

# TYPE A INFLUENZA H5N1 VS. H7N9

## FACT SHEET

H5N1 is endemic in poultry in Vietnam since 2003. More recently a new avian influenza virus A(H7N9) has emerged in China and remains a potential threat to Viet Nam. As of April 2014, H7N9 had not been detected in Viet Nam, either in poultry or in humans. Although H7N9 and H5N1 are both influenza-causing viruses, there are significant differences between them, which have implications for their detection, control and prevention.

### • Difference between H5N1 and H7N9

|   | H5N1  | H7N9  |
|---|---|---|
| What are the risks of the virus resulting in disease in poultry ? | High  | Low   |
| What are the technical terms for the conditions?                  | Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)  | Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)                   |
| Are infections visible in chickens when infected?                 | Infection is easily noticed; birds get sick or die  | Infection does not produce symptoms of illness in birds |
| Which Birds are commonly affected?                                | Poultry (chickens and ducks), swallow, and other wild birds   | Mostly chickens and occasionally quail                  |
| Where is the likely place of early detection?                     | Back-yard farms and poultry Farms   | Live bird markets (wholesale and retail)                |
| Is the virus in Vietnam ?   | Since 2003  | No  |
| Where is the best place to look for virus?                        | Farms & live bird markets   | Chickens or live bird market environment                |
| Is vaccination available?   | Poultry vaccines are available  | No vaccine against H7N9 exists for poultry              |
| Is it safe to eat poultry?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, as long as poultry and eggs are cooked thoroughly (no pink or bloody meat parts, no runny yolks)</li> <li>• All influenza viruses are inactivated by normal cooking temperatures</li> <li>• Do not eat poultry that is sick, has died unexpectedly, or is from an unknown source</li> </ul> |   |
| Will it affect Human health?                                      | Both viruses can cause serious disease in human which may lead to fatal outcome   |   |

• H7N9 Fact Sheet: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/173704/icode/>

For more information, visit FAO Vietnam's official website <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/vietnam/en/>