



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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First alert: 13 January 2025 | **Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Cambodia**

Sub-Locations Affected

Chamkar Leu District, Kampong Cham
Province

Event Description

On January 10, 2025, the Cambodian Ministry of Health confirmed the first human fatality of the year attributed to the H5N1 influenza virus in the southeastern province of Kampong Cham.



Source: https://www.freepik.com/free-ai-image/chicken-farm-scene-with-poultry-people_187447747.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=0&uuid=b4991622-99d5-448d-86c7-0adc52b2596b

Epidemiological Information

- On January 9, 2025, a 28-year-old male from Chamkar Andong Commune in the Chamkar Leu District of Kampong Cham Province was confirmed to be infected with the influenza A(H5N1) virus.
- The patient exhibited severe symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing, and tragically passed away on January 10, 2025.
- Epidemiological investigations revealed that he had a recent history of exposure to sick and deceased backyard poultry, a known risk factor for H5N1 transmission.
- In 2024, Cambodia reported a total of ten human cases of H5N1 influenza, resulting in two deaths, both involving children. All cases were linked to known exposure to sick or dead poultry before symptoms appeared, highlighting the ongoing risk posed by avian influenza in the region.

- Historically, H5N1 cases in Cambodia have involved viruses from clade 2.3.2.1c, which is endemic to Southeast Asia. Recent genomic studies indicate that since October 2023, a novel genotype resulting from reassortment with clade 2.3.4.4b has emerged and is now prevalent among poultry populations. This new genotype has been responsible for most human cases reported in Cambodia since February 2023. Genetic sequencing for this latest case is currently pending and will provide further insights into the viral characteristics involved.

Response Measure

In response to the avian influenza A(H5N1) outbreak in Cambodia, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with local and national authorities, has mobilized rapid response teams to investigate the situation and identify sources of infection in both humans and animals. Close contacts of confirmed cases are being monitored and treated with antiviral medication (oseltamivir). Health education campaigns are being conducted in affected communities to raise awareness about the risks associated with avian influenza and promote preventive measures. Additionally, stamping-out strategies are being implemented, which include culling infected poultry and enforcing cleaning and disinfection protocols.

Sources:

1. BlueDot (Event Alert), issued on January 11, 2025.
2. Ministry of Health Cambodia. (n.d.). *Notice on the first human case of influenza A (H5N1) in 2025*. Retrieved January 13, 2025, from <https://moh.gov.kh/en/notice/detail/3>
3. World Health Organization. (2024, September 2). *Disease outbreak news: Avian influenza A (H5N1) in Cambodia*. Retrieved January 13, 2025, from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2024-DON533>
4. Liu, Y., Wu, Z., Chen, Y., Li, X., & Zhang, J. (2024). *Resurgence of human A/H5N1 infections in Cambodia between February 2023 and August 2024*. medRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.04.24313747v1>