

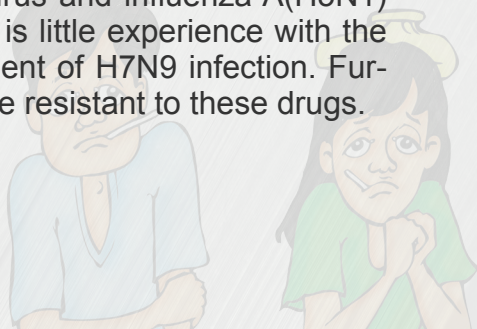
- Regular maintenance of live markets also ensures that economic disruption and consumer access to protein sources are minimized, and that the bird trade is not diverted into uncontrolled distribution and sales channels.
- The risk of virus transmission can be substantially reduced by applying good market practices.

14. Is there a vaccine for the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus?

No vaccine for the prevention of avian influenza A(H7N9) infections in humans is currently available. However, viruses have already been isolated and characterized from the initial cases. The first step in development of a vaccine is the selection of candidate viruses that could go into a vaccine. WHO, in collaboration with partners, will continue to characterize available avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses to identify the best candidate viruses. These candidate vaccine viruses can then be used for the manufacture of vaccine if this step becomes necessary.

15. Does treatment exist for avian influenza A(H7N9) infection?

When influenza antiviral drugs known as neuraminidase inhibitors are given early in the course of illness, they are effective against seasonal influenza virus and influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. At this time, there is little experience with the use of these drugs for the treatment of H7N9 infection. Further, influenza viruses can become resistant to these drugs.





16. Is the general population at risk from the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus?

We do not know yet enough about these infections to determine whether there is a significant risk of community person to person spread. This possibility is the subject of epidemiological investigations that are now taking place.

17. Are health care workers at risk from the avian influenza A(H7N9) influenza virus?

Health care workers often come into contact with patients with infectious diseases. Therefore, WHO recommends that appropriate infection prevention and control measures be consistently applied in health care settings, and that the health status of health care workers be closely monitored. Together with standard precautions, health care workers caring for those suspected or confirmed to have avian influenza A(H7N9) infection should use additional precautions (see:

18. What investigations have begun?

Local and national health authorities are taking the following measures, among others:

- Enhanced surveillance for pneumonia cases of unknown origin to ensure early detection and laboratory confirmation of new cases;
 - Epidemiological investigation, including assessment of suspected cases and contacts of known cases;
 - Close collaboration with animal health authorities to determine the source of the infection.
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