

Pandemic Postings

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International

Situation in Indonesia [WHO 03/10/06](#), [WHO 27/09/06](#), [WHO 25/09/06](#). Four cases of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza have been reported from Indonesia in recent weeks. Two cases were members of the same household in East Java: an 11-year-old boy and his 21-year-old sister. The boy developed symptoms of fever and cough on 16 September, was hospitalised on 18 September and died the same day. His sister became unwell on 19 September: her symptoms were reported to health authorities on 24 September, she was immediately commenced on oseltamivir and isolated in hospital, and remains in hospital. Poultry deaths had been noted in the family's household, and both siblings are thought to have been exposed to these poultry. Both remaining cases were fatalities. The first was a 9-year-old boy from South Jakarta who became unwell with fever and runny nose on 13 September and died on 22 September. This boy had been in contact with sick chickens kept as pets. The second confirmed case was a 20-year-old male from West Java who developed respiratory symptoms on 17 September, was hospitalised on 24 September and died four days later. Two other siblings were also unwell: a 23-year-old brother died on 24 September with an undiagnosed respiratory illness, and a 15-year-old sister was hospitalised on 25 September with fever and cough. Test results on the sister have indicated infection with seasonal influenza (H1) but not H5. The two brothers had direct contact with dead poultry when feeding carcasses to their dogs.

Situation in Thailand [WHO 27/09/06](#). A recent case of H5N1 avian influenza infection has been diagnosed in a 59-year-old farmer in Nong Bua Lam Phu Province, north-eastern Thailand. The man developed fever on 14 July and died of severe pneumonia on 10 August. Possible H5N1 infection was suspected when relatives reported the sudden death, in the days prior to symptom onset, of several fighting cocks raised by the farmer. Local veterinary authorities noted a number of poultry outbreaks in the area.

The man was treated with oseltamivir. Repeated tests on samples taken from his upper respiratory tract, most after antiviral treatment, were negative by PCR for all influenza A viruses, including H5N1. Virus was eventually isolated from lung samples taken at autopsy.

Background

Targeting social distancing in pandemic influenza [Glass et al, Emerg Infect Dis \[serial on the Internet\] 2006 Nov \[cited 10/10/06\]](#). Influenza spreads from person to person using social contact networks: strategically controlling these networks using social distancing may therefore mitigate pandemic spread. In this paper, the authors present results of research using a network-based model simulating influenza spread to study the likely effect of different social distancing strategies. The authors state that children and teenagers are critically important in influenza transmission; for influenza as infectious as the 1957-58 pandemic (~50% infected), closing schools and keeping children and teenagers at home reduced the attack rate by >90%; for more infectious strains, or transmission that is less focused on the young, adults and the work environment must also be targeted.

Current global avian influenza activity
 Confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/(H5N1), 20 Sep - 03 Oct 2006,¹ and outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in poultry, 05 Sep - 04 Oct 2006,² 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
China	-	-	2
Egypt	-	-	8
Indonesia	4	3	1
Sudan	-	-	6
Thailand	1	1	-
Vietnam	-	-	1
TOTAL	5	4	18

Notes:

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

Background (contd)

Overview of disease mitigation measures in pandemic influenza control [Inglesby et al, Biosecur Bioterror \[serial on the Internet\] 2006; 4\(4\) \[cited 10/10/06\]](#). Article that reviews the effectiveness and practical feasibility of pandemic mitigation measures, discusses potential adverse effects of strategies, and summarises the authors' suggested priorities and recommended practical actions. The authors make the following recommendations:

- Maintain seasonal influenza vaccination;
 - Plan and coordinate isolation and medical care of influenza patients regionally;
 - Plan for regular and frequent communication with the public, particularly to encourage isolation at home of those unwell but encouraging others to continue coming to work;
 - Consider school closure during the first 10-14 days of a pandemic, but not for longer periods unless wider (and probably unsustainable) closures of gathering places are also instituted);
 - Encourage hand-washing and respiratory hygiene.
- The authors recommend against community-wide closure of public events, instituting quarantine or screening passengers at borders, and emphasise the importance of strong political and public health leadership to provide reassurance and to ensure that needed medical facilities are provided.

Journal of Infectious Diseases supplement on seasonal and pandemic influenza [J Infect Dis \[serial on the internet\] 2006; 194 \(1 November\), Suppl 2 \[cited 10/10/06\]](#). This supplement is titled "Seasonal and pandemic influenza: at the crossroads, a global opportunity", and contains a series of influenza articles, including the following:

- [Fauci](#). Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Science and Countermeasures.
- [Gerberding](#). Pandemic Preparedness: Pigs, Poultry, and People versus Plans, Products, and Practice.
- [Monto et al](#). Epidemiology of Pandemic Influenza: Use of Surveillance and Modeling for Pandemic Preparedness.
- [Petric et al](#). Role of the Laboratory in Diagnosis of Influenza during Seasonal Epidemics and Potential Pandemics.
- [Nichol and Treanor](#). Vaccines for Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza.
- [Hayden and Pavia](#). Antiviral Management of Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza.
- [García-Sastre and Whitley](#). Lessons Learned from Reconstructing the 1918 Influenza Pandemic.