

# Algorithm for the management of persons with acute febrile respiratory illness who may have avian influenza

i.e. returning travellers and visitors from countries affected by avian influenza and people with close contact with sick poultry and/or wild birds

## 1 Screening

As soon as the patient mentions a febrile respiratory illness and travel in the last 2 weeks<sup>1</sup> [to an area of the world affected by H5N1<sup>2</sup>](#) OR contact with sick, dying or dead poultry and/or wild birds, the following precautions should be taken before continuing with the assessment:

YES

## 2 Assessment

### Clinical

Acute onset of fever (temperature  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) with signs and symptoms of an acute respiratory infection.

AND

### Epidemiological

At least one of the following exposures (a, b, c) within 7 days prior to onset of symptoms:

**A. Contact with poultry or wild birds:** Reside in or have visited an area of a country where influenza A/H5N1 is currently suspected or confirmed as reported on the [HPSC web-site](#) AND

Having been in close contact (within one metre) with sick or dead domestic poultry and/or wild birds in the affected area; OR

Having been in a home or farm where sick or dead domestic poultry have been reported in the previous six weeks in the affected area;

**B. Human Contact:** Having been in close contact (within one metre) with a person reported as a probable or confirmed case of influenza A/H5N1;

**C. Laboratory Contact:** Having worked in a laboratory where there is potential exposure to influenza A/H5N1;

**If patient doesn't meet the above criteria and you are still concerned regarding avian influenza please contact HSE-HPSC 01-8765300.**

NO

YES

Unlikely to be Influenza A (H5N1). Treat as indicated.

**Refer to Hospital for Treatment & Investigation**

### Treatment & Investigations (treat samples as "high risk")

#### Consider treatment with oseltamivir

- > Combined nose/throat swab in virus transport medium for immediate H5N1 PCR at the NVRL. Seasonal influenza A/B rapid test will be done in parallel at NVRL.
- > FBCs with differential (lymphopenia is a prominent feature of AI)
- > LFTs (liver function frequently deranged with AI)
- > Legionella & pneumococcal urinary antigens
- > Serology mycoplasma, influenza A & B, adenovirus, RSV & 20mls reserve
- > CXR
- > Blood culture
- > Pulse Oximetry
- > Sputum culture  $\pm$  gram stain

## 3

### Negative H5N1

Treat as appropriate AND remove from strict respiratory isolation if appropriate

### Positive H5N1

Inform local MOH immediately. Local MOH to inform HSE-HPSC immediately of result and discuss prophylaxis.

## Infection Control & Reporting<sup>3</sup>

### Strict hand hygiene

### Primary care / community

**Location:** At patient's home if possible  
**Patient** to wear mask (surgical)  
**Staff** to wear mask, gown, gloves and eye protection

### Hospital

**Location:** Side room  
**Patient** to wear mask (surgical)  
**Staff** to wear mask (surgical), gown, gloves and eye protection

Inform Director of Public Health (MOH) immediately

Inform hospital infection control & occupational health

### Standard, Contact & Droplet Precautions

**Patient:** Single room adequately ventilated ( $\geq 12$  air changes per hour)

**Staff:** Routine care – barrier precautions<sup>4</sup>

Aerosolizing procedures – barrier precautions<sup>4</sup> & correctly fitted high filtration mask – minimum standard FFP2.

1. Includes the possibility of a long incubation and late presentation  
 2. For countries affected by avian influenza see HPSC website <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/Respiratory/AvianInfluenza/AffectedCountries/>  
 3. For infection control advice see [http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/AI\\_Inf\\_Control\\_Guide\\_10May2007.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/AI_Inf_Control_Guide_10May2007.pdf)  
 4. Barrier precautions = adequate hand hygiene, use of gowns, clean gloves, medical mask and eye protection if splashes are anticipated

Please check HPSC website [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) for further updates.