



http://www.cdhd.wa.gov

June 2013

CHELAN-DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH

Current Conditions of Interest

**TO REPORT A
NOTIFIABLE
CONDITION:**

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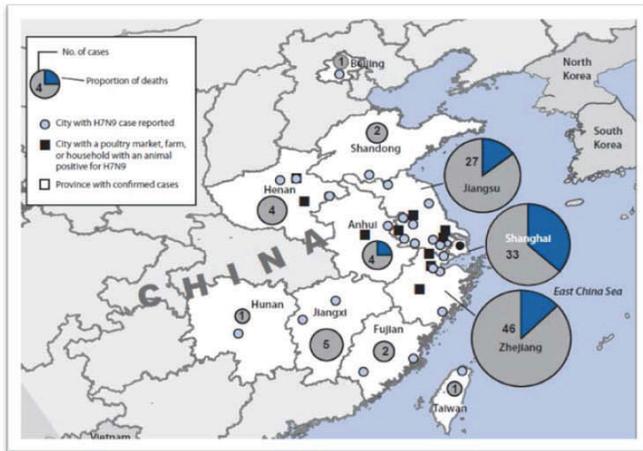
"Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Community"

Influenza A (H7 N9) Virus

From the May issue of *EpiTrends*

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-002-epitrends2013-05.pdf>

This year a new influenza A (H7N9) virus was found to cause human illnesses in China. From February 19th – May 9th there have been 131 cases identified with 32 deaths (24%), although not all cases have recovered yet. The cases have been reported from eight contiguous provinces and two municipalities in China. Other than cases in China a single travel-associated case was reported from Taiwan.



Most patients known to be infected with the influenza A (H7N9) virus have been critically ill with severe lower respiratory tract illnesses including pneumonia, respiratory failure, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) resulting in high case mortality. Of 82 cases detected early in the outbreak, the median age was 63 years (range 2 to 89 years); only four were pediatric cases including two children with mild symptoms. Overall the patients have been mainly male urban residents, and 76% had an underlying medical condition.

There is guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the public health response in this developing situation. CDC has requested enhanced surveillance for influenza among patients with symptoms of influenza who had traveled to China within 10 days of onset or who had close contact with a known H7N9 case. None of 37 patients tested in the United States through April 29th have been positive for H7N9 virus

References

Emergence of Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus Causing Severe Human Illness – China, February - April 2012. MMWR May 10, 2013.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm62e0501a1.htm?s_cid=mm62e0501a1_e

Qun Li, Lei Zhou, Minghao Zhou, et. al. Preliminary Report: Epidemiology of the Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Outbreak in China. NEJM April 24, 2013.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1304617>

Resources

WHO: http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/avian_influenza/en/

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/> (includes links to recent MMWR articles)

DOH: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Flu/Pandemicflu.aspx>