

# **Pandemic Planning Update VII**

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# A Message from Michigan Department of Community Health

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The World Health Organization pandemic influenza alert phase remains at a 3: *No or very limited human-to-human transmission*. There are no new clusters of human cases. The threat from avian influenza A (H5N1) of becoming a pandemic influenza is possible as the virus continues to circulate internationally in poultry, wild birds and humans.

<b>Inter – pandemic phase</b> New virus in animals, no human cases	Low risk of human cases	1
	Higher risk of human cases	2
<b>Pandemic Alert</b> New virus causes human cases	No or very limited human-to-human transmission	3
	Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	4
	Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	5
<b>Pandemic</b>	Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission	6

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/phase/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html)

In the past three months, Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Egypt continued to report human cases of H5N1 avian influenza. In addition, Myanmar and Pakistan reported their first human cases of H5N1. Uncertainty remains regarding whether highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) strain will mutate into the next pandemic strain. It is also unknown when a pandemic may occur. Research continues on the virus, development of a vaccine and expediting the manufacturing of influenza vaccines.

On January 22, the World Health Organization announced an Influenza Virus Tracking System that makes available information on A(H5N1) influenza specimens and viruses shared through the Global Influenza Surveillance Network. The tracking system is available at [http://www.who.int/fluvirus\\_tracker](http://www.who.int/fluvirus_tracker).

# Monitoring and Surveillance

## Global Status

Since our last update (October 31, 2007), there have been an additional 24 human cases and 20 fatalities. As of January 31, 2008, there are 357 confirmed human cases of avian influenza H5N1 in 14 countries, with 224 deaths in 12 countries since 2003.

In December 2007, a cluster of suspected H5N1 human cases was investigated in Pakistan by WHO; this cluster was associated with culling activities surrounding an H5N1 outbreak in poultry. Only one positive case was identified, but an instance of very limited human-to-human transmission could not be completely ruled out. However, WHO concluded that there was no sustained human-to-human transmission, and that the virus did not have any mutations that would confer increased transmissibility.

Poultry outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 continue to occur with recent outbreaks in Bangladesh, Benin, China, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. For up-to-date reports feel free to visit the World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](#)) website on avian influenza.

Despite recent spikes in H5N1 avian influenza activity in humans and birds, there have been fewer bird outbreaks in fewer countries in 2007 than in 2006, according to a preliminary report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As of Dec 10, 30 countries had reported H5N1 cases in birds, compared with 54 in 2006, the FAO reported. This year five countries have reported their first outbreaks: Bangladesh, Benin, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, and Togo. Except for sporadic outbreaks in wild birds, most of the H5N1 cases occurred in domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and quail.

The H5N1 outbreaks seemed to follow a seasonal pattern, in line with evidence that cooler temperatures are more favorable to influenza viruses. The FAO said outbreak numbers in 2007 were high between January and April, declined until September, and then started rising again in November and December.

The report is located at <http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//237149/ah693e.pdf>

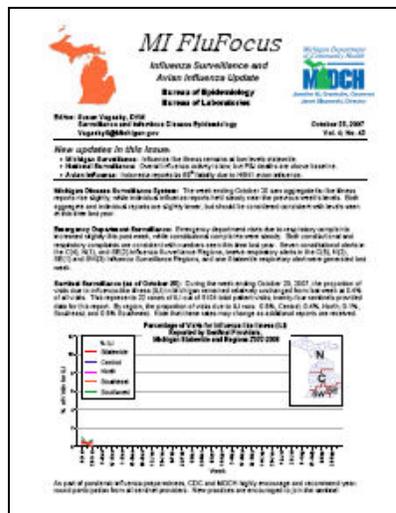
## National Status

Wild bird surveillance for the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 is ongoing. Testing for the 2007 season began in April and will conclude in March 2008. As

of January 31, approximately 82,000 samples have been collected with no highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 cases identified. You can monitor results of the ongoing surveillance at <http://wildlifedisease.nhii.gov/ai/>

Monitoring for cases of H5N1 in humans and domestic poultry are conducted by CDC and USDA/poultry industry respectively.

## Michigan Status



As part of the National Avian Influenza Surveillance effort, wild bird testing in Michigan is ongoing, with approximately 1900 samples tested this season. As part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, commercial flocks in Michigan continue to test birds for avian influenza prior to shipment.

Human influenza surveillance is being conducted year-round by MDCH. Several tools are used to monitor influenza: Sentinel Physicians, Sentinel Laboratories, Syndromic reports and individual reports into the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). Weekly reports on influenza are reported in MI-FluFocus and can be found at [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

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## MDCH Preparedness Activities November 2007 to January 2008 Collaboration and Planning

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- MDCH, in collaboration with college and university representatives from around the state, coordinated a **College and University Pandemic Planning Webinar**, which took place on November 28. The webinar is available for viewing at <http://www.mphi.org/webcasts.aspx>
- The Michigan Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee (PICC), consisting of representatives from state agencies, is working on a coordinated response to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. The group has developed the **PICC Annual Report 2006-2007** that was presented by the MDCH Director, Janet Olszewski to the Governor and cabinet members on February 5, 2008. This report contains a list of challenges and recommendations that have been identified by the subcommittees and working groups regarding pandemic influenza preparedness issues at the State level. A copy of this report has been forwarded to every Local Health Officer in the state. The PICC and its sub-committees will continue to meet in 2007-2008.

- The PICC Steering Group asked each state agency to submit **Emergency Action Guidelines** (EAGs) for pandemic influenza. These EAGs are dependent on the World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic influenza alert phases, and outline the agency's operational activities for each WHO Phase. The EAGs will be incorporated into the Michigan Emergency Management Plan in 2008.
- MDCH continues to participate in **Regional State Partners teleconference calls** to pandemic coordinators from surrounding states and Ontario, Canada. These quarterly meetings allow for sharing of planning and preparedness ideas across state and/or international borders.
- MDCH is developing four 10 to 20 minute **video vignettes** on influenza that will be available on the [michigan.gov/flu](http://michigan.gov/flu) website in late March. The four videos cover; Influenza 101, Seasonal Influenza, Avian Influenza, and Pandemic Influenza.
- MDCH, MI-OSHA and Office of the State Employer are developing guidance for **pandemic influenza protection in the state workplace**. The group has been working on this for the past year and hopes to have a product for use by state employees and their human resource departments in early 2008.