



# Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

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**CONTACT:**

**Mathangi  
Shanthakumar**

[m.shanthakumar@massey.ac.nz](mailto:m.shanthakumar@massey.ac.nz)

## NUMBER OF CONFIRMED HUMAN CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA (A/H5N1) REPORTED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, BY COUNTRY AND YEAR

Biosecurity disease threats can enter New Zealand in a number of ways: from returning residents who were exposed and developed a disease while overseas; from people carrying disease who visit or migrate to New Zealand; and from organisms that enter via host/vector species or as result of trade imports (on or in goods coming into New Zealand) (Eberhart-Phillips 1999).

There are a number of emerging and resurgent zoonotic diseases that are currently causing international concern. These include Lyme disease, Ebola and Marburg haemorrhagic fevers, Nipah virus/Hendra disease, West Nile fever, dengue fever, malaria, Chikungunya fever and avian influenza (A/H5N1) (McMichael 2005; Moore 2007).

The data are from the WHO, principally the World Health Report and the Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR) programme (World Health Organization 2011). All notifiable outbreaks reported on the WHO website are shown. To show the possible threats from a wide variety of diseases, the outbreaks include vector-borne disease as well as other infectious diseases.

**Table 1:**

### NUMBER OF CONFIRMED HUMAN CASES AND DEATHS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA (A/H5N1) REPORTED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, BY COUNTRY AND YEAR, 2003-2011.

| Country      | Number of cases (deaths) |                |                |                 |                |                |                |                |                | Total<br>2003-2011 |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
|              | 2003                     | 2004           | 2005           | 2006            | 2007           | 2008           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011           |                    |
| Azerbaijan   |                          |                |                | 8 (5)           |                |                |                |                |                | 8 (5)              |
| Bangladesh   |                          |                |                |                 |                | 1 (0)          |                |                | 2 (0)          | 3 (0)              |
| Cambodia     |                          |                | 4 (4)          | 2 (2)           | 1 (1)          | 1 (0)          | 1 (0)          | 1 (1)          | 8 (8)          | 18 (16)            |
| China        | 1 (1)                    |                | 8 (5)          | 13 (8)          | 5 (3)          | 4 (4)          | 7 (4)          | 2 (1)          |                | 40 (26)            |
| Djibouti     |                          |                |                | 1 (0)           |                |                |                |                |                | 1 (0)              |
| Egypt        |                          |                |                | 18 (10)         | 25 (9)         | 8 (4)          | 39 (4)         | 29 (13)        | 33 (12)        | 152 (52)           |
| Indonesia    |                          |                | 20 (13)        | 55 (45)         | 42 (37)        | 24 (20)        | 21 (19)        | 9 (7)          | 10 (8)         | 181 (149)          |
| Iraq         |                          |                |                | 3 (2)           |                |                |                |                |                | 3 (2)              |
| Laos         |                          |                |                |                 | 2 (2)          |                |                |                |                | 2 (2)              |
| Myanmar      |                          |                |                |                 | 1 (0)          |                |                |                |                | 1 (0)              |
| Nigeria      |                          |                |                |                 | 1 (1)          |                |                |                |                | 1 (1)              |
| Pakistan     |                          |                |                |                 | 3 (1)          |                |                |                |                | 3 (1)              |
| Thailand     |                          | 17 (12)        | 5 (2)          | 3 (3)           |                |                |                |                |                | 25 (17)            |
| Turkey       |                          |                |                | 12 (4)          |                |                |                |                |                | 12 (4)             |
| Viet Nam     | 3 (3)                    | 29 (20)        | 61 (19)        |                 | 8 (5)          | 6 (5)          | 5 (5)          | 7 (2)          |                | 119 (59)           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4 (4)</b>             | <b>46 (32)</b> | <b>98 (43)</b> | <b>115 (79)</b> | <b>88 (59)</b> | <b>44 (33)</b> | <b>73 (32)</b> | <b>48 (24)</b> | <b>53 (28)</b> | <b>569 (334)</b>   |

Note: Only includes laboratory-confirmed cases. All dates refer to the date of onset of the illness.  
Source: World Health Organization (2011)

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### Current situation

Table 1 shows that any of the countries with bird and/or human cases of avian influenza (A/H5N1) are geographically close to, and important economic partners for, New Zealand. A number of countries are also the places of residence for relatively large numbers of overseas passengers arriving into New Zealand (eg, from China, Indonesia and Thailand).

### References

- Eberhart-Phillips J. (1999). Plagues on our doorstep The threat of infectious disease in New Zealand. Auckland: Tandem Press.
- McMichael AJ. (2005). Environment and social influences on emerging infectious disease: past, present, and future. In McLean A, May R, Pattison J et al (eds). SARS: A Case Study in Emerging Infections. Oxford: Oxford University Press:4-15.
- Moore P. (2007). The Essential Handbook of Epidemics, Viruses and Plagues. Camberwell, Vic: Penguin Books.
- World Health Organization (2011) – WHO/GIP, data in HQ as of 10 October 2011.