Investigation & management of possible human cases of avian influenza A/H5N1, including returning travellers



- If avian influenza H5N1 is considered a possible diagnosis then before continuing with the initial assessment:
- Isolate patient to minimise contact/exposure to staff and other patients. Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask.
- Wear personal protective equipment if possible, this should be a correctly fitted FFP3 respirator, gown, gloves and eye protection. If not available, wear a surgical mask, plastic apron and gloves. Eye protection may be considered if the likelihood of splash exists.

Unlikely to be Influenza A/H5N1. Treat and investigate as clinically indicated. If admitted to hospital, consider HPA protocol for other undiagnosed serious illness.⁵



Criteria for classification:

CLINICAL

or

a) Fever \ge 38°C and lower respiratory tract symptoms (cough or shortness of breath) or CxR findings of consolidation or ARDS

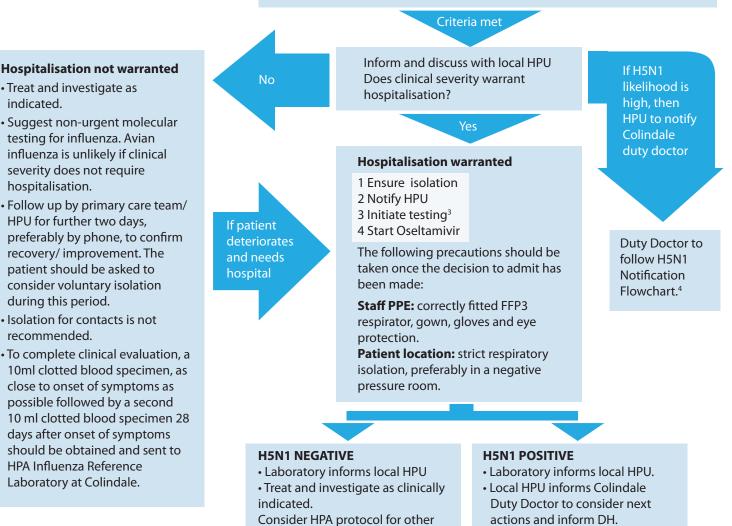
b) other severe / life-threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process

Additionally, patients must fulfil a condition in either category 1 or 2, below EXPOSURE within 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms

(1) Close contact (within 1 metre) with live, dying or dead domestic poultry or wild birds, including live bird markets, in an area of the world affected by avian influenza A/H5N1, or with any confirmed A/H5N1 infected animal (e.g. cat or pig).¹ Refer to full list of countries/ territories.²

(2) Close contact (providing care/touching/speaking distance within 1 metre) with human case(s) of:

- severe unexplained respiratory illness
- unexplained illness resulting in death from listed areas.²



Footnotes:

- 2 Refer to OIE website for full list of countries/territories www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm
- 3 Liaise with designated local H5 influenza testing laboratory, (part of 'UK National Influenza H5 Laboratory Network')
- 4 HPA protocol for notifying DH of human H5N1 testing available: hpanet/Content/DutyDoctorsPackNew/Influenza/dd20AvianInfluenza/

5 Refer to HPA protocol for undiagnosed serious illness: a microbiological approach to investigation: www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1215675142361

undiagnosed serious illness.⁵

For full avian influenza guidance see www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/avian/default.html. In case of uncertainty, discuss with local Health Protection Unit.

¹ Full WHO case definitions are available www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/case_definition2006_08_29/en/index.html