



**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, AND THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION (WHO)**

**New human case of avian influenza in Cambodia  
24 March 2006**

The Ministry of Health in Cambodia confirmed that a 3-year-old girl from Kampong Speu province was infected with avian influenza and died on 21 March 2006. The girl is the first case detected in Cambodia in 2006. This brings the total number of avian influenza cases in Cambodia to five, with four cases reported during 2005.

The girl became ill with a fever on the 14 March and her condition deteriorated rapidly on 20 March when she was taken to Kuntha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh, where she died on 21 March. Samples from the girl tested positive for influenza A/H5N1 virus at the Pasteur Institute, Phnom Penh. The girl was from Kong Pisey district in Kampong Speu province.

A team of investigators went to the field to determine her likely exposure and whether there were any more cases. A total of 42 contacts were identified and samples were taken. Four of the contacts are being monitored and followed up by the Ministry of Health, as they have mild fevers. Three other people were identified with mild symptoms and contact with poultry that had died around the village. Laboratory results from the suspected cases are likely to be known early next week.

The Ministry of Agriculture are conducting a detailed investigation into poultry deaths in the area around the village, but it appears that chickens had been dying in the village before and at the time the girl became ill. The girl was known to have contact with sick and dead chickens and this is the most likely source of exposure. Staff from the Ministry of Health will continue to conduct active case finding in the village and provide education sessions to concerned villagers. Health Centres in the district will also be put on alert for the signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans.



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