

MiFluFocus
January 12, 2006
Weekly Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Disease Surveillance System: Flu-like illness activity for the first week of 2006, as reported to MDSS, is similar to the level reported for the same period last year. However, this level is considerably lower than reports received from December. Although flu-like illness activity may actually be lower (see below), this report may also be unstable due to continued school closings for the holiday break. Future reports will be more reflective of illness activity.

Emergency Department Surveillance: The upward trend in emergency department visits due to respiratory complaints that was seen throughout December seems to have stopped, as the level has dropped a bit from last week's surveillance report. The number of respiratory visits now looks to be roughly the same as that seen, most recently, in early December and is decreased compared to this period last year. Similarly, emergency department visits due to constitutional complaints have also decreased recently. Although still higher than earlier in the flu season, this level is decreased when compared to 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: Consistent with the above indicators, sales of all flu-related over-the-counter products have demonstrated decreased activity over the past week. With the exception of nasal products, which appear only slightly increased, sales of products appear at or below levels seen from last year at this time.

As with last week, a decrease in activity from mid-December levels 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 influenza trends.

Sentinel Surveillance (as of January 12, 2006): Influenza sentinel providers across the state are reporting 0.7% of office visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) for the week ending January 7, 2006. This represents continued low-level activity overall. Sentinel laboratories are reporting sustained levels of positive tests similar to last week, including 1 influenza B.

Community or Facility-Based Outbreaks (as of January 12, 2006): None reported.

MDCH Laboratory Surveillance (as of January 12, 2006): There have been 12 total influenza cases confirmed at MDCH Laboratories this season, 10 influenza A-H3N2, 1 H3N pending, and the first influenza B of this season has been confirmed at the MDCH laboratories.

National: During week 52 (**December 25 - December 31, 2005**), influenza activity continued to increase in the 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. Seven states reported widespread influenza activity; 3 states reported regional influenza activity; 9 states and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity; 27 states, and New York City reported sporadic influenza activity; and 2 states 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 1/7/2006.

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Avian H5N1 Influenza Update

WHO Pandemic Phase: Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread.

PHASE 3

Table 1. H5N1 influenza-avian: (January 05, 2006) Avian/poultry outbreaks are occurring in multiple countries, this is a cumulative OIE report from 2004-present.

(Source: downloaded 1/13/06,

<http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/graph%20HPAI%2005012006.pdf>)

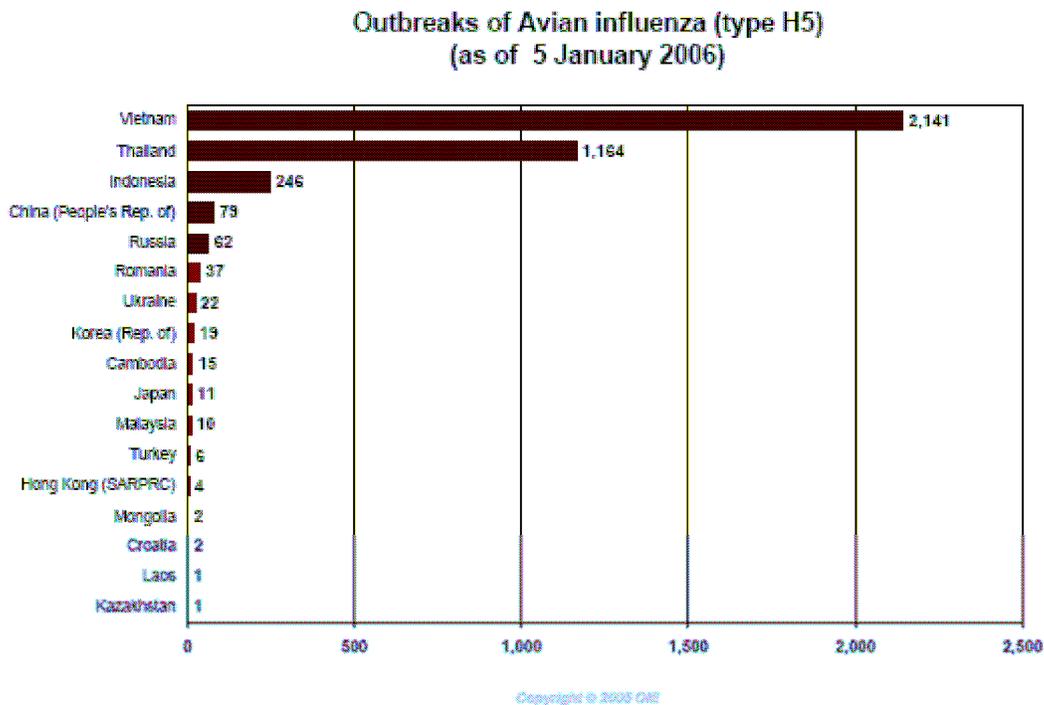


Table 2. H5N1 influenza-human: (January 10, 2006) A total of 147 lab-confirmed cases of human H5N1 from 6 countries being reported by WHO.

(Source: Downloaded 1/13/06 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	8	5	16	11	5	2	0	0	61	19	94	41
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	4	2
Total	4	4	8	5	16	11	22	14	4	2	93	42	147	78

Total number of cases includes number of deaths.
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.