



Spot report: The First infected case of H7N4 Bird Flu in China

Background



On 15 Feb 2018, the first human case of the H7N4 strain of avian influenza has been reported in China. It cited by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention which H7N4 strain of avian influenza were determined to be of avian origin. A 68-year-old woman living in Jiangsu Province in eastern China, near Shanghai, had contact with live poultry before she began developing pneumonia-like symptoms December 25 2017. She was admitted to a hospital January 1 and was recovered and discharged after successful treatment January 22. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), influenza type A viruses (of which H7N4 is one type) are of public health concern because they have the potential to cause pandemics if they acquire the ability to be transmitted among humans.

The winter is the high season for bird flu infections. Avian influenza viruses circulate among birds. Although some avian H7 viruses (H7N2, H7N3 and H7N7) have occasionally been found to infect humans, no human infections with H7N9 viruses were reported until reports from China in March 2013. Most patients who infected by avian H7 viruses have severe pneumonia. Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Many report showed that only a small number of people who presented with influenza-like symptoms and then recovered without medical attention. Moreover, human H7N9 infections result from direct contact with infected poultry, or indirect contact with infected poultry. A minority of cases appear to have resulted from limited person to person transmission.

Actions Taken

Residents of these areas have been advised to take education and prevention control to prevent the pandemic disease. The advice is given to people with suspected symptoms of bird flu, they should stay at home or be cared for in hospital in isolation from other patients. The NHS recommends taking a rest, drinking plenty of fluids and eating healthily and taking medication to help treat fever and pain. Travellers who return from affected areas should consult a doctor if symptoms develop, and inform the doctor of their travel history for prompt diagnosis and treatment of potential diseases

ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS -

Severity ranking of the concerns effect in the ASEAN region.

Section	Ranking	Issues identified	Recommendations
The First infected case of H7N4 Bird Flu in China	G	The first infected human case of H7N4 virus has occurred. A new type of avian influenza virus is confirmed.	The surveillance is to be set up for outbreak investigation. Follow the recommendation from the WHO.

Remarks:

R: Severe Situation: Urgent intervention required.

Y: Situation of concern: Surveillance or assistance may or may not require, intensive monitoring

G: Relative normal situation or local Government can cope with the crisis, monitoring and no action required.

NA: Lack of /unreliable data: Further assessment required.

ACMM Recommendations,

According to the current situation, the ACMM is monitoring the situation for providing monitoring and prevention update to member countries.

References:

1. <https://edition.cnn.com>
2. <https://www.the-scientist.com>
3. <https://www.reuters.com>
4. http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface
5. <https://www.npr.org>
6. <https://www.express.co.uk>