Influenza at the human-animal interface

Summary and assessment as of 27 June 2014

Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses

From 2003 through 27 June 2014, 667 laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection have been officially reported to WHO from 15 countries. Of these cases, 393 have died.

Since the last WHO Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface update on 5 May 2014, two laboratory-confirmed human cases of influenza A(H5N1) virus infection were reported to WHO; one from Indonesia in a 33-year-old man from DKI Jakarta and the other from Egypt in a 34-year-old man from Menia governorate. This is not unexpected as influenza A(H5N1) viruses are known to be circulating in poultry in these areas in both countries.

Overall public health risk assessment for avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses: Whenever influenza viruses are circulating in poultry, sporadic infections or small clusters of human cases are possible, especially in people exposed to infected poultry or contaminated environments. These influenza A(H5N1) viruses do not currently appear to transmit easily among people. As such, the risk of community-level spread of these viruses remains low.

Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of avian influenza A(H5N1) cases in humans by reporting country and month of onset.

![Epidemiological curve of avian influenza A(H5N1) cases](image)
Table 1: Laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection (5 May 2014 – 27 June 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of onset</th>
<th>Date of Hospitalisation</th>
<th>Oseltamivir treatment Start date</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
<th>Exposure to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
<td>33 years</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1 June 2014</td>
<td>7 June 2014</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>14 June 2014</td>
<td>Live bird market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Menia</td>
<td>34 years</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15 June 2014</td>
<td>22 June 2014</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Poultry market near home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA: not applicable or not available

Human infection with other non-seasonal influenza viruses

Human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses in China

WHO is closely monitoring this event and separate risk assessments have been posted. Please find the most updated information at http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/Risk_Assessment/en/index.html

Outbreaks in animals with avian influenza viruses with potential public health impact

The number of reported outbreaks of avian influenza in birds globally is currently at the level expected during this period of the year.

Further, owing in part to the emergence of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, there is enhanced surveillance for non-seasonal influenza viruses in both humans and animals. It is therefore to be expected that more influenza A(H5N1), A(H7N9), and other subtypes of influenza viruses will be detected in humans and animals over the coming months.

Due to the constantly evolving nature of influenza viruses, WHO continues to stress the importance of global surveillance to detect virological, epidemiological and clinical changes associated with circulating influenza viruses that may affect human (or animal) health. All human infections with non-seasonal influenza viruses are reportable to WHO under the IHR (2005). It is critical that influenza viruses from animals and people are fully characterized in appropriate animal or human health influenza reference laboratories.

Links:

WHO human-animal interface web page

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO
http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/EN_GIP_LatestCumulativeNumberH5N1cases.pdf

H5N1 avian influenza: timeline of major events
Avian influenza A(H7N9) information
World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) web page: Web portal on Avian Influenza

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) webpage: Avian Influenza

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http://www.offlu.net/index.html