Human infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9) – update as of 14 February 2014

During the reporting period 7 to 14 February 2014, 37 cases (3 deaths) of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus were reported from China and Hong Kong SAR in the Western Pacific Region. Among the 37 cases, the median age was 60 years, ranging from 5-84 years, with a male to female ratio of 3.6:1.

Map below shows the total number of cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus by provinces/municipality/SAR in China during the reporting period 7 to 14 February 2014:

During the reporting period 7 to 14 February 2014, there was a confirmed case of H7N9 human infection in a tourist reported in Sabah, Malaysia in the Western Pacific Region.

On 12 Feb, the Ministry of Health confirmed the first Influenza A (H7N9) case in the country. The case was a 67-year-old female tourist from China, who had travelled from Guangdong, China, to Kuala Lumpur. The patient had received initial treatment in China for symptoms of fever, cough, joint pain and weakness on 30 January 2014; four days, prior to arriving in Kuala Lumpur on 3 February 2014. A sample from this patient tested positive for the Influenza A (H7N9) virus. At the time of the press release, the patient was in a stable condition and was receiving treatment at the intensive care unit of a hospital.

Other relevant findings

Confirmed H7N9 infection in poultry and environmental samples in China

In addition, during the reporting period 7 to 14 February 2014, national authorities and OIE reported the presence of A(H7N9) in poultry and environmental samples in Guangxi, Guangdong, Hunan and Zhejiang province.

- Specimens collected from apparently healthy poultry in Jinhua livestock trade market, Guigang City, Guangxi Province (4 chickens); Xuzhen live bird market, Xingning City, Meizhou City, Guangdong Province (1 chicken), Live bird market, Miluo City, Yueyang City, Hunan Province (1 duck, 2 chickens); Heping wholesale market, Xiangzhou City, Zhuhai City, Guangdong (2 chickens) tested positive for H7N9; and 1 environment specimen from Zhugong Lake agriculture products market, Zhuji City, Zheji-
In addition, 3 out of 1684 serum samples and 4 out of 386 virological samples collected from a total of 28 sampling locations in Guangxi Province during the third part of January 2014, tested positive.

H7N9 surveillance and control measures in China

- Anhui Province: Anqing City authorities temporarily closed live animal markets in high risk areas.
- Hunan Province:
  - Miluo City of Yueyang City, Hunan Province closed market for 1 week from 6 to 13 February 2014.
  - Jiangyong County, Yongzhou City has temporarily closed 2 existing farmers markets.
- Guangdong Province: Zhongshan City closed the live bird markets for 2 weeks.
- According to the Director of the Prevention and control of infectious diseases, local areas where human cases were reported, such as in Huaiji County, Zhaoqing City, environmental specimens collected and tested, from all live poultry stalls in the county, were 100% positive for H7N9, during the time that the cases appeared.

H7N9 surveillance and control measures in Viet Nam (Media Report)

- Lao Cai Province: Measures to prevent the spread of H7N9 and H10N8 viruses crossing the border from China have been rolled out. The provincial animal health branch has taken samples of sick poultry at five border markets in Lao Cai city, Bao Thang and Bat Xat. The provincial health department is planning to buy new preventive tools and Tamiflu. Measures have been put in place to manage passengers travelling through the Lao Cai international border gate.

To date, there has been no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission. It is expected that there may be further sporadic cases of human infection with the virus. Affected provinces and municipalities continue to maintain surveillance and response activities.

WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry with regard to this event, nor does it recommend any travel restrictions be applied. WHO continues to work closely with national authorities and technical partners to gain a better understanding of this disease in humans and will continue to provide updated information as the situation evolves.