



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



Korea Disease Control and
Prevention Agency



In partnership with
Canada



Kemenkes



ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS

With Support by:

June 18, 2026 | Issue No. 16

First alert : June 18, 2026 | Avian Influenza A(H9N2) in Hong Kong (SAR)

Sub-Locations Affected

Sha Tin District

Event Description

On June 12, 2026, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reported a locally acquired human case of avian influenza A(H9) and launched a joint investigation with relevant departments. The case involved a 2-year-old boy who developed fever and mild diarrhoea and was admitted to Prince of Wales Hospital. Laboratory testing by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch confirmed influenza A(H9), and whole-genome sequencing further identified it as a low-pathogenic avian-origin A(H9N2) strain. The patient remains in stable condition and is in isolation.



Figure 1. Hemorrhagic skin lesions on the head of a chicken associated with avian influenza.

Source: [WOAH](#)

Epidemiological Information

- On June 9, 2026, a two-year-old boy developed fever and mild diarrhoea and was admitted to Prince of Wales Hospital on June 10, where a clinical specimen tested positive for influenza A(H9) by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB); subtyping was pending at the time, and the clinical diagnosis was novel influenza.

- **Epidemiological Investigation:**
 - Preliminary investigations found no travel history during the incubation period. The patient did not attend school or daycare and was cared for at home by family members. The household did not keep poultry
 - In early June 2026, the patient visited Wo Che Market on two occasions with family members. During these visits, he reportedly stayed near a live poultry stall and had contact with surfaces in the vicinity of the stall.
- **Environmental Investigation:** The CHP, in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), collected environmental samples from the market. One sample obtained from a poultry cage tray at the implicated live poultry stall tested positive for the H9 virus. Staff working at the stall remained asymptomatic.
- **Contact Tracing:** Six household contacts were identified and remained asymptomatic. Antiviral prophylaxis was provided, and all contacts were placed under medical surveillance.
- **Risk Assessment:** Current evidence indicates that influenza A(H9) viruses have not acquired the ability to sustain human-to-human transmission. Based on the epidemiological and virological findings, CHP assessed that the recent local case does not alter the current risk level. The risk of an influenza pandemic from local avian influenza remains low, and the Government's response level under the Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic remains at Alert.
- Novel influenza A infection, including influenza A(H9), is a notifiable infectious disease in Hong Kong (SAR). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 160 human infections with influenza A(H9) have been reported globally over the past decade, with most cases presenting with mild illness.

Response Measures

- The CHP is continuing epidemiological investigations to identify the source of infection and is conducting whole-genome sequencing of the virus specimen. The case will be reported to the WHO.
- The CHP is strengthening surveillance and has reminded healthcare professionals to remain vigilant and report suspected cases of influenza A(H9).
- The PHLSB of CHP maintains laboratory capacity for the detection and genetic analysis of high-risk pathogens, supported by appropriate biosafety standards and testing facilities.
- Hong Kong (SAR) maintains preparedness measures, including disease surveillance systems, avian influenza control measures at farms, markets, and ports, and antiviral medication stockpiles.

Recommendations

- The World Health Organization advises travellers and residents in countries experiencing avian influenza outbreaks to avoid exposure to poultry farms, live bird markets, slaughtering areas, and surfaces that may be contaminated with poultry or animal secretions and faeces. Individuals returning from affected areas who develop respiratory symptoms and suspect zoonotic influenza infection are advised to seek medical attention promptly and inform healthcare providers of their exposure or travel history.
- CHP advises the public to take the following preventive measures to reduce the risk of avian influenza infection:
 - a) Avoid contact with poultry, birds, and their droppings. If contact occurs, perform hand hygiene immediately with soap and water;
 - b) Maintain good hand hygiene, particularly before touching the mouth, nose, or eyes, after contact with animals or their environments, and after contact with potentially contaminated surfaces;
 - c) Ensure that poultry and eggs are thoroughly cooked before consumption;
 - d) Cover the mouth and nose with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, dispose of used tissues properly, and wash hands afterwards;
 - e) Individuals with respiratory symptoms should wear a surgical mask, avoid crowded places, refrain from attending work or school, and seek medical advice promptly;
 - f) Avoid crowded or poorly ventilated areas where possible. High-risk individuals, including older adults, young children, and people with chronic medical conditions, should take additional precautions in such settings; and
 - g) Travellers returning from areas affected by avian influenza outbreaks should seek medical advice promptly if they develop influenza-like symptoms and inform healthcare providers of their travel history.

Sources:

1. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026, June 22). *CHP investigates case of influenza A (H9) infection*. Retrieved June 18, 2026 from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/12/P2026061200852.htm?fontSize=1>
2. South China Morning Post (2026, June 15). *Hong Kong market sample tests positive for H9 bird flu after boy infected*. Retrieved June 18, 2026 from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3357207/hong-kong-wet-market-sample-tests-positive-h9-bird-flu-after-boy-infected>
3. World Health Organization (WHO) (2026, January 21). *Influenza (avian and other zoonotic)*. WHO. Retrieved June 18, 2026, from [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(avian-and-other-zoonotic\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(avian-and-other-zoonotic))
4. World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) (n.d) *Avian Influenza - WOAH Middle-East*. Retrieved June 18, 2026 from https://rr-middleeast.woah.org/app/uploads/2021/05/avian_influenza_hemorrhagic_skin_head_chicken_high-1.jpg

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