



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT



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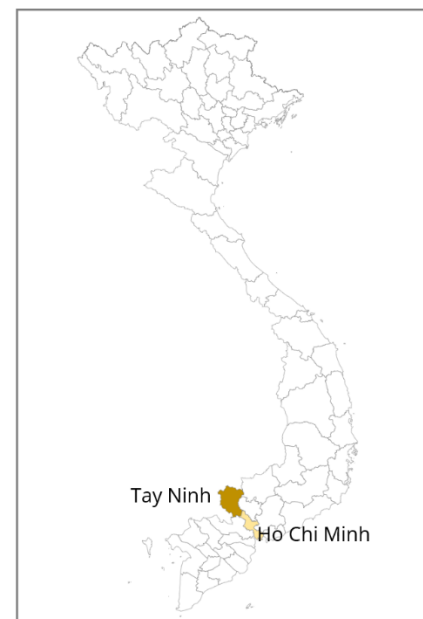
First alert: April 21, 2025 | **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Viet Nam**

Sub-Locations Affected

Tay Ninh Province (Ben Cau District)

Event Description

On April 18, 2025, the Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Department of Health submitted a rapid report to the Ministry of Health regarding a pediatric case of encephalitis attributed to avian influenza (H5N1). The patient, an eight-year-old girl, is currently undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital 1. Laboratory analysis detected the presence of the H5N1 virus in cerebrospinal fluid samples.



Map of sub-locations affected

Epidemiological Information

- On April 11, 2025, an eight-year-old girl from Ben Cau District, Tay Ninh Province, developed symptoms including fever, headache, and vomiting. The symptoms later progressed to confusion and drowsiness. She was initially admitted to the Tay Ninh Provincial Hospital, where she was treated for two days, but her condition did not improve.

- On April 13, 2025, the patient was transferred to Children's Hospital 1 in Ho Chi Minh City and diagnosed with meningitis. However, upon admission, clinical examination revealed that the patient was drowsy, had slurred speech, and had a slight stiff neck. Therefore, the patient was diagnosed with encephalitis. The hospital then collected cerebrospinal fluid and respiratory samples and sent them to the laboratory department of the Tropical Diseases Hospital.
- On April 17, 2025, the laboratory department of the Tropical Diseases Hospital confirmed the PCR test result of cerebrospinal fluid was positive for avian influenza A(H5N1), while the PCR test of respiratory specimens was negative for the virus.
- On April 18, 2025, the Pasteur Institute (Ho Chi Minh City) confirmed positive results for avian influenza A(H5N1) virus in cerebrospinal fluid samples and negative results in nasopharyngeal swab samples.
- The patient is currently in isolation in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Infectious Resuscitation Unit of Children's Hospital 1, receiving ventilatory support. Her vital signs remain stable and there is no evidence of respiratory compromise. The patient has a history of congenital heart disease (ventricular septal defect) and underwent surgery at two months of age.

Response Measure

- The Department of Health has instructed the HCMC Center for Disease Control (CDC) to coordinate with Children's Hospital 1 and the Tay Ninh Provincial CDC to investigate and implement outbreak response measures following established protocols. Preliminary investigations indicate prior exposure to poultry that had recently died in large numbers at her grandmother's home. Eleven people who had close contact with the child at home are in stable health.
- The Ministry of Health advises against eating sick or dead poultry or poultry products of unknown origin, and advises people to eat cooked food and drink boiled water. People are advised to wash their hands before eating and to avoid slaughtering, transporting or buying poultry or poultry products of unknown origin.

- Residents are advised to contact local authorities and veterinarians immediately if they find sick or dead animals, to limit contact with wildlife, especially birds, and to seek medical attention for flu symptoms associated with poultry.

Sources:

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3. VnExpress (2025, April 18) *Girl with encephalitis due to H5N1 flu infection after contact with dead chicken*, VnExpress. Retrieved April 21, 2025 from <https://vnexpress.net/be-gai-viem-nao-do-nhiem-cum-h5n1-sau-tiep-xuc-ga-chet-4875878.html>
4. VietNamNet (2025, April 19) *Avian flu virus A/H5N1 causes rare brain infection in 7-year-old girl*, VietNamNet. Retrieved April 21, 2025 from <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/avian-flu-virus-a-h5n1-causes-rare-brain-infection-in-7-year-old-girl-2392949.html>
5. FluTrackers (2025, April 18) *Vietnam: 8-year-old child suffered from encephalitis due to H5N1 avian influenza virus (Ho Chi Minh City DOH), Tay Ninh province – April 18, 2025*, FluTrackers. Retrieved April 21, 2025 from <https://flutrackers.com/forum/forum/asia/h5n1-h5n8-h1n08-tracking/vietnam-aa/1011898-vietnam-8-year-old-child-suffered-from-encephalitis-due-to-h5n1-avian-influenza-virus-ho-chi-minh-city-doh-tay-ninh-province-april-18-2025>

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