



TECHNICAL REPORT

ECDC CASE DEFINITION

**Interim surveillance case definition for
influenza A/H5N1 in humans in the EU
Version April 2006**

Interim surveillance case definition for influenza A/H5N1 in humans in the EU

Purpose

The following definition is developed from the WHO guidelines for global surveillance of influenza A/H5 (http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/globalsurveillance.pdf) and is intended for European countries. It should be used, in the current situation (WHO, Prepandemic Phase 3) for the purpose of undertaking surveillance for cases of influenza A/H5N1 infections in humans in EU. The definition is not intended to be used for diagnosis or management of cases.

Clinical description

Any individual with:

Acute onset of fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) with signs and symptoms of an acute respiratory infection

OR

Death from an unexplained acute respiratory illness

Epidemiological link

At least one of the following exposures (a, b, c) within 7 days prior to onset of symptoms:

a. Human Contact: Having been in close contact (within one metre) of a person reported as probable or confirmed case of influenza A/H5N1

b. Laboratory Contact: Having worked in a laboratory where there is potential exposure to influenza A/H5N1

c. Contact with poultry or wild birds: Reside in or have visited an area¹ where influenza A/H5N1 is currently suspected or confirmed as reported in the European Commission Joint Research Centre web-site:
<http://disasters.jrc.it/AvianFlu/>

AND

o Having been in close contact with sick or dead² domestic poultry or wild birds³ in the affected area

OR

o Having been in a home or farm where sick or dead domestic poultry have been reported in the previous six weeks in the affected area

¹ Definition of affected area within the EU will be further developed and continuously updated

² Dead domestic poultry does not include poultry meat commercially available in shops and supermarkets

³ This does not include seemingly well birds that have been killed, for example by hunting

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Case Definition – H5N1 in Humans in EU

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

Influenza A/H5 or A/H5N1 will be demonstrated by at least one of the following lab tests:

- a. Positive RT-PCR for Influenza A/H5 or A/H5N1
- b. Positive viral culture for Influenza A/H5N1
- c. Immunofluorescence antibody (IFA) test positive using Influenza A/H5 monoclonal antibodies
- d. 4-fold rise in Influenza H5-specific antibody titre in paired serum samples

CASE CATEGORIES FOR INFLUENZA A/H5N1

Possible case:

Any individual meeting the clinical description and with an epidemiological link

Probable case:

A possible case with one positive laboratory test for influenza A/H5 performed in a laboratory which is not a National Reference Laboratory participating in the EU Community Network of Reference Laboratories for Human Influenza (CNRL)

Nationally confirmed case:

An individual, irrespective of the clinical and epidemiological picture with a positive test for influenza A/H5 or A/H5N1 performed by a National Reference Laboratory participating in the EU Community Network of Reference Laboratories for Human Influenza (CNRL)

All samples from nationally confirmed cases should be sent to a WHO Collaborating Centre for H5 (Institut Pasteur, Paris or National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London) for final confirmation (WHO confirmation).

EXPOSURE HISTORY

During the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms, has the case:

Been in close contact to a probable or confirmed case of avian influenza A/H5N1 Yes No Unknown

Been in close contact to a person with an unexplained acute respiratory illness that later resulted in death Yes No Unknown

If yes please give details: _____

Been working in a laboratory where there is potential exposure to influenza A/H5N1 viruses? Yes No Unknown

If yes, please give details (where, job description, type of exposure, frequency and duration of exposure, etc.)

During the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms, has the case:

Been in close contact (within one metre) with sick or dead:

Domestic poultry Yes No Unknown

Wild birds Yes No Unknown

Was in a home or farm where sick or death domestic poultry have been reported in the previous 6 weeks?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, to any of the above, give details including location and duration of exposure

Country/Area	Date exposed (DD/MM/YYYY)	Duration of exposure (hours, days)

If the case has been exposed to sick or death domestic poultry in the 7 days prior to the onset of illness was he/she wearing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)? Yes No Unknown

During the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms, did the case: reside in or have visited an area of a country where influenza A/H5N1 is currently suspected or confirmed Yes No Unknown

If yes, date arrived in reporting country ____/____/____ Was the case symptomatic on the flight/boat? Yes No Unknown
DD MM YYYY

Specify countries visited

Country/Area	From (DD/MM/YYYY)	To (DD/MM/YYYY)

During the time outside did the case visit any market or other place where close contact (within one metre) with domestic poultry was possible? Yes No Unknown

Details: _____