



# Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

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## NUMBER OF CONFIRMED HUMAN CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA (A/H5N1) REPORTED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, BY COUNTRY AND YEAR, 2003-2012

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 Ebola, Marburg and Dengue haemorrhagic fevers, Rift Valley fever, Yellow fever, Lassa fever and Avian influenza (A/H5N1) (McMichael 2005; Moore 2007).

Data from the World Health Report and the Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR) programme (World Health Organization 2009) show the possible threats from a wide variety of diseases, the outbreaks include vector-borne disease as well as other infectious diseases

### Current situation

Figure 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).

**Figure 1:**

### NUMBER OF CONFIRMED HUMAN CASES AND DEATHS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA (A/H5N1) REPORTED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, BY COUNTRY AND YEAR, 2003-2012.

Country	Number of cases (deaths)										Total 2003-2011	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Azerbaijan				8 (5)								8 (5)
Bangladesh						1 (0)			2 (0)	3 (0)		6 (0)
Cambodia			4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (1)	8 (8)	3 (3)		21 (19)
China	1 (1)		8 (5)	13 (8)	5 (3)	4 (4)	7 (4)	2 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)		43 (28)
Djibouti				1 (0)								1 (0)
Egypt				18 (10)	25 (9)	8 (4)	39 (4)	29 (13)	39 (15)	10 (5)		168 (60)
Indonesia			20 (13)	55 (45)	42 (37)	24 (20)	21 (19)	9 (7)	12 (10)	8 (8)		191 (159)
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)		4 (2)		123 (61)
<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>62 (34)</b>	<b>30 (19)</b>		<b>608 (359)</b>

Note: Only includes laboratory-confirmed cases. All dates refer to the date of onset of the illness.  
Source: World Health Organization (2012)

### 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.
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