

H7N9 situation update

FAO / EMPRES – Animal Health
24 May 2013 17:30 Rome



Overview

Situation: avian influenza A(H7N9) virus with pandemic potential

Country: People's Republic of China

Number of human cases: 131 confirmed; 36 deaths

Provinces/municipalities: Beijing and Shanghai; Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong (confirmed poultry), Henan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Zhejiang and Taiwan Province of China

Findings in animals: H7N9 confirmed in pigeons, chickens, ducks and environmental samples: 53 positive samples mainly from LBM/vendors

FAO actions: liaise with China and partners, monitor situation, explore and assess virus characteristics, conduct market chain analysis, risk assessment, surveillance guidance and communication.

Situation update

Animals

- Jiangxi province authorities **lifted the emergency response level 4**.

Humans

- Total: 131 cases (36 deaths)
- No new human cases have been reported since one week
- Geographic breakdown (deaths in parentheses):

○ Anhui	4 (2)	○ Jiangsu	27 (8)
○ Henan	4 (1)	○ Shandong	2 (0)
○ Hunan	2 (1)	○ Taiwan Province of China	1 (0)
○ Beijing	1 (+ 1 asymptomatic) (0)	○ Jiangxi	6 (1)
○ Zhejiang	46 (9)	○ Fujian	5 (0)
○ Shanghai	33 (14)		
- **National Health and Family Planning Commission** announced the results of a **public opinion survey** on the measures taken to target communication. Television is most popular for aged people while websites and twitters have been useful for the younger population who was more actively searching for information.

Diagnosis and virus characteristics

- A study published in *Science* indicates that **ferrets** (used as the animal model for human infection/disease) show relatively mild clinical signs but **shed at high titers** for 6 to 7 days. Transmission studies show that the virus is **transmitted via direct contact between ferrets** and to lower extent in case of airborne exposure. Experimentally infected **pigs shed virus** for 6 days but did not transmit the virus between them. Both **ferrets and pigs started shedding the virus before the onset of [mild respiratory] clinical signs**.
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2013/05/22/science.1239844.abstract?sid=c8ac8c51-9e72-4a31-ba3f-5a84c8836de2>
- **2 isolates** from Nanjing (Jiangsu Province) were posted on **GenBank** (1 environmental, 1 human)

FAO actions

- On 26 April FAO called for USD 35 million to support the new global framework on H7N9.
- On 26 April FAO made public its new web portal on H7N9: www.fao.org/h7n9
- ECTAD China is working closely with Chinese health authorities and WHO on assessing this event.

- FAO's risk management guidelines are available on <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/aq241e/aq241e.pdf>
- FAO Viet Nam is organising a risk modelling meeting for avian influenza including H7N9 next week.
- Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Myanmar are scaling up surveillance efforts and will be collecting additional samples in the framework of the USAID-funded FAO Project "Emergency Surveillance response to Avian Influenza A (H7N9) in China and High Risk Countries".

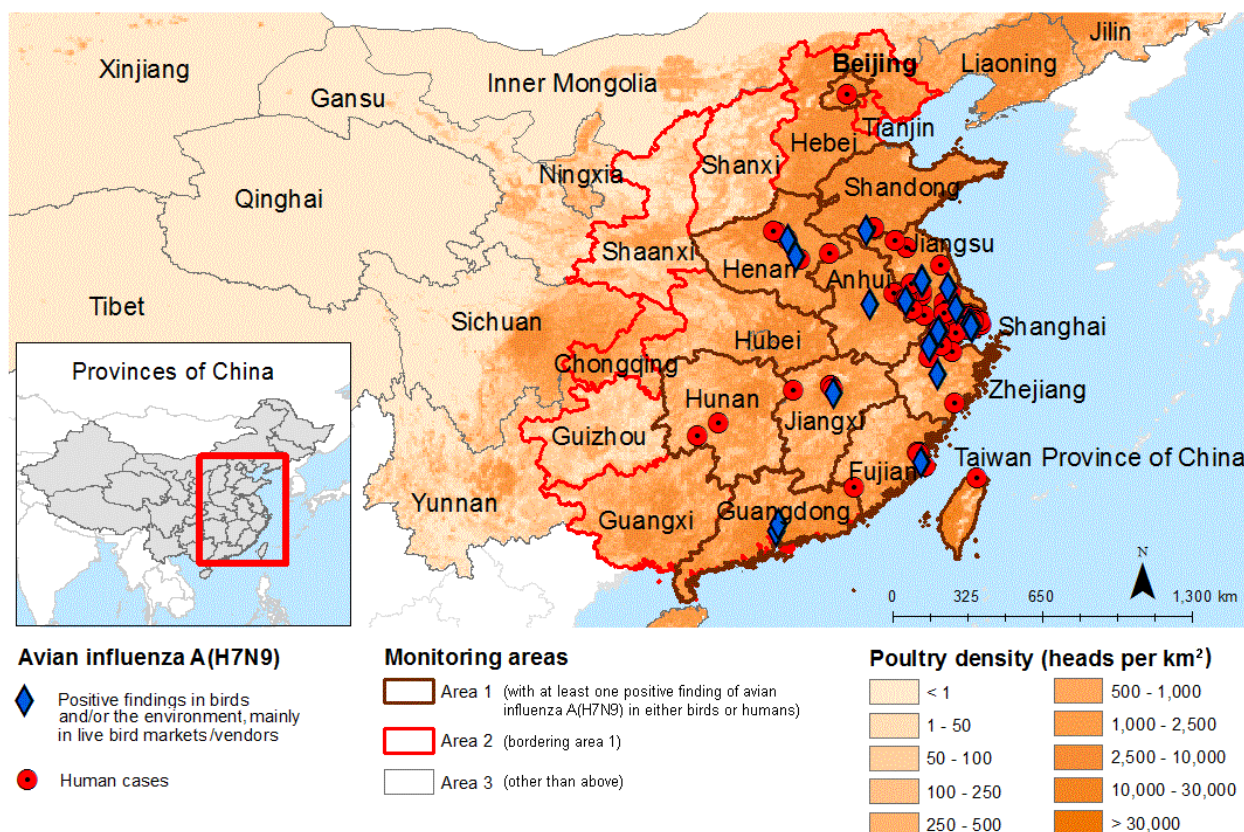
Important links

- Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China: www.moa.gov.cn/zwllm/yjgl/yqfb/
- Ministry of Forestry of the People's Republic of China: www.forestry.gov.cn
- FAO press release: www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/173655/icode/
- FAO Frequently Asked Questions: www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/173704/icode/
- FAO/EMPRES Animal Health News: www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/news.htm
- FAO/OIE network of expertise on animal influenza: www.offlu.net
- WHO disease outbreak news: www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2013/en/index.html
- World Animal Health Information Database: www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu/
- Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data: www.gisaid.org
- NCBI Influenza Virus Resource database: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/FLU/>

Map



Avian influenza A(H7N9) human cases and positive findings in birds and the environment, mainly in live bird markets / vendors



Source: poultry density data from Wint and Robinson (2007); administrative boundary from GAUL (2008)

20 May 2013