

From 11 to 17 November 2016, there were 2 additional cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus reported to WHO. On 12 November 2016, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of China notified WHO of 2 additional Laboratory-confirmed cases of Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus with no death cases. The first case was a 77-year-old female peasant who resides in Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province and purchased poultry at a live poultry market prior to the symptom onset. The other case was an 89-year-old male who resides in Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, and has no exposure to poultry or live poultry market.

Further sporadic human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection are expected in affected and possibly neighbouring areas. Should human cases from affected areas travel internationally, their infection may be detected in another country during or after arrival. If this were to occur, community level spread is considered unlikely as the virus does not have the ability to transmit easily among humans.

Public health risk assessment for avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses

On 23 February 2015, WHO conducted a public health risk assessment for avian influenza A(H7N9). This assessment found the overall public health risk from avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses has not changed since the previous assessment, published on 2 October 2014. To date, there has been no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. Human infections with the A(H7N9) virus are unusual and need to be monitored closely in order to identify changes in the virus and/or its transmission behaviour to humans as it may have a serious public health impact.

For more information on human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus reported to WHO:

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/

For more information on risk assessment for avian influenza A(H7N9) virus:

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/RiskAssessment_H7N9_23Feb20115.pdf