



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT



August 5, 2024 | Issue No. 7

Fifth alert: 05 August 2024 | Update on Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Cambodia

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Svay Rieng (Chantrea)



(Image credit: Illustrated | Gettyimages)

Source: <https://theweek.com/public-health/1020706/why-scientists-are-worried-about-bird-flu>

Event Description

On August 1 and 4, 2024, the Ministry of Health of Cambodia reported two additional human cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in southeast province, located in Svay Rieng. These cases bring the total number of cases in Cambodia to nine for the year 2024, with one of these cases resulting in death.

Case distribution

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

Epidemiological Information of Cases from Svay Rieng Province

- Case details: Two individuals from Svay Rieng province in Cambodia have been affected by a severe respiratory illness. The patients are a 16-year-old female from Chamkar Leav village in Chantrea district and a 4-year-old male from Chhrong Popeal village in Romeas Haek district. Both experienced similar symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The teenage girl also reported a sore throat, while the young boy exhibited fatigue and drowsiness. The female patient is currently in severe condition, while the male patient is recovering. Both are receiving intensive care.
- Potential exposure: Two individuals in Svay Rieng province, Cambodia - a 16-year-old female from Chantrea district and a 4-year-old male from Romeas Haek district - have fallen ill with severe respiratory symptoms following exposure to poultry, with the teenage girl in critical condition and the young boy recovering, both under intensive care; their cases mirror previous incidents, suggesting a potential link between poultry contact and the outbreak of this illness.
- Close Contacts: Health authorities are investigating the source of infection and monitoring suspected cases and contacts. They have distributed anti-viral medications (*oseltamivir*) to close contacts, though the exact number of close contacts or potentially exposed individuals remains unspecified.

Additional Context

- Of the nine confirmed human cases in 2024, eight have been reported in children (with one death) and one in an adult.
- All affected individuals had suspected recent contact with sick or deceased poultry before symptom onset.
- Nationally, the total cases reported in 2024 (nine) is greater than cumulative reports from 2023 (six cases).
- In 2023, Svay Rieng province reported one confirmed human case.
- The pattern of exposure to sick or deceased poultry remains consistent across all reported cases in both years.

Response Measures:

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health, supported by other government ministries, is actively investigating the origin and transmission pathways of the virus. This effort includes identifying sources and methods of spread, conducting extensive testing of poultry samples, and tracing contacts of infected individuals. Health authorities are also strengthening surveillance systems to promptly detect and respond to any new cases that arise.

Sources:

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3. MENAFN. (2024, August 5). 16-Year-Old Cambodian girl tests positive for bird flu. MENAFN. Retrieved August 5, 2024, from <https://menafn.com/1108514420/16-Year-Old-Cambodian-Girl-Tests-Positive-For-Bird-Flu>
4. RYT9. (2024, August 5). Cambodia bird flu outbreak. RYT9. Retrieved August 5, 2024, from <https://www.ryt9.com/s/iq38/3536573>
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6. Cambodian Ministry of Health. (2024, August 2). Retrieved August 5, 2024, from <http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh/885-2024-08-02-01-59-01>