



International Health Surveillance Division (IHS)

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Health Information Update

Source: WHO, Event Information Site for IHR National Focal

Event Updates: 28 August 2018

Event Updated	Country	Hazard	Disease	Event Description	IHR Assessment
2018-08-28	China	Zoonosis	Influenza due to identified avian or animal influenza virus (A/H5N6)	<p>On 20 August 2018, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China (NHFPC) notified WHO of one additional laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus in China.</p> <p>The case is a 42 year-old male from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. He developed fever, cough and gastric intestinal discomfort on 10 August 2018, and was diagnosed and treated for pneumonia and gastritis at a local hospital. The patient had contact with live poultry before the onset of illness. No abnormalities were found in his close contacts by medical observation. To date, a total of 20 laboratory-confirmed cases and 14 deaths of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) viruses have been reported to WHO through IHR notification since 2014, all from China. Previous human infection was reported in December 2017, from a resident of Fujian Province.</p> <p>The Chinese Government has taken the following surveillance and control measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collecting samples for virus isolation and whole genome sequencing. 2. Conducting epidemiological investigations, and tracing, managing and implementing medical observation of close contacts. 3. Strengthening outbreak monitoring and surveillance. 4. Strengthening local outbreak source control. 5. Conducting health education interventions. <p>Although influenza A(H5N6) has caused severe infection in humans, until now human infections with the virus seem to be rare and no ongoing human-to-human transmission has been reported. However, the characterization of this virus is ongoing and its implication to the evolution and potential emergence of a pandemic strain is unknown.</p> <p><i>The risk of international disease spread is considered to be low at this point in time. WHO continues to assess the epidemiological situation and conduct further risk assessment based on the latest information.</i></p>	Public Health Risk (PHR)

*A public health risk is something that is (or is likely to be) hazardous to human health or could contribute to a disease or an infectious condition in humans