



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



Korea Disease Control and
Prevention Agency



In partnership with
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ASSOCIATION
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With Support by:

April 1, 2026 | Issue No. 8

First alert : February 16, 2026

Third alert : April 1, 2026 | **Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in Cambodia**

Sub-Locations Affected

Oddar Meanchey (Banteay Ampil District)

Event Description

On March 31, 2026, the National Institute of Public Health confirmed a human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in a 3-year-old boy from Oddar Meanchey Province. This represents Cambodia's third reported human H5N1 case in 2026. After confirmation, the Ministry of Health issued an official statement noting that the patient had been isolated and that local emergency response measures had been initiated.

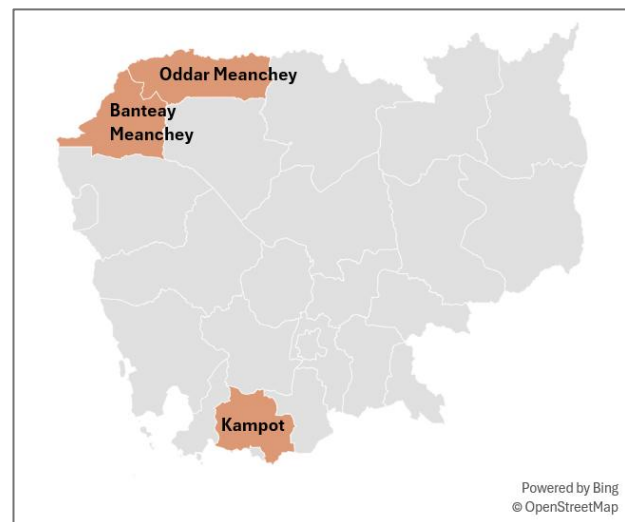


Figure 1. Cases of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in 2026 as of March 31

Epidemiological Information

- On March 29, 2026, the National Institute of Public Health confirmed case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in a three-year-old boy from Banteay Ampil district, Oddar Meanchey Province. The patient has been isolated in hospital and is receiving intensive care.
- Field investigation indicated that the family kept poultry at the household, including some that were ill or had died, and that the child had been in close proximity to these animals.
- In Cambodia, 18 human infections and nine deaths were reported in 2025, corresponding to a case fatality rate of 50%.
- As of 2026, three confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) have been identified, with no fatalities reported to date.

Response Measures

- The Ministry of Health's emergency response teams at national and sub-national levels are working jointly with provincial agriculture departments and local authorities to investigate the outbreak in accordance with established technical protocols. Efforts are focused on identifying the source of transmission in both animals and humans, as well as tracing suspected cases and contacts to limit further community spread.
- Antiviral prophylaxis is being administered to close contacts to reduce infection risk. In parallel, health education campaigns are being implemented in affected areas to strengthen community awareness and prevention.
- The Ministry of Health advises the public to remain vigilant and adhere to preventive measures against avian influenza A(H5N1). Individuals presenting with fever, cough, runny nose, or respiratory symptoms—particularly following exposure to sick or dead poultry within the previous 14 days—are advised to avoid crowded settings and seek prompt medical attention to reduce the risk of severe outcomes.
- Regular updates are disseminated through the Department of Communicable Disease Control's official website and Facebook page.

Recommendations

- The World Health Organization advises both travelers and residents in countries experiencing avian influenza outbreaks to avoid exposure to poultry farms, live bird markets, slaughtering areas, and any surfaces potentially contaminated with poultry or animal feces. Individuals returning from affected areas who develop respiratory symptoms and suspect zoonotic influenza infection are encouraged to promptly report to local health authorities.
- 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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ASEAN Biological Threat Surveillance Centre (ABVC)
Health Policy Agency
Ministry of Health of Indonesia
Building 5 - Global Health Strategy and Governance Policy, 2nd floor
Jalan Percetakan Negara No. 29 Johar Baru, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia 10560