



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Case Definition for Avian Influenza H5N1

- a suspect case, for whom H5N1 laboratory testing is recommended, meets these criteria:
 1. A patient who has an illness that requires hospitalization or is fatal; AND has or had a documented temperature of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$); AND has radiographically confirmed pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or other severe respiratory illness for which an alternative diagnosis has not yet been established; AND has at least one of the *potential exposure criteria* (A,B or C) listed below).

Potential exposure criteria:

Within 10 days of symptom onset, has either

A Traveled to a country with influenza H5N1 documented in poultry, wild birds, and/or humans (http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm) AND at least one of the following potential exposures:

- direct contact with (e.g., touching) sick or dead domestic poultry;
- direct contact with surfaces contaminated with poultry feces;
- consumption of raw or incompletely cooked poultry or poultry products;
- direct contact with sick or dead wild birds suspected or confirmed to have influenza H5N1;
- close contact (approach within 1 meter approx. 3 feet) of a person who has been hospitalized or died due to a severe unexplained respiratory illness

OR

B. Had close contact (approach within 1 meter [approx. 3 feet]) of an ill person who has confirmed or suspected H5N1 infection

OR

C. Worked with live influenza H5N1 virus in a laboratory.

- A suspect case, for whom H5N1 laboratory testing should be considered on a case-by case basis in consultation with local and state health departments, meets these criteria:
 1. A hospitalized or ambulatory patient with mild or atypical disease (e.g., a patient with respiratory illness and fever who does not require hospitalization, or a patient with significant neurological or gastrointestinal symptoms in the absence of respiratory disease) who has at least one of the *potential exposure criteria* (A,B or C) listed above.

OR

 2. A patient with severe or fatal respiratory disease whose epidemiological information is uncertain, unavailable, or otherwise suspicious but does not meet the criteria above (e.g., a returned traveler from an influenza H5N1-affect country whose exposures are unclear or suspicious, or a person who had contact with sick or well-appearing poultry).

a laboratory-confirmed case is one that has laboratory evidence of H5N1 infection (positive by RT-PCR or other appropriate laboratory test method) based on testing conducted by the local or state public health laboratory. The first positive H5 laboratory result based on testing conducted by a local public health laboratory will be confirmed by VRDL and CDC. However, while awaiting VRDL/CDC confirmation, the county should follow all recommended actions for laboratory-confirmed cases under the presumption of infection with H5N1.