



Avian Influenza Fact Sheet

Epidemiological Scenarios for Avian Influenza*

The epidemiological scenarios for countries range from a high occurrence of avian flu with frequent outbreaks in poultry and humans**, to a low incidence of disease with variable flock immunity, to sporadic disease outbreaks, to free of the disease but at risk.

Category 1: High disease incidence

- high virus load
- disease spreading in new areas and possibly human infections
- little or no immunity in terrestrial poultry populations

Category 2: Medium to low disease incidence

- high virus load
- disease not spreading to new areas
- low to moderate risk for humans
- disease endemic in smallholder poultry sector
- variable flock immunity depending on vaccination efficacy and coverage

Category 3: Low level of disease incidence

- low virus load
- highly susceptible poultry population
- low poultry density
- low risk for humans

Category 4: Freedom from infection in certain compartments and zones

- low virus load in infected parts
- highly susceptible poultry population
- disease incidence present in smallholder sector in certain areas
- commercial poultry farms are HPAI-free
- low risk for humans

Category 5: Freedom from infection after stamping out

- highly susceptible, clean population of domestic poultry
- at risk if disease re-introduced
- low to moderate risk for humans

Category 6: Freedom from infection without history of HPAI infection

- highly susceptible, uninfected and unprotected population in domestic populations
- high risk of HPAI in poultry if disease introduced
- low risk for humans

Source: *A Strategic Framework for HPAI Prevention and Control in Southeast Asia*, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Diseases (ECTAD), FAO, Bangkok, May 2006

* Avian *flu* is the common term that refers to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Avian *influenza* is an infection of birds and possibly other species that can be of low, moderate or high virulence.

** Not all avian influenza viruses infect humans.