

ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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INDIA

11 Mar 2015: H1N1 influenza outbreak in India raises concern: New strain of H1N1 may carry dangerous mutations

Since December, an outbreak of swine flu in India has killed more than 1,200 people, and a new study suggests that the strain has acquired mutations that make it more dangerous than previously circulating strains of H1N1 influenza. The findings, which appear in the March 11 issue of Cell Host and Microbe, contradict previous reports from Indian health officials that the strain has not changed from the version of H1N1 that emerged in 2009 and has been circulating around the world ever since. With very little scientific data available about the new strain, the MIT researchers stress the need for better surveillance to track the outbreak and to help scientists to determine how to respond to this influenza variant. [read more](#)

12 Mar: Joint Mechanism is the future- Human Animal Link

H1N1 influenza and hundreds of other emerging and reemerging zoonotic diseases reiterate the importance of Veterinarians in safeguarding human health. Most Kashmiris perceive veterinarians merely as “animal doctors” meant only for the treatment of the dumb creatures, not beyond that. They wrongly believe that veterinarians have absolutely no role in safeguarding human health. What is the actual mandate or role of veterinarians? Of course, the treatment of wild, domestic and pet animals is the prerogative of Veterinarians, but that is only one of their jobs. Rather, veterinarians have a comprehensive role in the scientific production, reproduction and management of animals for ensuring the betterment of the humankind in general and food security of people in particular. It is the job of Veterinarians to ensure the increased and hygienic production of wholesome meat, milk, eggs etc for growing human population. Veterinarians ought to not only prevent the spread of infectious and contagious diseases among the different livestock species, but they have to ensure that these diseases are not transmitted from animals to humans and vice-versa (zoonoses). [read more](#)

NEPAL

03 Mar 2015: Number of persons infected with H1N1 has reached 10 in district

Four more cases of H1N1 influenza have been detected in Chitwan recently. According to Narahari Sharma, an official at the District Public Health Office, four out of 66 samples that had been sent to the capital tested positive for swine flue. “With this, the total number of infected persons has reached 10 in the district. Earlier, 60 samples were sent to the capital for tests, out of which six had tested positive,” said Sharma, adding that they were yet to receive report of 36 more samples. Meanwhile, all the patients who have been diagnosed with H1N1 influenza virus have been treated so far. “As tests and report analysis take time, sometimes patients are treated before the reports are drawn,” said Sharma. [read more](#)

SRI LANKA

Alarmed over 600 leptospirosis cases

With 614 cases of rat fever reported, health officials are warning of a surge in Anuradhapura, Kalutara, Galle, Kurunegala and Moneragala, where paddy farmers are at risk of contracting bacterial disease. Cases are also being reported from the Ratnapura gem mines. The highest outbreak, 71 cases, is in Anuradhapura, Health Ministry Consultant Epidemiologist Dr. Jagath Amarasekara said. There were 24 cases there last year. Rat fever, or leptospirosis, can be fatal and is often found in water sources contaminated by rodent urine. In the countryside, more than 70 percent of cases are reported from areas of paddy cultivation. [read more](#)

OTHERS

Assessment of Avian Influenza Vaccination programmes used in commercial flocks in Egypt

Vaccination of chickens with one dose of different AI vaccines (H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N2+ND, and recombinant vaccine) then challenged with high dose (105 EID50/0.1 ml) intranasally of local HP AI virus evoked a variable degree of protection reaching 95%. It was also observed that the level of protection against different vaccines were 4.9, 3.76, 5.48, 3, 5.74 respectively for H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N2+ND, and recombinant vaccine for chickens against the local HP AI virus. From our present study, showed that there was greater reduction in local HP AI challenge virus shedding 2.5, 2.2, 2.9, 2.5, and 1.1 respectively for H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N2+ND, and recombinant vaccine oropharyngeal swabs. These results agreed with those illustrated by Swayne et al, (2006) who explained the superior protection may have resulted from proprietary adjuvant system, route and site of immunization and challenge virus dose. [read more](#)