

# **Pandemic Planning Update VI**

**October 31, 2007**

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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	
<b>Pandemic Alert</b> New virus causes human cases		
	transmission	
	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)

Human cases are still being seen in southeast Asia. In the past three months, Indonesia continues to report cases and Vietnam updated their case count, based on amended WHO criteria for a positive case, to 100 with 46 fatalities. 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.

An article published in *Lancet* (2007); 370: 580-89 by Leroux-Roels, et al demonstrates advancements in research regarding influenza. The paper is titled ***Antigen sparing and cross-reactive immunity with an adjuvanted rH5N1 prototype pandemic influenza vaccine: a randomized controlled trial***. In this study the immune responses to an adjuvanted vaccine with 3.8µg antigen met or exceeded all US Food and Drug Administration and European Union licensure criteria against the homologous vaccine strain (A/Vietnam/1194/2004, clade 1). Furthermore, 77% of participants receiving 3.8µg of the adjuvanted vaccine seroconverted for neutralizing antibodies against a strain derived from a drifted H5N1 isolate (A/Indonesia/5/2005, clade 2). The authors interpret these findings to suggest that this vaccine could be deployed for immunization before a pandemic.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a draft of the **pandemic influenza vaccine distribution plan** and is seeking public comment until December 31, 2007. The draft can be found at [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov)

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of **FluMist**, an intranasal vaccine, for persons 2 years to 49 years of age. Previously, it was only approved for use in 5 to 49 year old persons.

CDC has released its biennial revision of the "**Yellow Book**," a health guide for international travel. The yellow-covered book, officially titled "CDC Health Information for International Travel 2007-2008," is available online at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/ybToc.aspx> with specific Avian Flu guidance at [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu/index.htm)

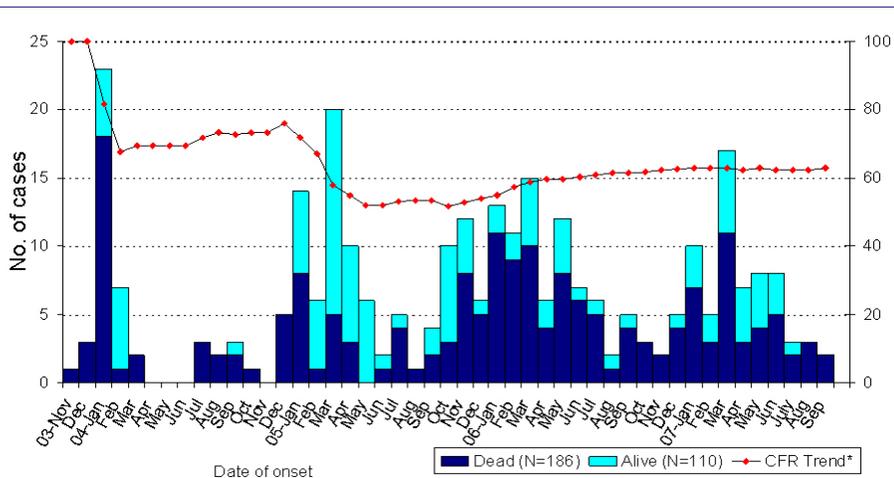
The [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov) website has added additional **planning checklists** for law enforcement and correctional facilities. Other planning checklists found at this website include: family and individual, community organizations, schools, healthcare, and workplace.

## Monitoring and Surveillance

### Global Status

Since our last update (July 31, 2007), there have been an additional 14 human cases and 12 fatalities. As of October 31, 2007, there are 333 confirmed human cases of avian influenza H5N1 in 12 countries, with 204 deaths in 11 countries since 2003.

**Human Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Cases by Onset Date and Outcome**  
(as of 2 October 2007)



As of 2 October 2007, total of 329 cases were reported officially to WHO.  
2 asymptomatic cases in Viet Nam were excluded.  
9 cases in Egypt, 8 cases in Indonesia, 1 case in Iraq and 1 case in Nigeria were excluded.

[http://www.wpro.who.int/health\\_topics/avian\\_influenza/data.htm](http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/avian_influenza/data.htm)

Poultry outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 continue to occur with recent outbreaks in: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia and Vietnam. For up-to-date reports feel free to visit the World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](http://www.oie.org)) website on avian influenza.

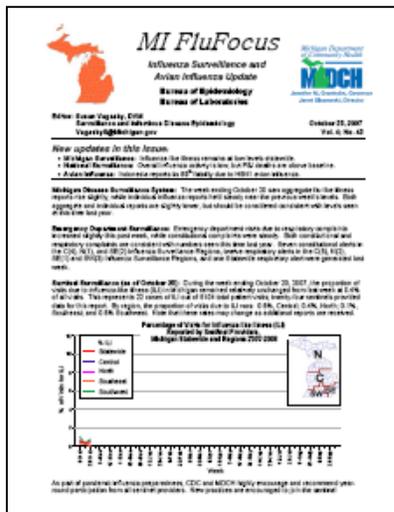
## National Status

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. To date over 44000 samples have been collected with no highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 cases identified. You can monitor results of the ongoing surveillance at <http://wildlifedisease.nbio.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 900 samples tested this year. 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 August thru October 2007 Collaboration and Planning

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- The Public Health and School Workgroup, consisting of State and Local representatives released the updated “**Pandemic Flu Workbook for Schools**” on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators meeting. This tool can be found at [mdch.train.org/panflu/education](http://mdch.train.org/panflu/education) or [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

- 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** that will be going to the governor and cabinet members. 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. 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 phase, and outline the agency's operational activities for each WHO Phase. The EAGs will be incorporated into the Michigan Emergency Management Plan.
- 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 hosted four **regional avian influenza tabletop exercises** in Gaylord, Escanaba, Grand Rapids and Livonia during September and October. Attendees were from local health departments, emergency management, hospitals, private companies and regional office staff for Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Approximately 200 people attended the regional exercises.
- MDCH is developing four 10 to 20 minute **video vignettes** on influenza that will be available on the michigan.gov/flu website in late November. The four videos cover; Influenza 101, Seasonal Influenza, Avian Influenza, and Pandemic Influenza.
- MDCH participated in the **CDC Pandemic Influenza Exercise** in August 2007. This exercise focused on CDC's ability to deal with the surge in resources required for response to a pandemic. Michigan's role was to participate in the response cell with regards to influenza activities occurring in Michigan. The exercise lasted 48 hours, with activities conducted for the whole period.
- MDCH, MI-OSHA and Office of the State Employer are developing guidance for **pandemic influenza protection in the workplace**. The group has been working on this for the past three months and hopes to have a product for use by state employees and their human resource departments in early 2008.