



Tourism *E*mergency *R*esponse *N*etwork **TERN**

MESSAGE TO TERN MEMBERS

NO CHANGE IN ALERT PHASE IN INDONESIA

You may have picked up the news concerning the transmission of the H5N1 virus to eight members of one family, of whom seven died. It is reported that this cluster resulted from human-to-human transmission of the virus. Clusters of cases of H5N1 infection have been seen in a number of other countries and it is likely that human-to-human transmission has occurred previously. So far this year 34 people in Indonesia have contracted the virus, of which 28 have died.

There is no evidence of widespread or sustained transmission of H5N1 among humans. The risk of infection has not changed and is rare even where avian influenza in poultry is widespread.

An international consultation, organized by WHO and FAO at the request of the Government of Indonesia, has made recommendations for the prevention and control of avian influenza in poultry and humans.

The current global pandemic alert phase remains at 3. This is defined as, "Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, ***or at most rare instances of spread with a close contact***".

Human-to-human transmission within highly localized clusters is characteristic of a Phase 4 alert. Despite human-to-human transmission in Indonesia, transmission cannot be described as a localized cluster ***but rather a single family group with close contact***.

Accordingly, WHO is not considering changing the Alert Phase from 3 at this time.

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