



## **FACT SHEET—*Bird Flu (H5N1 Avian Influenza)***

### **BIRD FLU IS A DISEASE OF WILD AND FARM BIRDS**

- This type of influenza can also infect other animals and people.
- Since the 1990s, bird flu outbreaks have occurred mostly in eastern Asia.
- Bird flu is spreading to other regions.

### **PERSON-TO-PERSON SPREAD OF BIRD FLU IS RARE**

- Human cases of bird flu have been reported in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.
  - The number of human cases of bird flu has been increasing.
  - Most human cases resulted from direct contact with infected birds or their droppings.
  - While it is rare for a person to get bird flu - it can be very serious and often fatal.
- To date, no cases of bird flu have occurred in the U.S. *Travelers to areas with bird flu should take precautions before, during, and after travel.*
- It is safe to eat well-cooked poultry.
  - The U.S. bans imports of poultry from areas with bird flu.
  - People can avoid germs by carefully handling and cooking poultry.
  - Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
Frankfort, KY

<http://healthalerts.ky.gov>

KY Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY

**EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222**

<http://www.krpc.com/>

Lake Cumberland District Health Dept.  
(606) 678 – 4761

The Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA

**Toll free: 1-800-311-3435**

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/>

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

### **SCIENTISTS ARE MONITORING THE SPREAD OF BIRD FLU**

- Global laboratory networks are watching to see if the virus changes enough to infect humans directly and easily.
- Systems are in place for rapidly sharing disease alerts.
- There is a worldwide effort to control the spread of bird flu.
  - Bird flocks are continually checked for illness.
  - Birds that appear sick are separated from the flock.
  - Infected and possibly infected birds are killed.