



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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First alert: 28 January 2025 | **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A H5N1 in United Kingdom**

Sub-Locations Affected

West Midlands (England)

Event Description

On January 27, 2025, the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed a human infection of avian influenza A(H5N1) in the West Midlands area of England. This is the first human case of avian influenza in the UK since May 2023, marking the seventh reported case.



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

Epidemiological Information

- The infection occurred on a farm where the individual had extensive interaction with a large number of infected birds.
- The infected person is in good condition and has been placed in a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) unit. Close contacts have been given antiviral medication to reduce transmission risk.
- The birds were found to be infected with the DI.2 genotype, a strain that is currently circulating among birds in the UK this season. This strain differs from those found in mammals and birds in the United States.
- As of now, specific details regarding the exact date of infection and the symptoms experienced by the individual have not been publicly disclosed. The case was identified during routine bird flu monitoring by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) after an H5N1 outbreak in birds, prompting the UKHSA to monitor individuals in close contact with the infected birds.

Response Measure

- All infected birds have been humanely euthanized, and the area will undergo thorough cleaning and disinfection following stringent biosafety protocols.
- The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has established a new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across England. Bird owners, from pet keepers to large-scale farmers, must comply with strict government hygiene regulations.
- As of midnight on January 27, the AIPZ, which enforces heightened biosecurity measures and bird housing, will expand from East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk to include Shropshire, York, and North Yorkshire.
- The Minister for Public Health and Prevention acknowledged that while the likelihood of further transmission is low, the UK is well-equipped to tackle both present and potential health issues. As part of its readiness plan, the H5 vaccine, which provides protection against avian influenza, has recently been included in the national stockpile.

Sources:

1. BlueDot (Event Alert), issued on January 28, 2025.
2. GB News. (2025, January 27). *Bird flu outbreak: First human case of avian influenza confirmed in England*. Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://www.gbnews.com/health/bird-flu-outbreak-first-human-case-of-avian-influenza-confirmed-in-england>
3. The Guardian. (2025, January 27). *Human case of avian flu detected in England as virus spreads among birds*. Retrieved January 28, 2025, from https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/27/human-case-h5n1-avian-bird-flu-england-virus-health-security-aoe?utm_source=chatgpt.com
4. Mirror. (2025, January 27). *Human case of bird flu confirmed in England after nationwide outbreak*. Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/health/breaking-first-human-case-bird-34560439>
5. UK Health Security Agency. (2025, January 27). *Human case of avian flu detected in England*. Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/human-case-of-avian-flu-detected-in-england>