



## ศูนย์ปฏิบัติการโรคไข้หวัดนก

### (Avian Influenza):A(H5N1)

กระทรวงสาธารณสุข อ.เมือง จ.นนทบุรี โทร 02-590-3333

#### PRESS RELEASE

#### AVIAN INFLUENZA INFECTION OF PATIENTS IN KAMPHAENG PHET

The Ministry of Public Health today (28 September 2004) reported the third 'confirmed case' of avian influenza since the second round of the outbreak of the disease, from 1 July 2004.

The 1<sup>st</sup> confirmed case was an 18-year-old male from Prachin Buri who contracted the virus from fighting cocks; the 2<sup>nd</sup> case is the 32-year-old female who is the aunt of the 11 year old female listed as a 'probable case' and died on 8 September 2004. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 'confirmed case' is the 26-year-old female from Nonthaburi, who is the mother of the 11-year-old girl. She died on 20 September 2004.

The female patient from Nonthaburi went to Kamphaeng Phet to take care of her daughter who was hospitalized due to pneumonia. She later fell ill with severe pneumonia and died on 20 September 2004. Siriraj Hospital laboratory tests of the patient's lungs tissue taken by autopsy confirmed the presence of H5 gene of the virus.

A meeting of experts convened on Monday 27 September 2004 by the Ministry of Public Health to look into possible avian influenza cases comprised of experts from Mahidol University, the World Health Organization, the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and communicable disease control advisors to the Ministry of Public Health, to study the epidemiological, clinical, and laboratory information on the cases.

The commission concluded that:

The 11-year-old girl who died on 8 September 2004 was a probable avian influenza case who could have contracted the virus from chickens which died in her house and village.

The 26-year-old mother of the child who died on 20 September 2004 may have either contracted the virus from the environment in the village where chickens died, or from her sick daughter whom she was taking care of very closely at the hospital for a long period of time. In this case, if the mother had contracted the disease from her daughter, it would have been due to very close and prolonged face-to-face exposure.

The experts were also of the opinion that, from currently available information, there is no evidence to suggest that the virus has mutated or re-assorted. This probable human-to-human transmission of avian influenza was related to a single index case and was limited within a family. No other members of the village where the cases lived or health care workers in the hospitals where the cases was admitted are so far found to be ill, but close active surveillance continues.

WHO and US CDC have been involved in the investigations from the beginning and emphasize that the Thai MOPH has taken all appropriate steps to investigate and control the situation. Although the finding of probable human-to-human transmission is clearly of concern, there is currently no evidence of ongoing chains of transmission or risk to persons outside of the affected province. This isolated episode of probable human-to-human transmission would not pose a significant public health threat.

Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan has informed officials to stem-up prevention and control measures to contain the situation. She has also activated the operation centre to closely monitor the situation. The minister also emphasized on implementing full cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture to control the spread of the disease among poultry, which is the source of infection to humans.

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