



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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Fourth alert: 08 July 2024 | Update on Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Cambodia

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Takeo (Kiri Vongs)



Event Description

On July 8, 2024, health officials in Cambodia reported a new case of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in Takeo province, located in the southern part of the country. This latest case brings the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections in Cambodia to seven for the year 2024, with one of these cases resulting in death. The situation has been evolving since the previous alert which was issued on February 22, 2024. Health authorities across Cambodia remain vigilant, continuously monitoring and assessing the situation to prevent further spread of the virus.

Case distribution

1. Kratie province (Northeast): 2 cases (including 1 death)
2. Siem Reap province (Northwest): 1 case
3. Prey Veng province (Southeast): 1 case
4. Kampot province (Southwest): 1 case
5. Takeo province (South): 2 cases

Epidemiological Information

- Case details: The affected individual is a five-year-old female from Po village, Kirivong district. The patient is a cousin of the three-year old boy who was the sixth confirmed case. Both children live in the same household. The initial media report did not provide details on the case's symptoms or current condition.
- Potential exposure: The child has a known exposure history to dead poultry via contact and consumption. Ten days prior, dead chickens were found in both the village and at the patient's home. An investigation into the source and any additional cases is currently underway.
- Close Contacts: Anti-viral medications (oseltamivir) have been distributed to close contacts; however, the number of individuals was not mentioned.

Additional Context

- Of the seven confirmed cases in 2024, six have been reported in children (with one death) and one adult. All affected individuals had suspected recent contact with sick or deceased poultry before symptom onset.
- In 2023, six confirmed cases and four deaths were reported nine years after the last outbreak in the country.
- Where genomic data is available, authorities have confirmed that all recent cases belong to the 2.3.2.1c clade known to circulate in bird populations in the country. Genomic sequencing for the most recent confirmed case has not been reported.

Response Measures:

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health, with support from other ministries, is actively investigating the source and spread of the virus. Measures include identifying sources and modes of transmission, conducting extensive testing of poultry samples, and tracing contacts of infected individuals. Health authorities are also enhancing surveillance systems to promptly detect and respond to new cases.

Sources:

1. BlueDot (Event Alert), issued on July 08, 2024.
2. Khmer Times. (2024, July 6). Ministry of Health announces the detection of H5N1 bird flu in a 5-year-old girl in Takeo province. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501519354/ministry-of-health-announces-the-detection-of-h5n1-bird-flu-in-a-5-year-old-girl-in-takeo-province/>
3. The Star. (2024, July 8). Five-year-old girl in Cambodia contracts H5N1 bird flu, 7 cases confirmed so far. <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2024/07/08/five-year-old-girl-in-cambodia-contracts-h5n1-bird-flu-7-cases-confirmed-so-far>
4. Ministry of Health, Cambodia. (2024, July 6). Press Release on Avian Influenza Case in 3-year-old boy. <http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh/878-h5n1-case-050724>