

March 1, 2005

Avian Influenza: Assessing the Pandemic Threat

Avian Influenza H5N1 Infections

Countries with infected poultry in 2004

Country

Provinces with human cases

Province

Cumulative Human Cases December 2003 - January 2005

Country	Cumulative cases/deaths
Thailand	17 cases/12 deaths
Vietnam	33 cases/26 deaths
Cambodia	1 case/ 1 death

Countries with H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry, 2004

- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Japan*
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia*
- Republic of Korea*
- Thailand
- Vietnam

*Japan, Malaysia, and Republic of Korea through control measures are now considered free of the disease (January 2005) according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) criteria.

Estimated total gross domestic product losses accruing from poultry farm losses, 2004

Thailand	US\$ 1.2 billion
Vietnam	US\$ 0.3 billion
East and Southeast Asia	US\$ 10-15 billion

Source: Oxford Economic Forecasting cited in WHO report: Avian Influenza: assessing the pandemic threat, January 2005
Pre-publication <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en>



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Source:
All data for this map are from the World Health Organization Report "Avian influenza: assessing the pandemic threat (Pre-publication)" January 2005 downloaded from the WHO website:
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/WHO_CDS_2005_29/en/

Avian Flu "very ominous"
'Avian flu, which has killed millions of birds and several dozen people in Asia, poses a "very ominous" threat to humans worldwide.'
Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 20, 2005.

What is avian influenza?
Avian influenza classically infects migratory waterfowl. Avian influenza H5N1 virus is a subtype that has become highly pathogenic to poultry. It has also caused severe illness and death in humans who have come into contact with poultry infected by the virus. Although it is not yet contagious from person-to-person, many scientists fear that it may through adaptive mutations or genetic reassortment become the cause of the world's next influenza pandemic.

Prerequisites for the start of a pandemic:

1. A novel virus subtype emerges. The general population has little or no immunity.
2. The new virus must replicate in humans and cause serious illness.
3. The virus must be transmitted efficiently person-to-person with sustained transmission causing community-wide outbreaks.

