

Public Health Alert

Regional Public Health
Better Health For The Greater Wellington Region



Date: 12 April 2013

To: GPs, Practice Nurses at Primary Care Centres, After-hours Centres, the Emergency Department and Hospital Staff in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions

From: Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health

H7N9 influenza in China

We would like to advise you of the current situation of the H7N9 influenza in China.

- **No cases have been reported from outside China**
- As at 11 April 38 cases of avian influenza A (H7N9) have been laboratory confirmed in China, including 10 deaths, 19 severe cases and 9 mild cases.
- All the cases have been reported from central eastern China in the four adjacent provinces of: Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. The cases are unrelated, and some appear to have had contact with birds, or animal wet markets.
- There is currently **no evidence** of human to human transmission
- Preliminary testing of A(H7N9) suggests that it is susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir and zanamivir).
- WHO do not recommend any travel or trade restrictions and does not advise any special screening at airports at this time.
- Advice to New Zealanders who are travelling to China is available on the NZ Government's Safe Travel Website www.safetravel.govt.nz

Further information is available at

- WHO updates and FAQs on human infection with influenza A(H7N9) virus in China are available at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/index.html>.
- Australian Department of Health and Ageing www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-avianflu-china.htm
- CDC (United States Centres for Disease Control) www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana I tono mai. E Tika Hoki.

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