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Publication: Study highlights H7N9 bird flu's potential to spread between humans

A new study suggests there have been multiple clusters of human-to-human transmission in recent outbreaks of the bird flu strain H7N9. There were around 400 human cases of H7N9 influenza and 177 deaths in 2013 and 2014, all of them in China. Most patients are believed to have caught the infection from close contact with birds, but the virus's ability to spread between humans has been uncertain. In a study published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, scientists from Imperial College London studied data from these outbreaks and used statistical methods to estimate how transmissible the virus is. The results suggest that around 70 cases were caused by an infection spread between people. However, the virus cannot spread easily enough in humans to cause sustained transmission at the level required for a pandemic. [read more](#)

China: Confirmed 2 human H7N9 cases

- A 3 year-old boy currently lives in Huaibei City, Anhui Province has history of contacting live poultry before the onset. The boy was sick on 27 April, went to a hospital in Huaibei for treatment and was confirmed for H7N9. The patient is with mild symptoms, currently in stable condition. [read more](#)
- A 39 year-old woman living in Hukou County, Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province. Currently, patient is in critical condition, and in the hospital in Jiujiang City for treatment. [read more](#)

China: Reported H5N6 in an oriental magpie robin in Hong Kong

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said today (May 5) that an oriental magpie robin found in Sai Kung was confirmed to be H5N6 positive after a series of laboratory tests. The sick bird was found and collected near 10B Sha Kok Mei First Lane, Sai Kung, on April 29. [read more](#)

Indonesia: Rabies widens its grip - Rabies case confirmed in Bangli bovine population

Health authorities in Bangli Regency in Bali have recorded a case of rabies in the village of Belbalang. As reported by Radar Bali, a farming cooperative discovered the case in a 2 and a half-year-old cow that underwent artificial insemination on January 20, 2015. The same cow began to act in a peculiar fashion on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, by running amok and thrashing its head against its enclosure. A short time later, the cow experienced violent seizures and died. [read more](#)

Philippines: Reported 4th rabies death in Iloilo

A provincial health official again called on the public to have pets and other animals vaccinated against rabies as the fatal disease claimed its fourth victim in the province, a six-

year-old boy from Lemery town. According to Dr. Maria Socorro Colmenares-Quinon of the Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO), her surveillance team in Barangay Alemanyana, Lemery found the case suggestive of human rabies because of the signs and symptoms manifested by the boy prior to his death last April 27. [read more](#)