

WHO recommendations relating to travelers coming from and going to countries experiencing outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza.

These recommendations are in line with phase 3 in the WHO 6-phase scale of pandemic alert. For details, see:

http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_CSR_GIP_2005_5/en/
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/travel2005_11_3/en/index.html

Avian influenza is an animal disease which, very rarely, infects humans. A human influenza pandemic is caused by a virus new to humans. If the avian influenza virus mutates, it could theoretically trigger a human influenza pandemic. We are not experiencing a pandemic now.

Advice regarding destinations

WHO does not recommend any restrictions on travel to any areas affected by H5N1 avian influenza, including countries which have reported associated cases of human infection.

WHO does not currently recommend screening of travelers coming from H5N1 affected areas.

Advice to travellers

At present **WHO** advises travelers to avoid contact with high-risk environments in affected countries:

Travelers to affected areas should avoid contact with live animal markets and poultry farms, and any free-ranging or caged poultry.

Direct contact with infected poultry, or surfaces and objects contaminated by their droppings, is considered the main route of human infection.

WHO reconfirms that, when poultry products are safely handled and properly cooked, humans are not at risk of acquiring H5N1 infection through food.