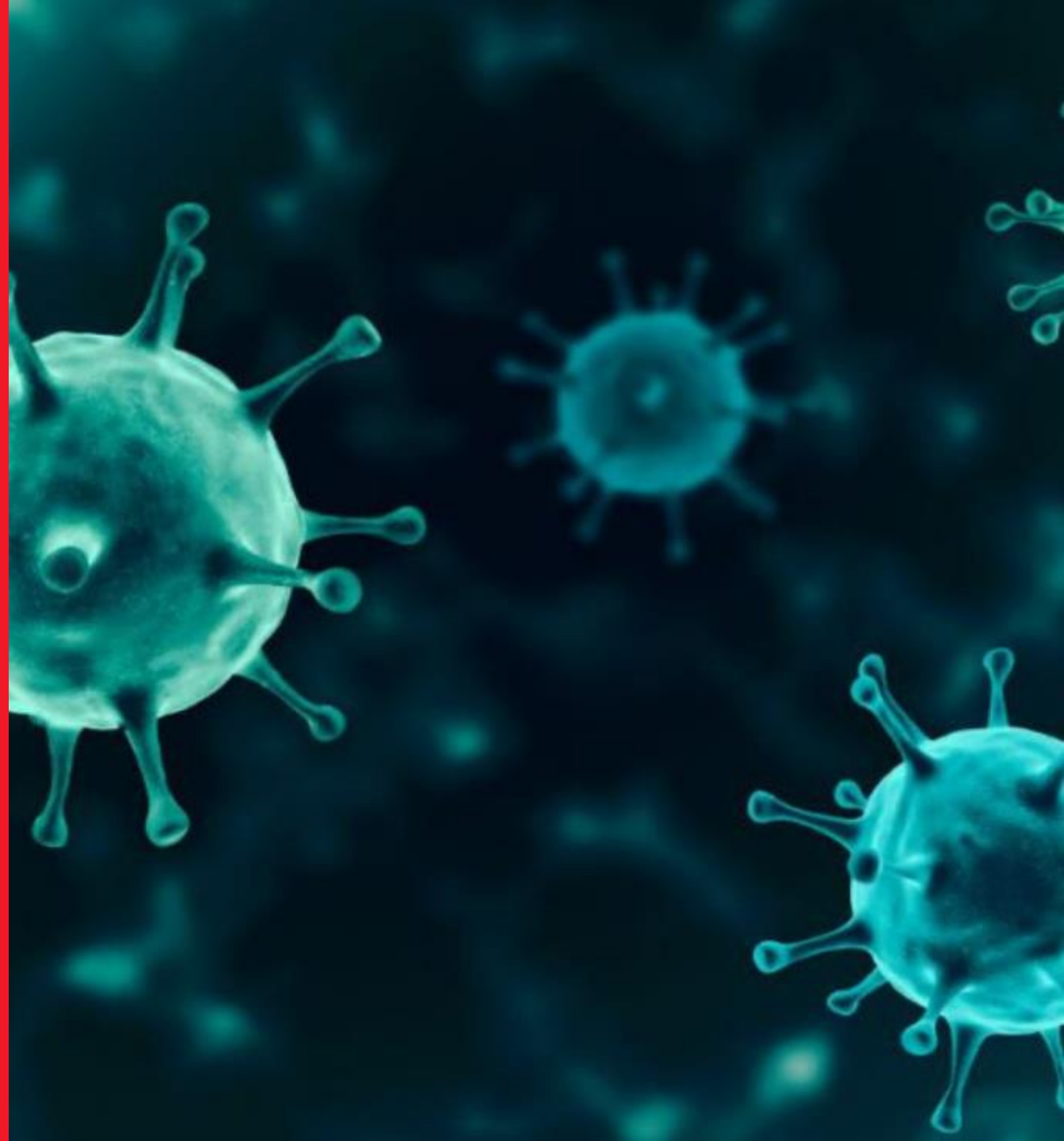


Avian influenza and other zoonotic

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Outline

- Introduction
- Background
- Symptoms
- Who is at risk?
- Diagnostics and treatment
- Prevention

Introduction

- **Zoonotic influenza viruses** - animal influenza viruses that may **occasionally infect humans** through **direct or indirect contact** - can cause disease in humans ranging from a mild illness to death.
- **Birds** are the natural hosts for **avian influenza viruses**.
- Most **swine influenza viruses** **do not cause disease in humans**, but some countries have reported cases of human infection.
- Just like birds and pigs, **other animals** such as horses and dogs, **can be infected with their own influenza viruses** (canine influenza viruses, equine influenza viruses, etc.).
- WHO does **not recommend travel restrictions** related to avian influenza.

Background

- After an outbreak of A(H5N1) virus in 1997 in poultry in Hong Kong SAR, China, since 2003, avian and other influenza viruses have spread from Asia to Europe and Africa.
- In 2013, human infections with the influenza A(H7N9) virus were reported in China.



Symptoms

- Avian, swine and other zoonotic influenza infections in humans may cause disease ranging **from mild upper respiratory infection** (fever and cough) **to rapid progression to severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, shock and even death.**
- **Gastrointestinal symptoms** such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea (in A(H5N1) infection).

Who is at risk?

- **The primary risk factor** for humans is **exposure to infected live or dead poultry or contaminated environments**, such as live bird markets.
- **Slaughtering, defeathering, handling carcasses and preparing poultry for consumption**, especially in household settings, are **also risk factors**.
- **No sustained human-to-human transmission** has been identified to date.

Diagnostics and treatment

- Bird flu virus infection is usually diagnosed by **collecting a swab from the upper respiratory tract (nose or throat)** of the sick person. Testing is more accurate when the swab is collected during **the first few days of illness. PCR is used for detection.**
- **antiviral drugs**, notably *neuraminidase inhibitor* (oseltamivir, zanamivir), can reduce the duration of viral replication and improve prospects of survival.
- Other medication is under investigation.

Prevention

Residents and travellers in countries with known outbreaks of avian influenza in birds **should avoid:**

poultry farms

contact with animals in live poultry markets

entering areas where poultry may be slaughtered

contact with any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with faeces from poultry or other animals

consumption of raw or incompletely cooked meat or eggs.

Good food safety and hand hygiene practices should also be followed, including regular handwashing with soap and water.

No vaccines available.

Thank you for your attention!

