

Avian influenza



Cases of Avian influenza in people

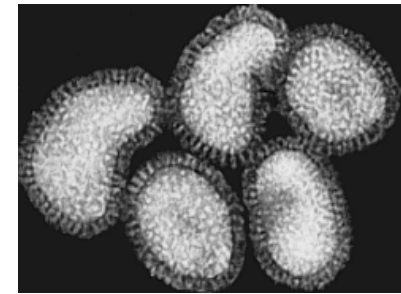
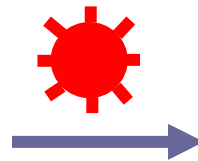
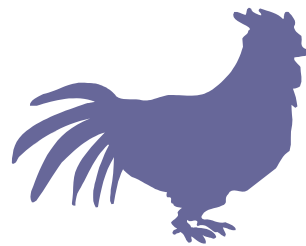
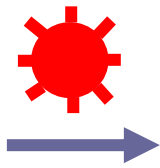
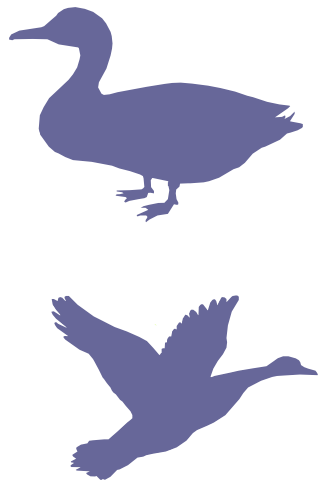
Year	Strain	Country	Number of confirmed human cases	Number of confirmed human deaths
1997	A/H5N1	Hong Kong	18	6
1999	A/H9N2	Hong Kong	2	0
2003	A/H5N1	Hong Kong	2	1
2003	A/H7N3	Canada	2	0
2003	A/H7N7	Netherlands	84	1
2003	A/H9N2	Hong Kong	1	0
2003-2005	A/H5N1	Viet Nam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand	116	60

Data up to end September 2005

Avian influenza from birds to humans

**Migratory
water birds**

Domestic birds



- Hong Kong 1997, H5N1
- HK, China 1999, H9N2
- Netherlands 2003, H7N7
- Hong Kong 2003, H5N1
- Viet Nam and Thailand, 2004 H5N1



Avian influenza

- Highly pathogenic avian flu (A/H5N1) currently circulating in poultry in Asia
- Strain of Avian flu has shown ability to transmit from poultry to people
- Fear that humans infected with Avian flu could also be infected with 'ordinary' flu
- Exchange of genes could lead to emergence of a potentially pandemic strain



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Alternatively

- Avian flu strain could evolve into a potentially pandemic strain with greater affinity for people and acquire ability to pass easily from person to person



The world has changed

- Global population in 18th century was <1 billion vs. 6 billion today
- Intercontinental travel is in hours rather than months and in millions rather than hundreds
- Human crowding has increased
- Population health has improved
- Animal husbandry has changed
- Interdependence has increased



Opportunities for virus emergence and spread

- Modern pig and poultry production create conditions for mass animal influenza outbreaks
- Proximity of humans and animals in many markets create potential for virus recombination
- Human crowding and travel present opportunities for virus spread



Warning signs

- Experts from WHO believe signs of another pandemic are increasing:
 - Continued outbreaks of Avian H5N1 infection in poultry in Southeast Asia
 - Linked to human cases of Avian H5N1 flu
 - Raised concern virus may be adapting to infect people more readily

