



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT

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ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS

March 16, 2026 | Issue No. 7

First alert : February 16, 2026

Second alert : March 16, 2026 | **Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in Cambodia**

Sub-Locations Affected

Banteay Meanchey (Preah Net Preah District)

Event Description

On March 14, 2026, the National Institute of Public Health confirmed a human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in a 45-year-old woman from Banteay Meanchey Province. This marks the second human H5N1 case reported in Cambodia for 2026. Following the confirmation, the Ministry of Health released an official statement regarding the patient's isolation and the commencement of local emergency response measures.

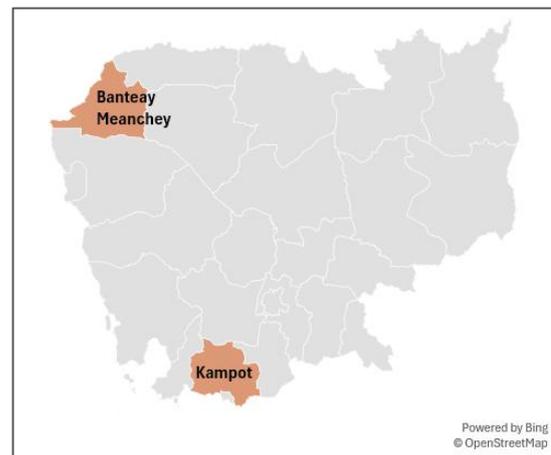


Figure 1. Human Cases of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in 2026 as of March 14

Epidemiological Information

- On March 14, 2026, a human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) was confirmed in a 45-year-old woman residing in Preah Net Preah district, Banteay Meanchey Province. Upon confirmation, she was placed in hospital isolation and is currently receiving treatment with Oseltamivir.
- Investigations indicate the patient raised poultry and had direct contact with dead chickens approximately three days prior to her positive test result. Reports from the area confirm a recent surge of sick and dead chickens and ducks within her village.
- No detailed information was provided on the date of symptom onset, and no additional human cases have been reported.

- Cambodia recorded 18 infections and nine fatalities in 2025, representing a 50% case fatality rate. To date in 2026, two human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) have been confirmed, with no deaths reported thus far.

Response Measures

- The Ministry of Health's emergency response teams from the national and sub-national level are currently collaborating with provincial agriculture departments and local authorities. Together, they are actively investigating the outbreak using established technical protocols. The teams are working to identify the source of transmission in both animals and humans. They are also searching for suspected cases and contacts to prevent further community spread.
- Antiviral medicines are being given to people who have been in close contact with a case to help those at risk. To further protect the community, officials are conducting health education campaign within the affected area.
- The Ministry of Health urges the public to follow preventive measures and remain vigilant against avian influenza A(H5N1). Individuals with fever, cough, runny nose, or breathing issues, especially after contact with sick or dead poultry in the past 14 days, should avoid crowds and seek immediate medical care to prevent serious complications.
- The Ministry of Health continuously provides updates through the Department of Communicable Disease Control's website (www.cdcmoh.gov.kh) and Facebook page.

Recommendations

- The World Health Organization (WHO) advises travelers and residents of countries with known avian influenza outbreaks to avoid contact with poultry farms, live poultry markets, areas where poultry may be slaughtered, and surfaces that appear contaminated with poultry or animal feces. Travelers returning from affected regions should report to local health services if they have respiratory symptoms and suspect a zoonotic influenza virus infection.
- The Ministry of Health of Cambodia underscored the following key preventive measures to reduce the risk of H5N1 infection:
 - a) Avoid contact with sick or dead poultry,
 - b) Use protective measures (gloves and a mask) when handling poultry for food,
 - c) Wash hands frequently, especially before handling food and after contact with poultry or potentially contaminated surfaces,
 - d) Ensure thorough cooking before consumption, and
 - e) Seek medical attention promptly.

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