

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

INDIA

18 Mar 2017: Anthrax scare in Sundargarh district, Odisha

Fears of anthrax gripped Birikeri village under Bisra block of Sundargarh district in Odisha with the death of two villagers. Other five affected by anthrax are undergoing treatment at the Rourkela government hospital, four are admitted to the Bisra hospital. To ascertain the reasons behind the spread of anthrax in the area, a team of doctors visited Birikeri village and collected samples of the resident in the area. As animal carcasses are either buried or thrown in open, the environment is getting polluted to help anthrax spread." [Read More](#). Anthrax is a bacterial pathogen in livestock and wild animals. Some of the more common herbivores are cattle, sheep, goats, horses, camels and deer. Affected animals are often found dead with no illness detected. It infects humans primarily through occupational or incidental exposure with infected animals of their skins. [More](#)

18 Mar 2017: Suspected bird flu scare again in Khurda's Keranga, Odisha

Bird flu scare has once again triggered panic in Khurda's Keranga village with locals spotting several dead crows at many places in the area. As per reports, unusual mortality of crows and some other birds were reported from the village even as the administration had carried out extensive poultry culling and safety measures to curtail the viral disease that was reported two months ago. Following the suspicion of avian flu, the government issued alert while the local administration, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department sent infected samples for laboratory tests. [Read More](#)

PAKISTAN

16 March: Suspected Cases of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), Islamabad

Three members of the same family, all of them suspected for Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) are currently under observation at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). One of the patients is a child, who was shifted from CDA Hospital to the Children's Hospital of PIMS Tuesday night after manifestation of symptoms characteristic of CCHF. The other two are adults who are under observation in the main hospital's isolation ward [Read More](#). 2 laboratory-confirmed CCHF cases have been reported from Pakistan so far in 2017. The first case was diagnosed in February 2017 in an animal handler from Gujar Khan Rawalpindi district, Punjab. The 2nd case was from Balochistan diagnosed at Nishter Hospital, Multan and sample tested at NIH. [More](#)

OTHERS

14 Mar 2017: The first imported case of Rift Valley fever in China reveals a genetic reassortment of different viral lineages

The first imported case of Rift Valley fever (RVF) was reported in China. The patient returned from Angola, a non-epidemic country, with an infection of a new reassortant from different lineages of Rift Valley fever viruses (RVFVs). The patient developed multiorgan dysfunction and gradually recovered with continuous renal replacement therapy and a short regimen of methylprednisolone treatment. Whole-genome sequencing and phylogenetic analysis revealed that the imported strain was a reassortant comprising the L and M genes from lineage E and the S gene from lineage A. This case highlights that RVFV had undergone genetic reassortment, which could potentially alter its biological properties, cause large outbreaks and pose a serious threat to global public health as well as the livestock breeding industry. [Read More](#)

17 Mar 2017: Reinforcing control efforts amid outbreak of avian influenza in China

A resurgent outbreak of a new strain of avian influenza that can be lethal for humans underscores the need for robust and rapid detection and response systems at animal source. This would reduce the risk associated with virus spread and impacts on public health, according to Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health. Human cases of the H7N9 virus, first detected in China four years ago, have suddenly increased since December 2016. It is estimated, that as of early March 2017, there have been more reported human cases of influenza A (H7N9) than those caused by other types of avian influenza viruses (H5N1, H5N6, etc.) combined. As during previous waves, most of the patients infected reported a history of visiting live bird markets or coming into contact with infected birds. Since 2013, China has invested heavily in surveillance of live bird markets and poultry farms. However the surveillance of this virus has proven particularly challenging as until recently it has shown no or few signs of disease in chickens. [Read More More](#).