

Ministry of Health Draft Case Definition for Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

Aims:

- Appropriate clinical management and infection control practices; and
- Surveillance; and
- Reporting.

Possible case of Influenza A (H5N1)

Person with acute lower respiratory tract illness of abrupt onset, characterised by:

- fever (temperature >38 C); and
- sore throat; and
- cough; and/or
- dyspnoea (difficult or laboured breathing);

AND one or more of the following:

- a) having been in contact with (within the seven days prior to the onset of symptoms) a confirmed case of influenza A (H5N1) while this case was infectious; and/or
- b) recent (within seven days prior to the onset of symptoms) visit to a poultry farm, or other place where avian species are kept, in an area known to have outbreaks or to be endemic for HPAI; and/or
- c) recent (within seven days prior to the onset of symptoms) contact with birds (chickens, turkeys, geese, quail, ducks or peafowl) that were unwell or that have died of an illness; and/or
- d) having worked in a laboratory (within seven days prior to the onset of symptoms) that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected of HPAI infection.

Probable case of Influenza A (H5N1)

- a) possible case; and
- b) limited laboratory evidence for Influenza A (H5N1) (such as IFA+ using H5 monoclonal antibodies).

Confirmed H5N1 case

An individual for whom laboratory testing demonstrates one or more of the following:

- a) positive viral culture for Influenza A (H5N1); or
- b) positive PCR for Influenza A (H5N1); or
- c) immunofluorescence antibody (IFA) test positive using Influenza A/H5 monoclonal antibodies; or
- d) a four-fold rise in H-5 specific Ab titer.

Avian influenza H5N1 affected areas

An avian influenza H5N1 affected area is defined as a country, state or territory with confirmed outbreaks of, or which is endemic for, highly pathogenic avian influenza strains, according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

[A list of currently affected countries and territories](http://www.oie.int) is available on the OIE website (www.oie.int).

Note:

Individuals infected with H5N1 are considered to be infectious starting from one day prior to the onset of symptoms up to seven days after the onset of symptoms.

Laboratory investigations for Influenza A may also be undertaken on deceased individuals and in the context of targeted epidemiological studies.

Laboratory confirmed cases identified under these circumstances should also be reported.