



January 2, 2015

# MESH DAILY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BRIEF



Marion County  
Medical Multi-Agency  
Coordination Center

## NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

No active alerts



32°

Chance Snow

A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 3pm. Cloudy, with a temperature falling to around 26 by 5pm. North northwest wind around 10 mph.



9°

Chance Snow

A 40 percent chance of snow before 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 9. Wind chill values as low as zero. North northwest wind 9 to 11 mph.



ASTHMA INDEX

0



UV INDEX

1

## THREAT ANALYSIS

### Global bird flu outbreaks stress ongoing need for surveillance

Despite the focus on Ebola, enterovirus D68 and other diseases in 2014, several strains of avian influenza made news in other parts of the world and U.S. providers should maintain awareness of the potential for cases to present locally, especially among travelers.

Neither of the leading threats, influenza A(H7N9) and A(H5N1), appears to transmit easily from person to person, but according to the World Health Organization (WHO), wherever avian flu is circulating in bird populations there is a chance for sporadic cases or small outbreaks among humans who come in contact with them. Both H7N9 and H5N1 have high mortality rates and scientists fear that they could mutate, creating the potential for a global pandemic with tremendous impact on healthcare systems. The WHO continues to monitor these viruses and encourages countries to strengthen surveillance and readiness. (Sources: [WHO](#), [Reuters](#))

At least 676 cases of H5N1 have been reported since 2003 in 16 countries, mostly in Southeast Asia. About 400 people have died. Toward the end of the year, Egypt reported a spike in cases and 10 deaths. (Sources: [WHO](#), [Reuters](#), [Press TV](#)) H7N9 has been responsible for more than 450 illnesses and 175 deaths since it emerged in China in 2013. Hong Kong confirmed its first deadly human case this winter and on December 31 suspended imports of live poultry from China and began culling thousands of chickens. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [WHO](#))

Influenza A(H5N8) also made news in 2014 after being detected in poultry in Europe, East Asia and backyard farms in the U.S. states of Washington and Oregon. No cases of this strain have been reported in humans. (Sources: [Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy](#), [WHO](#))

## ACTION STEPS

1

Advise travelers who are headed to areas of the world where avian flu viruses are present to take measures recommended by the [CDC](#) to prevent exposure, such as avoiding live bird or poultry markets, eating food that is fully cooked and practicing good hygiene.

2

Initial [symptoms](#) of H5N1 and H7N9 infections are often similar to those of other flu strains, but more severe. Take a [travel history](#) for patients with febrile respiratory syndromes to determine whether they have had recent contact with poultry and follow [CDC guidelines for testing](#) for novel influenza A viruses.

3

Consider using the CDC's [Pan Flu Scramble Exercise](#), a discussion-based, table-top tool designed to help healthcare stakeholders test their patient surge plans and address Hospital Preparedness Program and Public Health Emergency Preparedness capabilities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FRIDAY

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02

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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### Saturday

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03

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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### Sunday

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04

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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