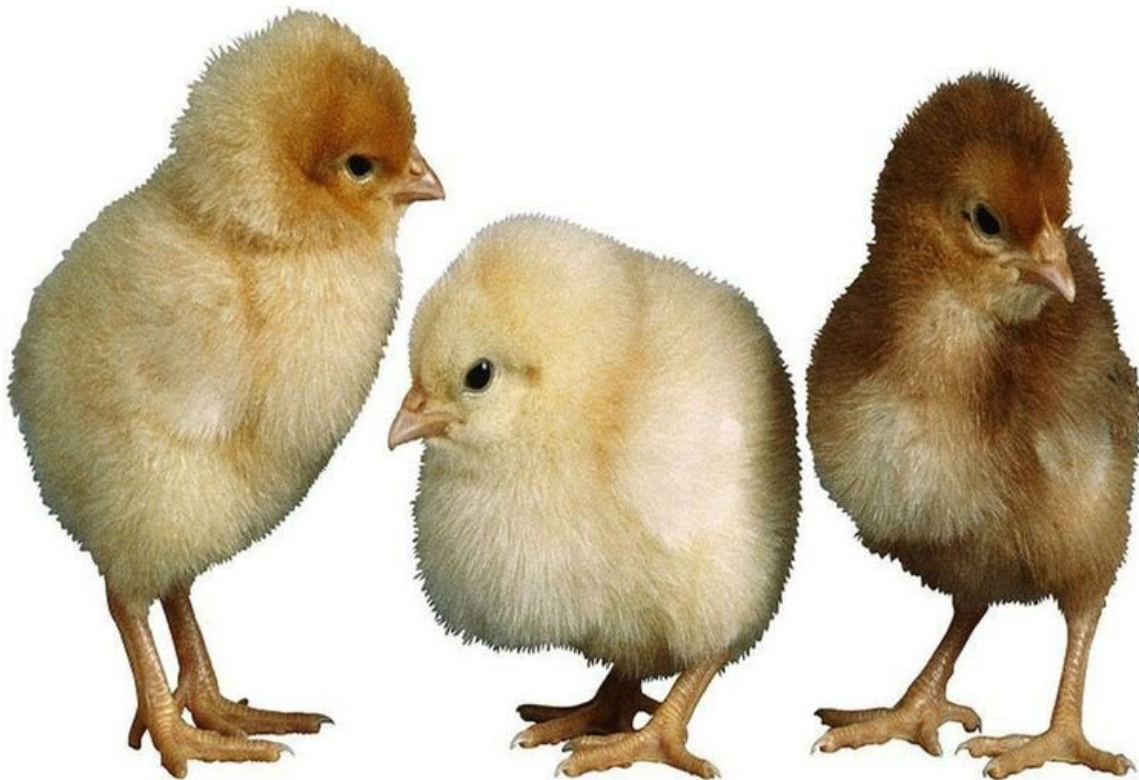


Chinese man hospitalized with H5N6 bird flu

July 15 2021



A man in China has been hospitalized with the H5N6 strain of avian flu, which is one of several potentially dangerous strains that can infect humans.

The 55-year-old man came down with a fever and tested positive for the virus on July 6. He was hospitalized in Bazhong, a city in the province of Sichuan, according to the state-run China Global Television Network, *The New York Times* reported.

In response to the case, local officials "activated an [emergency response](#) and sterilized the area," the broadcaster said.

It added that unnamed experts said there was a low risk of large-scale transmission among humans, the *Times* reported. There was no mention of whether the man was involved in work handling poultry.

The H5N6 virus was first detected eight years ago in Laos, later spreading to China and other countries. Since 2014, 32 cases of [human](#) infection with the virus and 19 deaths in Asia have been reported to the World Health Organization, the *Times* reported.

The last human case before this latest one had an onset date of May 13.

Mutations are common in bird flu viruses, so scientists strive to track them closely for indications they're becoming more deadly or contagious, the *Times* reported.

Last year, a team of scientists reported that a new strain of the H1N1 swine flu [virus](#) was spreading silently in workers on China's pig farms and should be "urgently" controlled to avoid another pandemic, even though the strain had not caused disease in the people it infected, the *Times* reported.

More information: Visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more on the [avian flu](#).

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