Measures against Novel Influenza

Overview

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Overview and Current Situation

❍ In consideration of a case of death due to bird-to- human infection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) has been reported, emergence of human-to-human infectious novel influenza through virus mutation is of great concern.
❍ The number of patients due to bird-to-human infection is 385 worldwide, mainly in Southeast Asia, since November 2003. (WHO: As of March 18, 2008)

Concrete Measures

❍ Action plans for measures against novel influenza has been formulated and guidelines for novel influenza to implement concrete measures was compiled in March 2007.
❍ It was decided upon by the Cabinet in October 2007 that headquarters headed by the Prime Minister will be established as required in case of emergence of novel influenza.
❍ To avoid severe conditions, anti-influenza virus drugs for 28 million people were secured in FY 2007 to be reserved by the government, prefectures, and for distribution.
❍ Stock solution of novel influenza vaccines produced in FY 2006 has been reserved for 10 million people and new stock solution to cope with virus mutation was produced and reserved in FY 2007 for 10 million people.
❍ With regards to influenza (H5N1), The Infectious Disease Law and the Quarantine Law were revised to provide measures for recommending hospitalization, etc. and quarantine/retention at airports (promulgated on May 2, 2008 and enforced on May 12).
❍ Training for responding to the emergence of novel influenza has been conduced 3 times with participated by related ministries and agencies and local governments.

Scale of Past Pandemics and Estimated Number of Deaths

Year of prevalence	Common name	Number of deaths worldwide
1918-19	Spanish Influenza	40 million
1957-58	Asian Influenza	2 million or more
1968-69	Hong Kong Influenza	1 million or more

❍ Since humans are not immune to novel influenza, there can be abrupt spread of infection.
* Estimated number of victims in Japan according to the action plan
Number of consultations: 25 million at the maximum
Number of deaths: 170,000 to 640,000

Scenes of Training

(Quarantine of an aircraft from the country of infection)

* On-the-spot training on the assumption of the emergence of novel influenza has been conducted at quarantine station of Narita Airport, Chiba on November 2007 participated by related ministries and agencies and local governments.

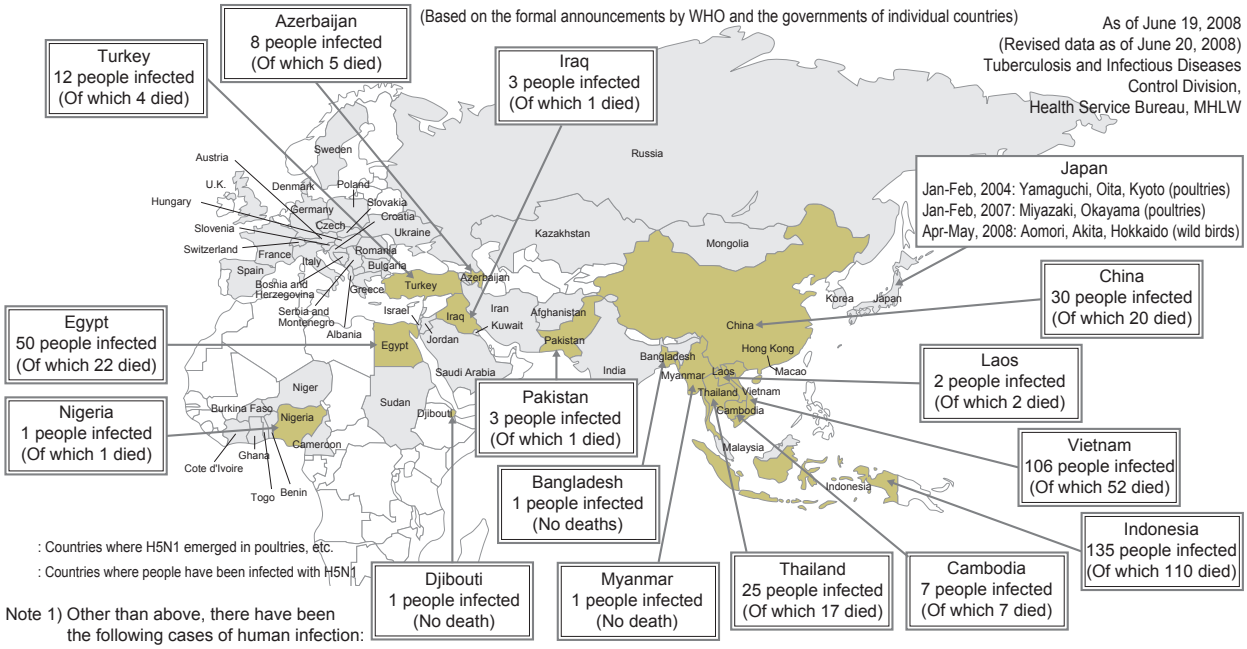
(Headquarters conference by local governments)

Detailed Data

Country where Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) has Emerged and Cases of Human Infection (since November 2003)

(Based on the formal announcements by WHO and the governments of individual countries)

As of June 19, 2008
(Revised data as of June 20, 2008)
Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Control Division,
Health Service Bureau, MHLW



Note 1) Other than above, there have been the following cases of human infection:
1997 Hong Kong (H5N1: 18 infected, 6 deaths)
1999 Hong Kong (H9N2: 2 infected, no death)
2003 Hong Kong (H5N1: 2 infected, 1 death)
2003 Netherlands (H7N7: 89 infected, 1 death)
2004 Canada (H7N3: 2 infected, no death)
2007 U.K. (H7N2: 4 infected, no death)

Note 2) Of cases in the figure above, H5N1 was detected from wild birds in Mongolia, Italy, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Austria, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Spain.

Reference: The number of infected people recognized by WHO is 385 (of which 243 died).
Source: "Homepage of WHO/OIE"