



Special Report

G4S Global Risks Ltd.

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Avian Influenza



Experts agree that an influenza pandemic is almost a certainty.

An Avian Influenza (AI) pandemic has the terrifying potential to seriously affect 30-40% of our population and kill more than 10% of those affected.

Consequences could include:

- More than seven million deaths from a mild pandemic (WHO)
- At least 25 percent of an affected country's workers needing to take extended sick leave
- Nearly \$1 trillion in worldwide economic damage according to the World Bank. The potential of AI to have a vast impact on the strength of the economy will effect the financial status of most companies. Every industry will see major disruption; the hardest hit companies are most likely to be those with a large number of employees, worldwide operations, global supply chains and/or international suppliers and customers
- It is quite likely the world could see a deterioration of essential services such as electricity, water, transport and food supply

Your business continuity plan needs to take a possible AI pandemic into account and will need to consider the day-to-day response to fast changing requirements.

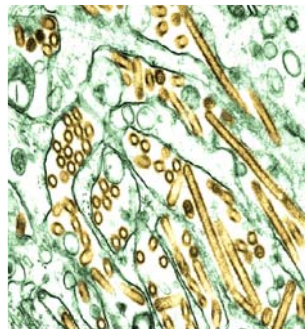
Is your business prepared? >>

Latest Developments in brief

Recent development

In mid May 2006 the World Health Organization (WHO) said it was extremely worried about a cluster of recent human deaths from the virulent H5N1 strain of bird flu. Seven people from the same family in northern Sumatra, Indonesia, had died from the disease earlier the same month. WHO spokesman Peter Cordingley said there was no sign of diseased poultry in the immediate area. Investigators are looking into the possibility that the virus had spread from human to human, Mr Cordingley said.

On Tuesday last week it was reported that an investigation conducted by WTO showed that the deadly bird flu virus mutated within the Indonesian family cluster, but experts insisted Friday it had not become easier to transmit between people or increased the possibility of a human pandemic. It is the first evidence indicating that a person caught the virus from a human and then passed it on to another person.



Background

Avian influenza refers to a large group of different influenza viruses that primarily affect birds. On rare occasions these bird viruses can infect other species including pigs and humans. The vast majority of avian influenza viruses do not infect humans. An influenza pandemic happens when a new subtype emerges that has not previously circulated in humans.

Although more than 200 people have contracted the H5N1 virus, experts point out that cross-infection to humans is still relatively rare, and usually occurs where people have been in close contact with infected birds. As H5N1 continues its journey through Europe and Africa from its original hotspot of south-east Asia, there is mounting concern that it may combine with a human strain to produce a mutation that is more dangerous and difficult to combat. For this reason, avian H5N1 is a strain with pandemic potential, since it might ultimately adapt into a strain that is contagious among humans. Once this adaptation occurs, it will no longer be a bird virus--it will be a human influenza virus.

Spread of AI

To date, human cases have been reported in 10 countries, most of which are in Asia. The first patients in the current outbreak, which were reported from Vietnam, developed symptoms in December 2003 but were not confirmed as an H5N1 infection until 11 January 2004. Thailand reported its first cases on 23 January 2004. The first case in Cambodia followed on 2 February 2005. The next country to report cases was Indonesia, which confirmed its first infection on 21 July. China's first two cases were reported on 16 November 2005. Confirmation of the first cases in Turkey came on 5 January 2006, followed by the first reported case in Iraq on 30 January 2006. All human cases have coincided with outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in poultry. To date, Vietnam has been the most severely affected country, with more than 90 cases.

HUMAN CASES OF BIRD FLU

Up to 22 June 2006

Country	Cases	Deaths
Azerbaijan	8	5
Cambodia	6	6
China	19	12
Djibouti	1	0
Egypt	14	6
Indonesia	51	39
Iraq	2	2
Thailand	22	14
Turkey	12	4
Vietnam	93	42
Total	228	130

Source: World Health Organization

Vaccine

The World Health Organization continues to recommend Tamiflu and Relenza to reduce the severity and duration of illness caused by influenza. Recently the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory in China announced that three new bird flu vaccines have been developed. The three new vaccines have not yet been put into production but have proved to be very effective in prevention and control of avian influenza . (VietnamNet / BBC / WHO).

Business Continuity Plan Checklist

Many existing business continuity plans are not suited for the case of a worldwide pandemic where a big proportion of your workforce is lost and the infrastructure is disrupted.

G4S Global Risks' check-list for contingency plan content shows you whether your business continuity management is up to scratch.

G4S Global Risks advises you to ask yourself the following questions and is looking forward to assist you on issues concerning your own contingency plans:

Actions and Responsibilities:

- Establish a process to support your plan based on your liaison with local authorities and your own operational requirements.
- Establish teams and responsibilities based on functional roles within your organisation and your existing business continuity plan (BCP).

I. Emergency Response

Contingency Plan

- Test your continuity plans regularly and run exercises using various scenarios.
- Stay in regular contact with your local and national governments and international bodies for guidance that could be essential for your staff and business.

Alternative sites

- Have you identified alternate sites and backup?
- Have you prepared and rehearsed your plans?

Liaison with Customers

- Have you established points of contact?

Worst case scenario

- Countries, states or municipalities, may seal their borders for people and goods from infected areas. Flu patients will be sent to isolation wards in hospitals until there is no more capacity. Mild symptoms will be treated in community clinics. People who have been in close contact with victims will be quarantined.
- Doctors, nurses, and medical facilities will potentially be under major stress with an inability to cope with large numbers of infected people.
- It is likely that during a pandemic other medical services such as elective surgery, and even emergency treatment, will be suspended.
- You have the risk of your place of work being totally shut down or quarantined by local authorities therefore making it impossible to continue to operate unless you already have an alternative site with 'non- infected' staff, communications, and operational assets already pre-positioned and operating.

- Have you coordinated activities in support of their contingency plans where applicable?
- Have you established their notification process for phases, and customer hot-line details?

Liaison with Staff

- Have you established and updated staff contact lists?

Medical and HR

- Have you established a staff policy for signs of flu including ways to control exposure to the virus, medical support, stay at home policy, emergency pay, on-site paramedics and training?

Staff training and preparation

Your plan to communicate with, prepare and train staff.

- How you will prevent cross contamination and how you will segregate staff?

- Do you have a management plan to 'quarantine' areas of your operations?
- Do you have an emergency staffing plan?
- How will you organise staff precautions such as inoculations, face masks, alcohol swabs, etc.?
- How will you ensure that staff are fully informed on what preparations and precautions they need to take?
- How will you ensure that all staff know their role in the plan?

Supply stockpiles

- Have you considered stocks of supplies such as face masks, disinfectant, hand cleanser, disposal of rubbish, medical kits and on-site treatment?
- Have you considered the need for tinned food supplies and water for key operational areas?

Security

Security of your customer's assets and your own operations will be a major factor. A shortage of manpower should be anticipated. There may be lawlessness in certain countries and regions as the ability of local authorities to maintain order breaks down.

Operations

- How will you ensure that each functional and critical area of your business is fully prepared, rehearsed, trained, equipped, and able to respond to the plan?
- What is the plan for each critical function on a priority basis?

Legal / Insurance

- Have you established your legal responsibilities and rights, and the implications for the business in the event of an outbreak of avian flu?

II. Crisis Management

Your crisis management needs to be activated once an outbreak is likely to impact your business:

You should anticipate that as your local infrastructure comes under pressure during the various phases of a pandemic, that some essential services and supplies will not be available or in short supply.

III. Business recovery

Have you organised:

- a business recovery team?
- recovery time objectives?
- continuity strategies?
- alternative supply channels in case of disruption?
- alternative business premises and transport facilities?
- the possibility for core staff to work from home?

Interesting links

- BBC: In-Depth Bird Flu

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2005/bird_flu/default.stm

- UN/WHO advice for bird flu hit areas

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2005/bird_flu/default.stm

- WHO on Avian Influenza

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

["Ten things you need to know about pandemic influenza"](#)

[Avian influenza \("bird flu"\) - Fact sheet](#)

[Avian influenza frequently asked questions](#)

[Current WHO phase of pandemic alert](#)

["Avian influenza: assessing the pandemic threat"](#)

[National Influenza Pandemic Plans \(submitted to WHO\)](#)

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Global Risks - Global Solutions.

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