

Current major event

Avian Influenza A (H5N1): new cases reported in Egypt

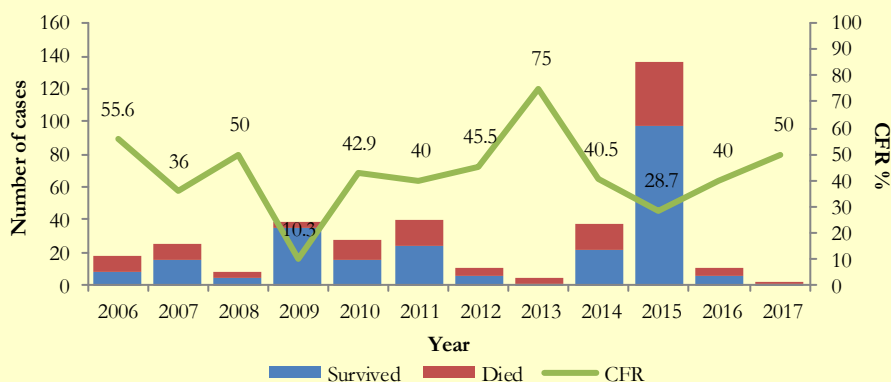
During the month of February, the Ministry of Health and Population in Egypt reported two new human cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) including one death to WHO. These two cases are reported for the first time in 2017. Since March 2006, Egypt reported a total of 358 laboratory confirmed cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) including 122 deaths (CFR: 34.08%).

Editorial note

Egypt is the only country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) that continues to report human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) since the virus was first reported in the country in 2006. A total of 358 human cases of A(H5N1) have been reported in the country between 9 March 2006 and 10 February 2017. Of these cases, 122 were fatal (case-fatality rate: 34.08%) (*Please see the graph above*). In the year 2016, A total of 10 cases including four deaths (case-fatality rate: 40%).

Two new cases were recently reported by MOHP in February 2017 from two governorates- El-Menia and El-Fayoum. The first case is a 4 year old child, resident of Malawi district, El-Menia governorate, in Upper Egypt; he had onset of symptoms on 2 February 2017 and was admitted to El-Menia fever hospital. On 12 February, El-Menia regional molecular virology laboratory tested his specimen to be positive for A (H5N1); samples were sent to CPHL in Cairo for confirmation on 13 February 2017. The patient was referred to Mansheyet El-bakry hospital in Cairo and now is in stable condition and is responding to treatment. Epidemiological investigations reveal that the case was in contact with domestic birds in his parents' house. The second case was a 48 year old male resident in Senores district, El-Fayoum governorate, had onset of symptoms on 10 February 2017. He was Laboratory confirmed on 19 February by the MOHP central laboratory. Epidemiological investigations revealed that he was in contact with domestic birds inside his house; some of these birds were

Number of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) cases in Egypt/ case fatality rate per year, March 2006 - February 2017



Age and gender distribution of avian influenza A(H5N1) cases and deaths reported from Egypt, Mar 2014-Feb 2017

Age group	Total cases		Deaths	
	M	F	M	F
≤5	26	30	5	1
>5 - 15	11	8	4	0
>15 - 30	8	21	2	9
>30 - 45	19	38	8	17
>45	10	13	5	7
Total	74	110	24	34
Grand total	184		58	

found dead. The patient died on 25 February 2017. Both new cases have received Tamiflu upon hospital admission.

Since 2014 till date (n=184), the majority of cases were females (59.8%). The death rate was almost similar among male and female cases. Children in the under 5 year age group (30.4%) and those in the age group of more than 30 to 45 years (31%) were most at risk of acquiring the infection. The case-fatality rate was observed to have increased with age. Children in the under 5 year age group had the lowest case-fatality rate (10.7%) while it was the highest among those in the age group of more than 45 years (52.2%) (*Please see the table*). An analysis of outcome of patients by time interval show that there is significant variation in the death rate between those who received antiviral treatment within 48 hours of onset of symptoms compared to those who received it after 48 hours (17% versus 34%). This necessitates the need to start early treatment with antivirals for any suspected case.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; Cholera in Somalia; Cholera in Yemen; Chikungunya in Pakistan.

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian Influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [358 (122), 34.08%]
Egypt (A/H9N2) [3 (0)]

Chikungunya: 2016-2017

Pakistan [822 (0)]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2017

Saudi Arabia [1,570 (634), 40.4%]

Cholera: 2016-2017

Somalia [28,745 (850), 3%]

Yemen [23,506 (108), 0.5%]

Rift Valley Fever: 2016-2017

Niger [266 (32), 12%]

Avian Influenza A (H7N9): 2013-2017

China [1,320 (492), 37.3%]

Yellow fever

Brazil [1,336 (215), 16%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014-2017

Pakistan [382 (0)]

Afghanistan [63 (0)]

Zika Virus Infection: 2015-2017

84 countries and territories have reported transmission so far.