

Avian Influenza A (H7N9)

Cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus were recently reported in China. To date, however, no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of H7N9 virus has been confirmed.

The National Institute of Infectious Diseases Japan (a research institute attached to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)) has been preparing for the manufacturing of relevant vaccines by testing a strain of the novel influenza virus made available from Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

MHLW will continue to gather related information and promptly disseminate it to the public in cooperation with relevant organizations at home and abroad.

1. What is avian influenza A (H7N9)?

Avian influenza (H7N9) is an infectious viral disease of birds which, until recently, has not been known to infect humans. On April 1, 2013, the World Health Organization published information for the first time on human cases with H7N9 avian influenza infection in China. However, the source of the human infection is not made known. According to the Chinese government's investigation of the current confirmed cases, no case of sustained human-to-human transmission has yet been confirmed.

2. Recommended actions/preventive measures

MHLW has been bringing this disease to the attention of Japanese nationals who plan to travel to regions where avian influenza is occurring in China, and urging them to avoid having contacts with animals. If you have symptoms, such as fever, upon your return from these areas in China, please consult the Quarantine Information Office. Moreover, MHLW requests that domestic medical institutions contact public health centers in case they examine patients with fever of 38°C or higher and acute respiratory symptoms, and suspect them of having Avian Influenza (A7N9) based on symptoms and clinical findings, travel history, contact history with animals, etc.

■ Links (Avian influenza A (H7N9))

- Disease Outbreak News (DON) (WHO) : <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/index.html>
- Q&A (WHO) : http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/faq_H7N9/en/index.html