

Current major event

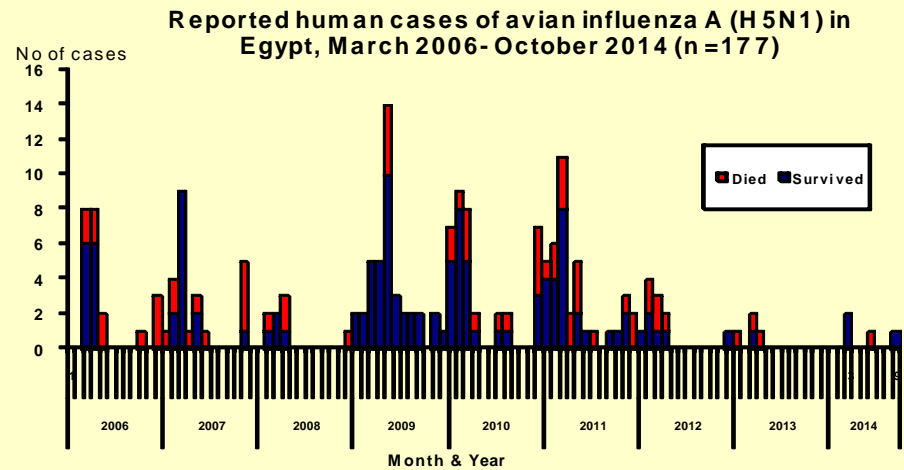
The 4th human case of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt in 2014

The Ministry of Health and Population in Egypt has reported a new human case of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in October. The patient is a 2.5 years old girl from Imbaba District, Giza Governorate. She developed fever, sore throat, cough and vomiting on 22 September 2014, and was admitted to Abassia Chest Hospital on 25 September. The patient had unilateral pneumonia and received Tamiflu on the same day of admission. The case was laboratory confirmed at Central Public Health lab on 29 September. She is in a stable condition. The patient has close contact with sick and dead backyards poultry (ducks and chickens). Since 2006, Egypt has reported 177 laboratory confirmed cases of avian influenza A/H5N1. This includes 64 deaths (CFR 36.2%).

Editorial note

Egypt has reported 4 sporadic cases of A/H5N1 including one associated death (CFR 25%) in 2014. This is a marked decline in the number of human cases of avian influenza A/H5N1 in the Country since 2009 (*please see the above figure*). This trend has also been observed globally. With the 177 confirmed Human Avian Influenza A (H5N1) cases, Egypt remains the second most affected country globally, after Indonesia. Egypt is also the only country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region that has continued to report human cases of A/H5N1 since the virus was first reported in EMR in 2006.

A joint investigation between human health and veterinary sector into the source of infection for this case revealed that the patient had close contact with a sick and dead backyard poultry at home. So, as per previous information, it shows that the major risk factor remains contact with infected sick or dead poultry in Egypt. Since February 2006, 23 out of the 27 governorates in Egypt have reported confirmed cases of Avian influenza A (H5N1) in humans and poultry.



Age distribution of avian influenza A (H5N1) cases and deaths reported from Egypt, 2006-2014

Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	54	2	3.7
5 to < 15 yrs	35	4	11.4
15 to < 30 yrs	49	36	73.5
30 to < 45 yrs	33	19	57.6
45 yrs & >	6	3	50
Total	177	64	36.2

The most affected age-group in Egypt remains children under 5 years of age, but children have the lowest case fatality rate. The worst case fatality rate is observed among the young adult aged between 15 and less than 30 years old. This is followed by the age-group between 30 to less than 45 years old, and then 45 years old and above (*please see the above table*).

Focusing on early detection of outbreaks in poultry and rapidly contained it, may mitigate the human infection. In addition to strengthening of communication messages to those who own poultry to be more vigilant when handling sick birds and protecting the children from being exposed to sick or dead birds. Close coordination and sharing of information between the human health and animal authorities will play a key role in reducing the risk of human transmission and possibility of future virus mutation.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, and **Avian Influenza A (H5N1)** in Egypt

Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2006-2014

Egypt [177 (64), 36.2%]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2014

Saudi Arabia [755 (285), 37.7%]

Jordan [11 (6), 54.5%]

Oman [2 (2), 100%]

UAE [68 (8), 11.8%]

Kuwait [3 (1), 33.3%]

Tunisia [3 (1), 33.3%]

Qatar [8 (4), 50%]

Yemen [1 (1), 100%]

Egypt [1 (0), 0%]

Lebanon [1 (0), 0%]

Iran [5 (2), 40%]

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014

Guinea [1472 (843), 57.3%]

Liberia [4249 (2458), 57.8%]

Sierra Leone [3252 (1183), 36.4%]

Nigeria [20 (8), 40%]

Senegal [1 (0), 0%]

Spain [1 (0), 0%]

USA [2 (1), 50%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014

Pakistan [187 (0), 0%]

Afghanistan [10 (0), 0%]

Somalia [5 (0), 0%]