

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.119_Avian Influenza

(31 July – 6 August 2017)

According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC) and the Department of Livestock Development (DLD)'s intelligence system on emerging infectious diseases, abnormal poultry deaths were detected in some provinces in 2017. Common poultry diseases in Thailand are Newcastle disease (twisting of head and neck, circling, watery diarrhea), Infectious bronchitis (coughing, gasping, dyspnoea) and Fowl cholera (oral and nasal mucus discharge, cyanosis and white or greenish watery mucoid diarrhoea). Avian influenza (AI), a public health concern, is under strengthened surveillance efforts.



Preliminary criteria for event-based surveillance of abnormal poultry deaths includes 1. farm poultry die 1% or more in 2 days or decreased feed and water consumption by 20% or more in 1 day; and 2. backyard poultry die 5% or more in 2 days. Suspected signs of AI in poultry are extreme depression, wattles and combs become swollen and congested, ruffled feathers, ocular and nasal discharge, dyspnea, decreased feed and water intake, sudden drop in egg production and many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less, diarrhea, convulsion and sudden death.

In case of abnormal poultry deaths, farm or backyard owners must immediately notify district or provincial livestock officers, village health volunteer or village leaders for prompt investigation of cause of death. For AI, sick and dead birds including droppings must not be taken out of the site. Carcasses must be burned or buried deep enough, i.e. not less than 50 cm., to avoid being dug up by dogs, cats or scavenging animals. Disinfectants, as advised by livestock officer, can be poured over the carcasses before covering the pit. It is very crucial to prevent the mechanical spread of AI viruses from one location to another by people, equipment or supplies. A person who needs to dispose poultry carcasses must wear protective gears including rubber gloves and face mask. After the mission, he or she should immediately wash hands and feet and take a shower right after. Equipment and supplies must be disinfected properly. For more information, please call DLD hotline 096 301 1946.

Ill person who has fever, sore throat, muscle ache, cough or difficult breathing within 14 days after touching sick or dead poultry, he or she must wear a face mask, seek medical attention at a hospital immediately and inform the doctor the history of poultry contact.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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