

Current major event

New cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt

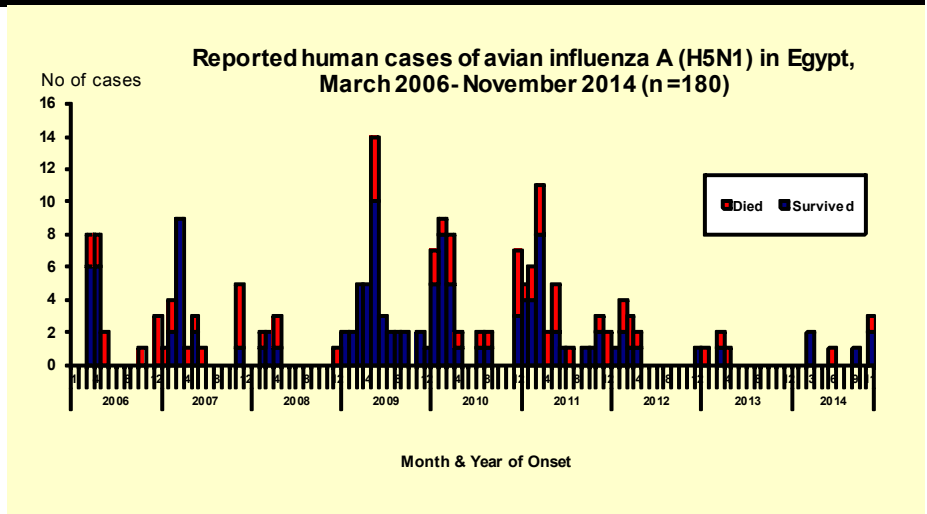
The Ministry of Health & Population has recently reported 3 new cases of human infections with avian influenza A (H5N1) during the month of November 2014. Two cases were reported from Menia governorate, although not from the same district, and the remaining case was reported from Assiut governorate. All the cases were laboratory-confirmed at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) in Egypt. With these three new cases, the total number of cases of human infections with avian influenza A (H5N1) reported from Egypt stand at 180 including 65 deaths (CFR 36.1%).

Editorial note

Egypt has reported 3 sporadic cases of human infections with avian influenza A (H5N1) including one associated death during the current month. The first case is a 3 year old male from Menia district under the Menia governorate. The child developed respiratory symptoms on 11 November and was admitted to Bani Mazar Hospital. She also received antiviral medicine on the same day and was referred to another hospital in unstable condition. Her condition deteriorated when she developed bilateral pneumonia and currently under intensive care.

The third case was a fatal, 19 year old female from Assiut district of Assiut governorate. She developed respiratory symptoms on 7 November and was admitted to Assiut University Hospital 4 days later. She was on artificial ventilation. Although she received double doses of Antivirals on admission, but her condition deteriorated and she died on 16 November.

These three cases reported from Egypt during the month of November 2014 were unrelated and each had exposure to



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

Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	55	2	3.6
5 to < 15 yrs	35	4	11.4
15 to < 30 yrs	50	37	74.0
30 to < 45 yrs	34	19	55.9
45 yrs & >	6	3	50.0
Total	180	65	36.1

sick and dead poultry in the days before onset of symptoms. Identification of such sporadic cases are not unexpected as influenza A(H5N1) viruses are known to be circulating in poultry in the country.

The current, global public health risk assessment for avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses remains unchanged despite reporting of these three cases. Whenever influenza viruses are circulating in poultry, which is the case in Egypt, sporadic infections or small clusters of human cases are possible, specially in people exposed to infected poultry or contaminated environments. Human infections remain rare and 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. However, vigilance should never be lowered and enhanced surveillance should be continued at the animal-human interface.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; 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	[180 (65), 36.1%]
MERS-CoV: 2012-2014	
Saudi Arabia	[785 (300), 38.2%]
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	[9 (4), 44.4%]
Yemen	[1 (1), 100%]
Egypt	[1 (0), 0%]
Lebanon	[1 (0), 0%]
Iran	[5 (2), 40%]
Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014	
Guinea	[1731 (1041), 59.6%]
Liberia	[6525 (2697), 58%]
Sierra Leone	[4759 (1070), 32.8%]
Nigeria	[20 (8), 40%]
Senegal	[1(0), 0%]
Spain	[1(0), 0%]
USA	[4(1), 25%]
Mali	[1(1), 100%]
Wild poliovirus: 2014	
Pakistan	[246 (0), 0%]
Afghanistan	[20 (0), 0%]