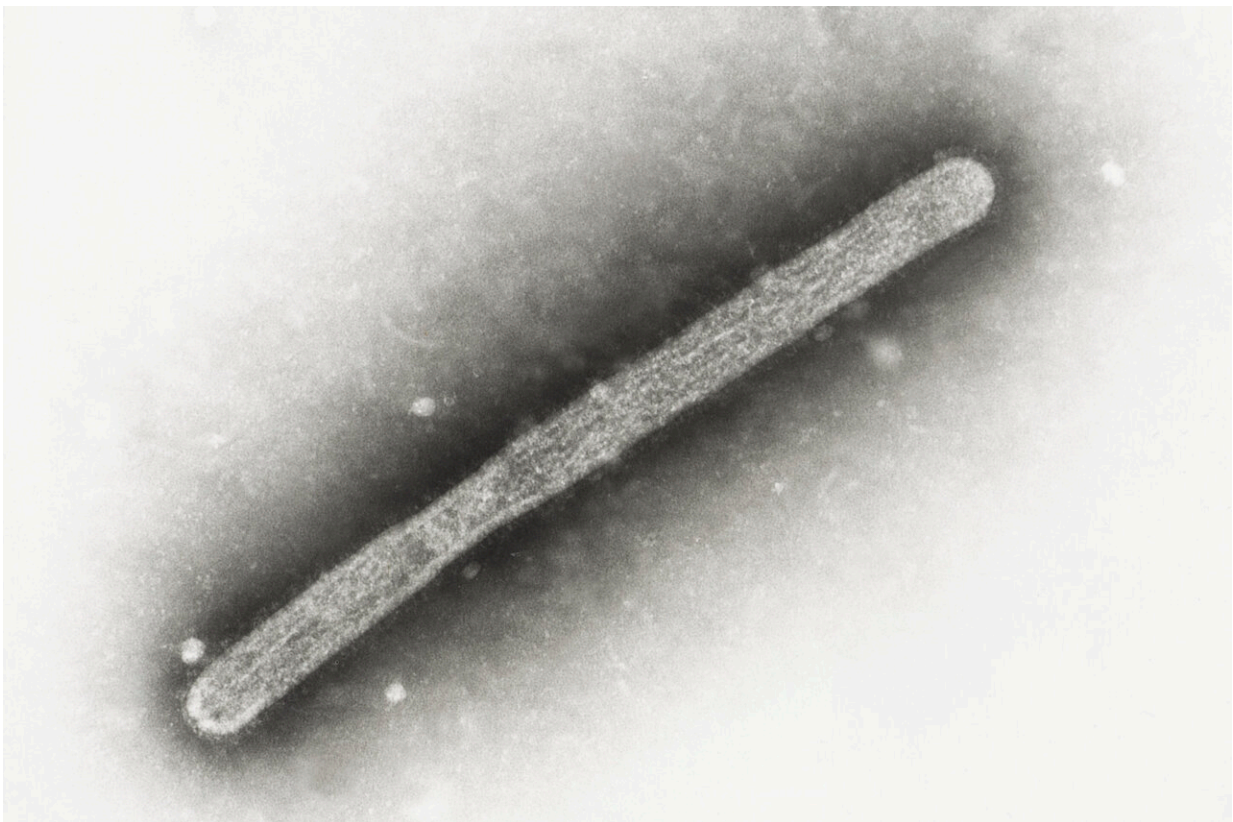


Two more bird flu cases reported in Colorado, but elsewhere a study finds no asymptomatic infections

July 20 2024, by Mike Stobbe



This 2005 electron microscope image shows an avian influenza A H5N1 virion. Credit: Cynthia Goldsmith, Jackie Katz/CDC via AP, File

U.S. health officials on Friday announced two more bird flu cases among

farmworkers, but they also said a new study in Michigan suggested the virus is not causing silent infections in people.

Last month, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services launched a study of workers who were around cows sickened by the bird flu. The researchers drew [blood](#) from 35 people.

One goal was to determine if there were people who never had any symptoms but did have evidence of past infections. None of the blood testing showed antibodies that would indicate such infections, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) on Friday.

Meanwhile, two more infections tied to a Colorado poultry farm were reported, bringing the total to six. It's the largest outbreak of human bird flu infections in U.S. history, and accounts for most of the 11 cases reported to date. Ten of those cases occurred this year, all among [farmworkers](#) and all with mild symptoms.

A [bird flu](#) virus has been spreading since 2020 among mammals—including dogs, cats, skunks, bears and even [seals](#) and porpoises—in scores of countries. Earlier this year the virus, known as H5N1, was detected in U.S. livestock, and is now circulating in cattle in several states.

Health officials continue to characterize the threat to the general public as low, and the virus has not spread between people. But officials are keeping careful watch, because earlier versions of the same virus have been deadly.

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