in northeast Thailand on the border with Laos (see [map](#)). Outbreak involved turkeys, muscovy ducks and native chickens, in two linked farms with a total of 199 susceptible birds.

Vietnam OIE, 02/04/07. Four H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks in different areas. One in Ca Mau province in a farm with 85 susceptible ducks, one in Can Tho City province in an unvaccinated duck flock of 600 susceptibles, one in Ha Noi City province amongst a susceptible population of 2,450 chickens, and one in Ha Tay province in a susceptible population of 600 chickens (see [map](#)).