

April 12, 2013

INFORMATION UPDATE: Novel H7N9 avian influenza virus in eastern China

The Epidemiology & Surveillance unit, Public Health Branch of Manitoba Health, continues to monitor reports regarding human cases of infection with novel H7N9 avian influenza virus. This is a follow up to our first information bulletin of April 3rd.

Situation:

- As of April 11, 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 38 confirmed human cases, including 10 deaths and 14 severe cases.
- The median age of cases is 61.5 years; ages range from 4 to 87 years. There are no epidemiologic links among the cases. More than 760 close contacts of confirmed cases are being closely monitored, with **no evidence of human to human transmission identified.**
- Current information suggests a direct link to poultry.

Recommendation:

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has posted a *Summary of Assessment of Public Health Risk to Canada Associated with H7N9 Avian Influenza Human Infections in China*, including **infection prevention and control recommendations** at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/eri-ire/h7n9/risk_assessment-evaluation_risque-eng.php
- Manitoba's Guidelines for *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in Health Care Settings* are available at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>
- Healthcare providers who suspect a novel pathogen (e.g. H7N9 or NCoV owing to links to affected areas) are reminded to:
 - consult their local public health unit and/or Medical Officer of Health and to report cases of SRI to Manitoba Health using the form at: http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/sri_form.pdf
 - clearly mark sample packaging for nasopharyngeal or respiratory samples for diagnostic testing of a suspected case with "Travel History to China."

For links to the latest information on A/H7N9, please visit:

<http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/avian.html>

Thank you for your assistance in sharing this information,

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