

February 3, 2006

To: International Students

From: Health Service Center

**RE: Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus Infection**

A number of patients diagnosed with highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus infection has been reported so far in some local regions of Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Thai Land, Cambodia and Turkey. There is a possible risk to people who have contact with infected birds or surfaces that have been contaminated with secretions or excretions from infected birds among the outbreak of the infections. To prevent infections it is very critical to avoid contacting high-risk poultry or dead wild birds.

The spread of avian influenza viruses from one ill person to another has been reported very rarely, and transmission has not been observed to continue beyond one person. However, influenza A viruses are constantly changing, and they might adapt over time to infect and spread among humans.

Considering the current outbreaks, to prevent the serious infections in our university campus, The Health Service Center asks all the students of University of Tokyo for following an indication listed below (<http://park.itc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/health/>).

- 1) Reconsider visiting the regions where the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus infections have been reported.
- 2) Inform the Health Service Center personnel of the fact that you have visited the regions/countries listed above or you have a plan to visit the regions/countries for some reasons.
- 3) Avoid contacting poultry or wild birds, alive or dead, in the countries where cases with avian influenza A virus infections have been reported.
- 4) Please contact the Health Service Center personnel when you return back from the regions/countries and you are concerned about your health. In that case, you should give us a call and follow an indication from the personnel.

Contact us at

Hongo Campus: 03-5841-2575

Komaba Campus: 03-5454-6080

Kashiwa Campus: 04-7136-3040

Current information on highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus infection is available on Web sites.

Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases of Japan

[http://idsc.nih.go.jp/disease/avian\\_influenza/index.html](http://idsc.nih.go.jp/disease/avian_influenza/index.html)

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou04/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>