

On 11 August 2016, five (5) additional cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus with one (1) death were reported to WHO from China. The onset dates of these 5 cases ranged from 24 June to 29 July 2016. The median age of these 5 cases was 68 years (ranging from 13 to 79 years). Of these 5 cases, 3 (60%) were male. Two of the five cases reported exposure to live poultry or slaughtered poultry. There was no reported history of exposure to poultry for the other three cases. As three cases were among family members from 2 provinces, human to human transmission cannot be ruled out. However, to date no further transmission has been reported.

(Source: <http://who.int/csr/don/07-august-2016-ah7n9-china/en>).

WHO is continuing to assess the epidemiological situation and will conduct further risk assessments with new information. Overall, the public health risk from avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses has not changed.

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