



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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First alert: December 6, 2024 | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A H5N1 in Viet Nam

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Tan An (Long An Province)



Source: <https://www.pomegaconnections.com/how-avian-influenza-crosses-species/>

Event Description

On December 4, 2024, the Long An Province Center for Disease Control (CDC) in southern Vietnam confirmed the first case of human avian influenza A (H5N1) in the region. The patient, an 18-year-old male from Tan An, initially experienced fever, headache, and muscle pain, which later progressed to respiratory failure, pneumonia, and sepsis. He was transferred to the Ho Chi Minh City Hospital for Tropical Diseases, where he is currently stable. The case was initially reported to authorities on November 14, 2024, and officials are awaiting additional genome sequencing results.

Epidemiological Information

On November 14, Long An Center for Disease Control (CDC) was informed by the Department of Infectious Diseases at Long An General Hospital about a severe pneumonia case suspected to be caused by a virus. After discussing the case with staff from the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, CDC Long An was tasked with collecting samples and sending them for testing. The test results confirmed the presence of the influenza A(H5N1) virus. Subsequently, Long An CDC collaborated with local authorities to investigate the area, where they found that the patient's family had disposed of hundreds of dead poultry without notifying local authorities. The poultry deaths have been linked to avian influenza, and relevant authorities have taken measures to address the situation.

Response Measures

1. Long An Provincial Department of Health has urged poultry farmers to use certified feed, vaccinate poultry according to regulations, and report any unusual poultry deaths immediately.
2. Provincial authorities have been instructed to improve disease surveillance at avian influenza hotspots, border crossings, and healthcare facilities. Event-based surveillance in communities has been prioritized to detect and prevent further cases.
3. Strengthen the early detection and testing of severe pneumonia cases, particularly those with a history of exposure to sick or deceased poultry.
4. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with border quarantine and local authorities, is strengthening border controls to prevent the importation of infected poultry or waterfowl.
5. Public awareness campaigns are being intensified to encourage the prompt reporting of health issues in both poultry and humans.

Sources:

1. **BlueDot** (2024, December 5). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>
2. **CIDRAP** (2024, December 6). Vietnam reports human H5 avian flu case. Available at: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avian-influenza-bird-flu/vietnam-reports-human-h5-avian-flu-case>
3. **FluTrackers** (2024, December 4). Vietnam: Long An detects 1 case of Influenza A (H5N1) infection. Available at: <https://flutrackers.com/forum/forum/asia/h5n1-h5n8-h1n08-tracking/vietnam-aa/1001677-vietnam-long-an-detects-1-case-of-influenza-a-h5n1-infection>
4. **The Cable** (2024, December 5). Mysterious flu-like disease kills 79 in Congo. Available at: <https://www.thecable.ng/mysterious-flu-like-disease-kills-79-in-congo/>