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Novel Influenza A (H7N9) – Update on Human Infections

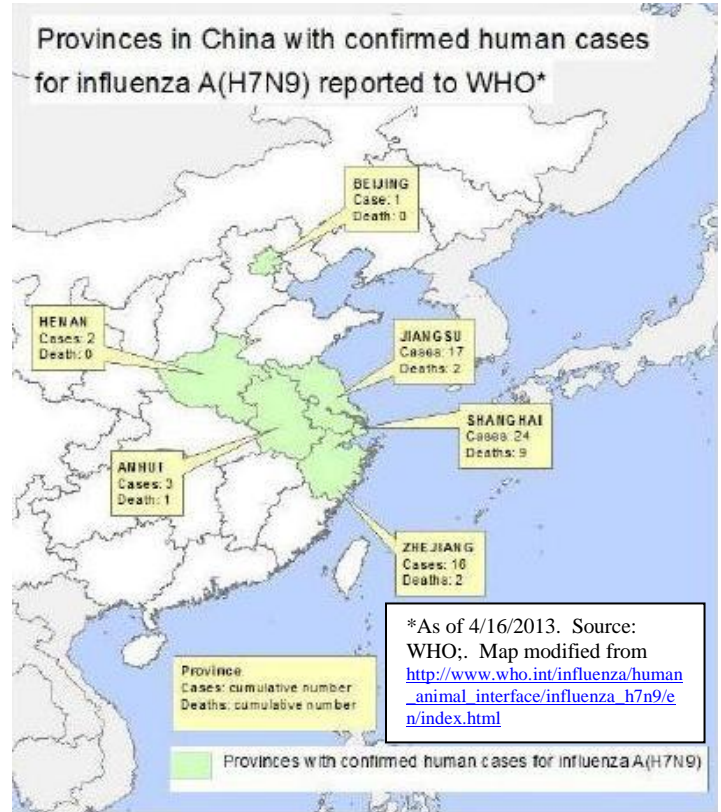
Additional human infections of avian influenza A (H7N9) have been reported in eastern China. No cases (in humans or birds) have been reported in the United States. Orange County continues to monitor the situation closely. For more information, see www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm or www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/index.html.

- **Latest Update:** As of April 19, 2013, 91 human cases of novel influenza A (H7N9), including 17 deaths, have been confirmed in eastern China, all from the provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, and Henan, and the municipalities of Shanghai and Beijing (see map on right. Note: map last updated 4/16/2013). More than one thousand close contacts of these cases are being monitored. So far, there is no evidence of ongoing human-human transmission. Investigations into the source of these infections are still ongoing. For the latest case count, see the WHO updates www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/avian_influenza/archive/en/index.html.

- **Background:** On April 1, 2013, WHO reported three human cases of avian influenza H7N9 in China. These were the first known human infections with this avian strain ever reported. Since then, many new cases have been reported and additional cases are expected to occur. Several of the cases have been hospitalized with severe respiratory illness, although mild cases have now also been reported. H7N9 viruses have been detected in poultry in China in the same areas where human cases have been reported and many of the human cases have had poultry contact.

• **Recommendations:**

- Consider the possibility of H7N9 infection in persons with respiratory illness compatible with influenza within 10 days of the following exposures:
 - Recent travel to countries where H7N9 have been reported (currently just China); OR
 - Recent contact with a confirmed human case of influenza A (H7N9).
- Report any suspect cases to Orange County Public Health immediately at 714-834-8180.
- Refer to the 4/5/2013 Advisory for testing and infection control recommendations and to the latest Orange County updates at <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/flu/h7n9>.
- Treat **all** suspect, probable and confirmed H7N9 cases with oseltamivir (recommended for hospitalized cases) or zanamivir as early as possible, and even if onset was over 48 hours ago. This includes persons with uncomplicated illness and those who are not at high risk for complications of influenza. Note: this is a change from previous recommendations for H7N9 and for seasonal influenza. See www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-antiviral-treatment.htm.
- **Additional infection control guidance from CDC:** www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-infection-control.htm.



Seasonal Influenza Update

- Seasonal influenza activity has decreased dramatically over the past several weeks.
- Activity is currently sporadic in California.
- No new severe influenza cases (hospitalized in intensive care or deaths in persons less than 65 years of age) have been reported in Orange County since the last update 4/3/2013.



If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Sandra Okubo, MPH or Michele Cheung, MD at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.