

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

BANGLADESH

20 Jan 2016: WHO reports earlier H5N1 and H9N2 cases in Bangladesh

Since the last WHO Influenza update on 14 December 2015, new laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) and A(H9N2) virus infection were reported to WHO. Avian influenza A(H5N1) case was a 60-year-old male from Mymensing District in Bangladesh who was hospitalized on 12 October 2015 with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI). Nasopharyngeal and throat swabs were collected upon hospital admission as part of SARI surveillance, and tested positive for A(H5N1) virus. The patient fully recovered. Prior to illness onset, the patient was exposed to live backyard poultry. Avian influenza A(H9N2) case was a 46-year-old male poultry worker in a market in Dhaka City. He had onset of illness on 27 October 2015 presenting with fever, runny nose, headache and myalgia. Throat and nasal swabs were collected as part of the market avian influenza surveillance system and tested positive for A(H9N2) virus. The patient recovered. One day prior to illness onset, the case reported handling sick poultry. [read more](#)

BHUTAN

25 Jan 2016: Rabies outbreak suspected in Samdrupjongkhar district

Two calves and a puppy have died of rabies in Orong, Samdrupjongkhar after bitten by a rabid dog. Brain samples of dead animals sent to National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH) in Serbithang, Thimphu have tested positive for rabies. Veterinary doctors who carried out investigation suspect wild animals as the source of the outbreak. About 20 people were given anti rabies shots and they are under observation. Another dog has died in Narphung and also tested positive for rabies. Authorities said that as an immediate control measure, efforts are being made to vaccinate all stray and pet dogs and to create awareness about the danger of the viral disease. [read more](#)

INDIA

26 Jan 2016: Centre: Stray dog menace in Kerala dangerous

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that frequent stray dog attacks on children in Kerala has created a dangerous situation, which was cited by a petitioner NGO while seeking a direction for compensation and rehabilitation of victims of dog bites. Petitioner NGO had told the Supreme Court that there had been an alarming increase in incidents of stray dog bites in Kerala. "It has increased from an average of 88,178 incidents per year to more than one lakh a year. In 2015, till June, 11 persons died due to rabies contacted through dog bites. [read more](#)

INDIA

16 Jan 2016: Licence for dogs gets lukewarm response in Kerala

The move of the local bodies to ensure proper vaccination and protection of all domesticated dogs and pigs has not succeeded in achieving the desired result owing to poor response from people. Though the deadline for completing the registration of dogs ended on Friday (15 Jan), not many persons have approached the panchayat authorities. Though licence for pet dogs was made mandatory even in the Panchayat Raj Act, the government was recently forced to reissue directions to make license compulsory as not many turn up to register their dogs. The initiative also aims to keep a data of domesticated dogs and ensure proper birth control mechanism for stray dogs. [read more](#)

OTHERS

26 Jan 2016: The spread of Zika virus

ZIKA, a mosquito-borne virus that arrived in Brazil last May, is an avid traveller and an increasingly feared guest. It has since found its way into 17 other countries in the Americas. Until October, Zika was not thought much of a threat: only a fifth of infected people fall ill, usually with just mild fever, rash, joint aches and red eyes. Since then, though, evidence has been piling up that it may cause birth defects in children and neurological problems in adults. El Salvador, Colombia and Ecuador have recommended that women delay pregnancy until 2018. America's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised pregnant women against travelling to countries where Zika is circulating. [read more](#)

24 Jan 2016: UN health agency urges vigilance in South-East Asia after new case of MERS confirmed in Thailand

WHO cautioned South-East Asia States today to remain vigilant against the continuing risks of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS CoV) after Thailand confirmed the sometimes fatal disease in a traveller, its second case in seven months. Last June another Omani traveler in Bangkok tested positive. "The new case of MERS CoV is a reminder of the continued risk of importation of the disease from countries where it still persists," WHO South-East Asia Region Director, said. All countries need to further enhance surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections, focus on early diagnosis, and step up infection prevention and control procedures in health-care facilities to rapidly detect any case of importation and effectively prevent its spread. South-East Asia countries have recently been reviewing and strengthening preparedness to respond to MERS. [read more](#)