

MiFluFocus
January 5, 2006
Weekly Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Disease Surveillance System: As expected, reported flu-like illness levels for the last week of the year were very low because schools were closed for the holiday break and are, therefore, not a reliable indicator of flu activity. Future reports will be more reflective of illness activity.

Emergency Department Surveillance: The upward trend in emergency department visits due to respiratory complaints has continued from the previous week. The number of respiratory visits now looks to be slightly higher than the peak reported in late October and is comparable to the same period from last year. After the dramatic jump reported last week, emergency department visits due to constitutional complaints have stabilized at this higher level. The level is very slightly below that seen from this period last year. Over the past week, no statewide alerts were generated for reported levels of respiratory or constitutional emergency department visits.

Over-the-Counter Product Surveillance: Over the past week, there has been a slight decrease in sales of most flu-related over-the-counter products, including antifever, adult and pediatric cold relief, and cough/cold medications and nasal products. Electrolyte and thermometer sales look relatively constant and chest rub sales looks slightly increased. While chest rub, adult cold relief medication, and electrolyte sales are slightly decreased over the same period last year, the remaining indicators are comparable or slightly increased.

NOTE: The stabilization or decrease in surveillance indicators (except for respiratory visits) may reflect lower levels of illness activity due to a temporary change in social dynamics, such as the closing of schools and workplaces over the holidays. Estimates drawn from these indicators may, therefore, be somewhat unstable. Future reports should clarify whether or not this is indeed the case.

Sentinel Surveillance (as of January 5, 2006): Influenza sentinel providers across the state are reporting 0.6% of office visits are due to influenza-like illness (ILI) for the week ending December 30, 2005. This represents continued low-level activity overall. Sentinel laboratories are reporting a few positive tests across the state.

Community or Facility-Based Outbreaks (as of January 5, 2006): None reported.

MDCH Laboratory Surveillance (as of January, 2006): There have been 8 total influenza cases confirmed at MDCH Laboratories this season, 6 previously, none this week. All are H3N2.

National: During week 51 (**December 18 - December 24, 2005**), influenza activity continued to increase in the western United States. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was above the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the baseline level. Four states reported widespread influenza activity; 4 states reported regional influenza activity; 5 states reported local influenza activity; 31 states, New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity; and 5 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity

International Activity (WHO, December 22-has not been updated since): Overall influenza activity remained low during Week 49. Several countries in the Northern Hemisphere are reporting a slight increase in activity.

MDCH reported **SPORADIC** activity to the CDC for this past week ending **12/30/2005**.

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Avian H5N1 Influenza Update

WHO Pandemic Phase (December 22, 2005): 3

Table 1. H5N1 influenza-avian: (January 3, 2006) Avian/poultry outbreaks have occurred in multiple countries, recently have arisen in Ukraine and Turkey.
(Source: downloaded 1/05/06, http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN_INFLUENZA/graph_HPAI)

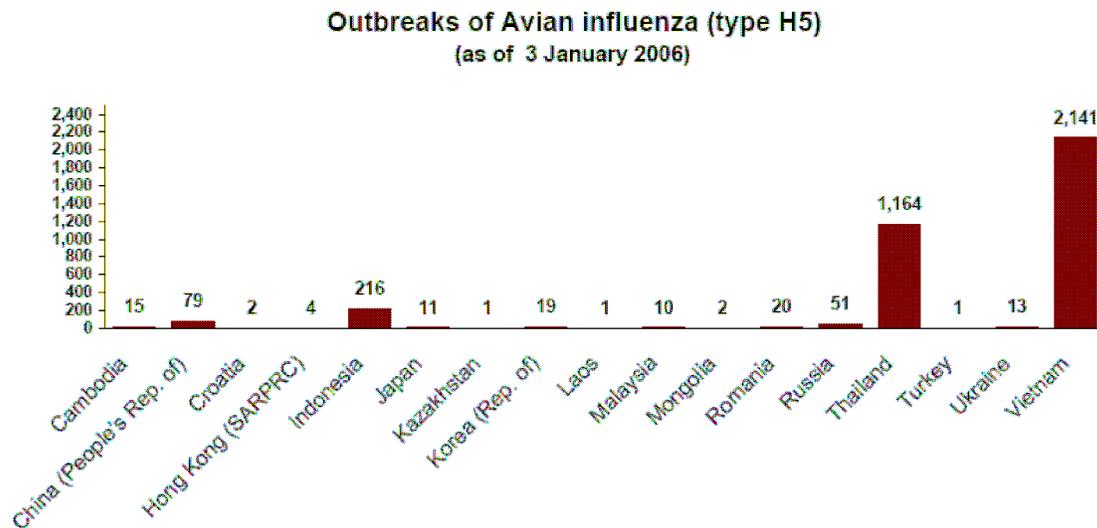


Table 2. H5N1 influenza-human: (January 5, 2006, WHO)** A total of 144 lab-confirmed cases of human H5N1 from 6 countries have been documented, with Turkey reporting 2 H5 (N pending) fatalities today, and several suspect cases awaiting further testing results.**
Total number of cases includes number of deaths.
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.

(Source: Downloaded 1/05/06 http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases)

Date of onset	Cambodia		China		Indonesia		Thailand		Turkey		Viet Nam		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12	0	0	29	20	46	32
2005	4	4	7	3	16	11	5	2	2	2	61	19	95	41
Total	4	4	7	3	16	11	22	14	2**	2	93	42	144	76

** WHO is also testing- these appear to be the first human cases outside of SE Asia