



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: October 4, 2024

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Confirmed Human Cases of H5 Avian Influenza in California

Key Messages

- The first human cases of H5 Avian Influenza in California have been confirmed in two individuals from the Central Valley of California who had contact with infected dairy cattle.
- Healthcare providers should consider avian influenza A(H5N1) in persons with acute respiratory symptoms and/or conjunctivitis and recent exposure to animals suspected or confirmed to have avian influenza.
- Healthcare providers and clinical laboratories should immediately report cases of known or suspected avian influenza (H5N1) to the County Epidemiology Unit by calling 619-692-8499 (Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM) or 858-565-5255 (after hours and holidays).

Situation

On October 3, 2024, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reported](#) the first two [confirmed cases](#) of H5 Avian Influenza. The two individuals had contact with infected dairy cattle in the Central Valley of California. The current risk to the general public remains low. However, people with job-related or recreational exposures to infected birds, cattle, or other animals are at higher risk of infection.

Background

CDPH reported there is no known link or contact between the two cases, suggesting only animal-to-human spread in California. Both cases experienced mild symptoms, including conjunctivitis, however neither reported respiratory symptoms, nor was either case hospitalized.

Actions Requested

1. **Consider** avian influenza (H5N1) in persons with acute respiratory symptoms and/or conjunctivitis with relevant exposure history as outlined in [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus in Animals: Interim Recommendations for Prevention, Monitoring, and Public Health Investigations](#).
2. **Treat** suspected or confirmed cases of avian influenza (H5N1) with antivirals as clinically indicated.
3. **Report** cases of suspected or confirmed cases of avian influenza (H5N1) to the County Epidemiology Unit by calling 619-692 8499 (Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM) or 858-565-5255 (after hours and holidays).

Resources

Federal

[CDC Confirms New Human Cases of H5 Bird Flu in California | CDC Newsroom](#)
[Interim Guidance on Specimen Collection and Testing for Patients with Suspected Infection with Novel Influenza A Viruses Associated with Severe Disease or with the Potential to Cause Severe Disease in Humans | Bird Flu | CDC](#)
[Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks | FDA](#)
[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | USDA](#)

State

[UPDATE: CDPH Confirms Two Cases of Bird Flu in California](#)
[CDPH HAN - Detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) A\(H5N1\) in California dairy cattle](#)
[Avian influenza Updates | CDFA](#)
[Avian and Novel Influenza Quicksheet | CDPH](#)

Local

[Avian Influenza \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
[CAHAN San Diego 4-12-2024.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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