



MI FluFocus

Influenza Surveillance and Avian Influenza Update

Bureau of Epidemiology
Bureau of Laboratories

Michigan Department
of Community Health



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director

Editor: Susan Vagasky, DVM
Surveillance and Infectious Disease Epidemiology
VagaskyS@Michigan.gov

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New updates in this issue:

- **Michigan Surveillance:** October 1st marks the start of the 2008-2009 influenza reporting season.
- **Avian Influenza:** H5N1 poultry outbreak in Vietnam; South Korean surveillance finds low path H5N2.

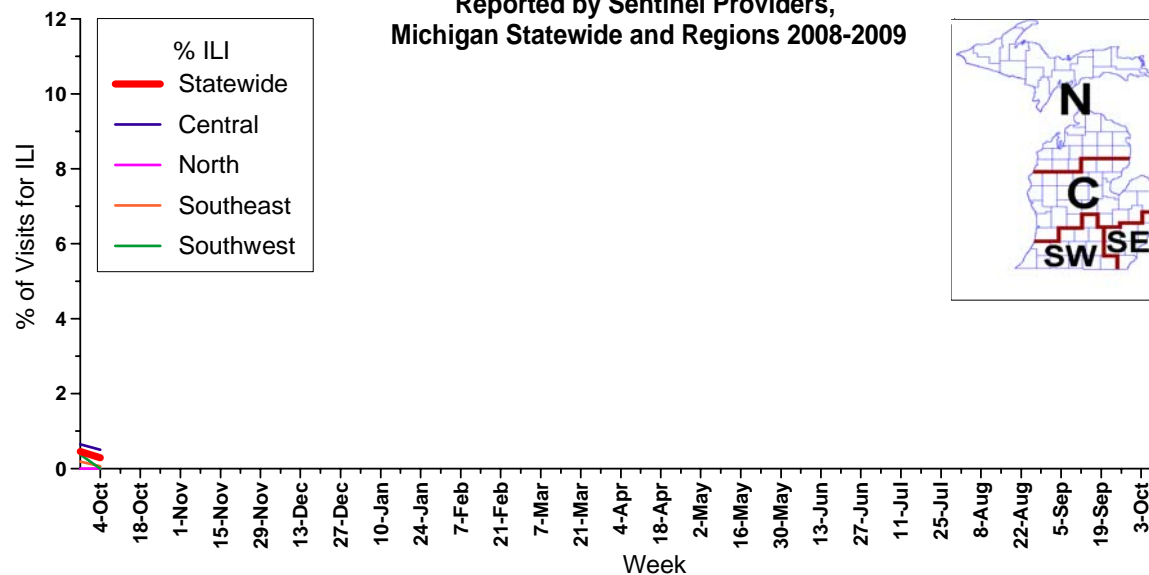
Michigan Disease Surveillance System: The week ending October 4 saw both individual influenza and aggregate flu-like disease reports remain steady near last week's levels. Both aggregate and individual reports are consistent with levels seen at this time last year.

Emergency Department Surveillance: Emergency department visits from constitutional complaints remained steady near last week's levels, while respiratory complaints dropped slightly. Respiratory complaints are consistent with numbers seen this time last year, while constitutional complaints are slightly lower. Six constitutional alerts in the C(2), N(2), SE(1) and SW(1) Influenza Surveillance Regions and five respiratory alerts in the C(4) and N(1) Influenza Surveillance Regions were generated last week.

Over-the-Counter Product Surveillance: Overall, OTC product sales were steady last week, with only chest rubs showing a slight increase over the last week. Indicator levels are comparable to those seen at this time last year, except for chest rubs which are slightly lower.

Sentinel Surveillance (as of October 9): During the week ending October 4, 2008, the proportion of visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) remained unchanged from the previous three reporting weeks at 0.3%; thirteen patient visits due to ILI were reported out of 4,530 office visits. This level of ILI activity is consistent with that reported in early fall during prior years' surveillance. Eighteen sentinels provided data for this report. Note that these rates may change as additional reports are received.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI)
Reported by Sentinel Providers,
Michigan Statewide and Regions 2008-2009



As part of pandemic influenza preparedness, CDC and MDCH highly encourage year-round participation from all sentinel providers. New practices are encouraged to join the sentinel surveillance program today! Contact Rachel Potter at 517-335-9710 or potterr1@michigan.gov for more information.

Laboratory Surveillance (as of October 9): No new influenza isolates were identified at the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) during the past week. For the 2008-2009 influenza season, no influenza isolates have been identified at MDCH BOL.

***As a reminder, the positive predictive value of influenza rapid tests decreases during times of low influenza prevalence. MDCH suggests that during periods of low influenza activity in your community, all positive rapid tests results be confirmed by sending in a specimen for viral culture; this can be arranged through your local health department.

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality (as of October 9): No influenza-associated pediatric mortalities have been reported to MDCH for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

***The CDC has asked all states to collect information on any pediatric death associated with influenza infection. This includes not only any death in a child (<18 years) resulting from a compatible illness confirmed to be influenza by an appropriate diagnostic test, but also any unexplained death with evidence of an infectious process in a child. Please immediately call MDCH to ensure that proper clinical specimens are obtained. View the complete MDCH protocol online at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/ME_pediatric_influenza_guidance_v2_214270_7.pdf.

Congregate Settings Outbreaks (as of October 9): No congregated setting outbreaks due to influenza have been reported to MDCH for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

International (WHO, September 29): During the weeks 37-38, overall influenza activity in the southern hemisphere declined, except for New Zealand, where a widespread outbreak was reported. Activity was low in the rest of the world.

China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. A decline in the activity of influenza A(H3) and A(H1) viruses was observed, with influenza A(H3) still predominating. Both B/Yamagata and B/Victoria lineage viruses were detected.

New Zealand. Influenza activity remained widespread with influenza B viruses predominating and A(H3) co-circulating.

Between weeks 37 to 38, sporadic influenza activity was detected in Argentina (A,B), Canada (B), Chile (B) and the United Kingdom (A).

Belgium, Cameroon, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Oman, Paraguay, Poland, Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Switzerland reported no influenza activity.

MDCH reported **NO INFLUENZA ACTIVITY** to the CDC for the week ending October 4, 2008.

For stakeholders interested in additional information regarding influenza vaccination and education, the MDCH publication *Michigan FluBytes* is available online at http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779_40563-125027--,00.html. *FluBytes* is published weekly during the influenza season.

End of Seasonal Report

Avian Influenza Activity

WHO Pandemic Phase: Phase 3 - Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread or rare instances of spread to a close contact.

International, Human (WHO, October 3): In the WHO publication *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, an article discusses the investigation of a family cluster of human H5N1 avian influenza cases from December 2007. The evidence suggested that three generations of human-to-human transmission occurred between family members with prolonged and intimate contact, but was not sustained and did not spread further into the community. The article can be found at <http://www.who.int/wer/2008/wer8340.pdf>.

International, Poultry (OIE, October 6): In a report submitted to OIE on October 6, South Korea reported the finding of low pathogenic avian influenza H5N2 in a duck farm in YeSan-gun on October 3. Routine surveillance revealed antigen-positive fecal specimens, follow up testing confirmed the virus as low pathogenic H5N2 and as a precaution the 5000 birds on the farm were destroyed.

International, Poultry (New Straits Times, October 7): Bird flu has hit another of Vietnam's central Nghe An province, killing about 300 ducks, said an official with the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Tuesday.

The ducks raised by a household in the province started to die recently. The specimens collected from the dead ducks have been tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, the Vietnam news agency (VNA) quoted the unnamed official as saying here.

Local health department have slaughtered all the fowls in the affected spot and disinfected this area to guard against any further outbreaks of bird flu.

Now, bird flu is hitting two Vietnamese provinces, including Ca Mau and Nghe An.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, starting in December 2003, have killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country.

International, Poultry (Reuters, October 9): The German state of Saxony said on Thursday the H5N1 bird flu strain had been detected in a duck at a farm near Dresden late on Wednesday.

"Tests are being carried out to determine whether it is the highly contagious version of the epidemic," said Ralph Schreiber, spokesman for Saxony's social welfare ministry.

The flu strain was detected in the duck during a routine examination at the farm, which held some 1,400 birds. All birds at the farm would be killed as a precaution, Schreiber said.

Michigan Wild Bird Surveillance (USDA, as of October 9): For the 2008 testing season, 790 Michigan samples have been taken so far, comprised of 276 live birds, 339 hunter-killed birds, 25 morbidity or mortality samples and 150 environmental samples.

HPAI subtype H5N1 has not been recovered from any Michigan samples tested to date, or from the 38,991 birds or environmental samples tested nationwide for the 2008 testing season, which will run from April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009. For more information, visit the National HPAI Early Detection Data System website at <http://wildlifedisease.nbio.gov/ai/>.

To learn about avian influenza surveillance in Michigan wild birds or to report dead waterfowl, go to Michigan's Emerging Disease website at <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>.

Please contact Susan Vagasky at VagaskyS@Michigan.gov with any questions regarding this newsletter or to be added to the weekly electronic mailing list.

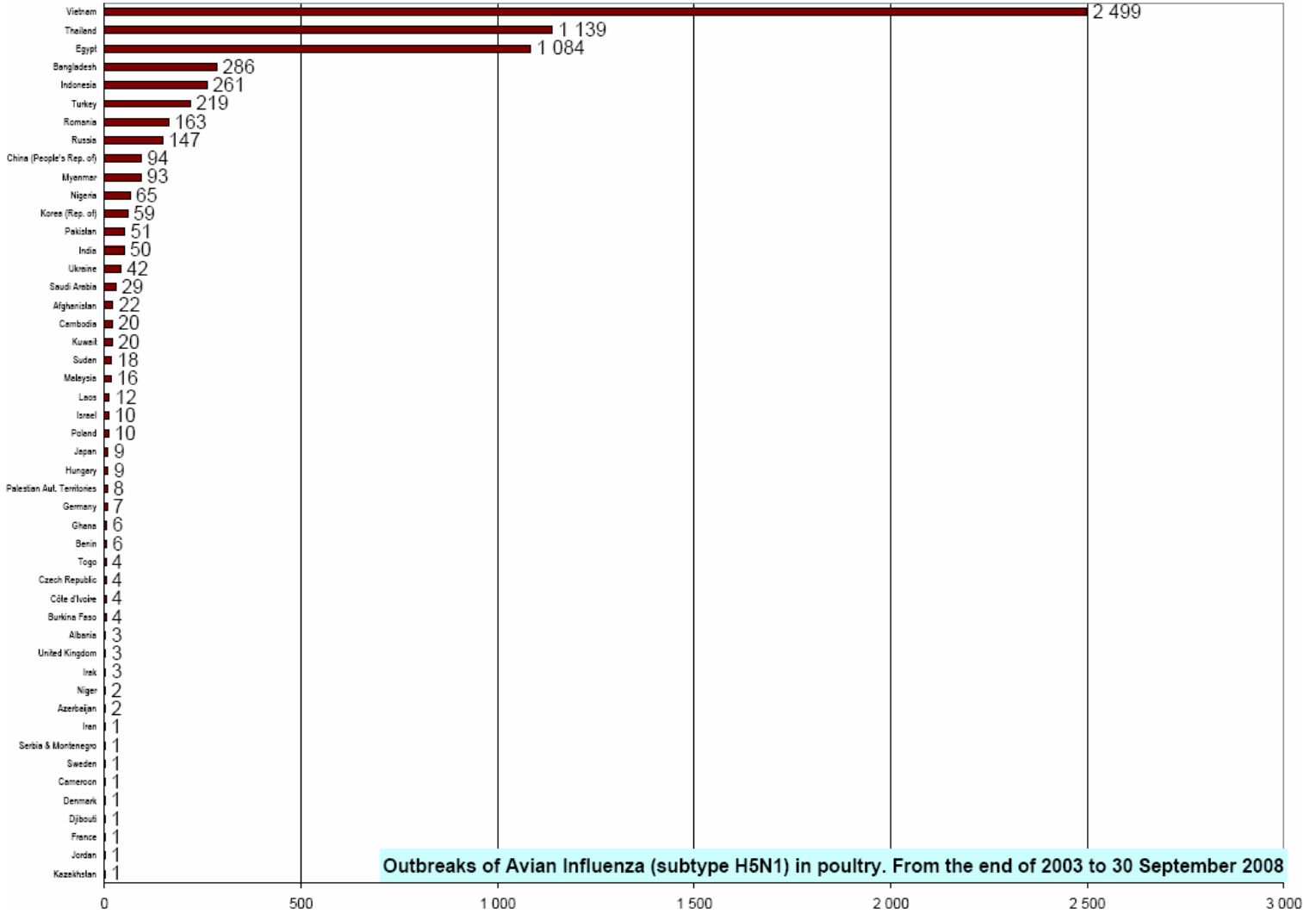
Contributors

MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology - Sally Bidol, MPH; Edward Hartwick, MS; Rachel Potter, DVM, MS

MDCH Bureau of Laboratories – Patricia Clark, MPH

Table 1. H5N1 Influenza in Poultry (Outbreaks up to September 30, 2008)

(Source: http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm Downloaded 9/30/08)



Outbreaks of Avian Influenza (subtype H5N1) in poultry. From the end of 2003 to 30 September 2008

Table 2. H5N1 Influenza in Humans (Cases up to September 10, 2008)

(http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_09_10/en/index.html Downloaded 9/10/2008)

Cumulative number of lab-confirmed human cases reported to WHO. Total number of cases includes deaths.

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	8	5
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	7	7
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	13	8	5	3	3	3	30	20
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	10	25	9	7	3	50	22
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	20	13	55	45	42	37	20	17	137	112
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Lao PDR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2
Myanmar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	25	17
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	8	5	5	5	106	52
Total	4	4	46	32	98	43	115	79	88	59	36	28	387	245