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Deadly H5N1 Bird Flu Warning Update

Online Pharmacy Giant [Prescription.MD](#) now offers 3 influenza drugs: [Amantadine](#), [Rimantadine](#), and [Tamiflu](#) which help fight certain strains of H5N1 virus infections.

The bird flu is an infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses and was recently discovered in [Columbia](#), South America. An Agriculture Ministry statement reported the bird flu has occurred in three farms in Tolima and poultries affected from the bird flu have been put under the quarantine to prevent the spread of the illness. This flu virus occurs naturally among birds and is very contagious. Since 2003 the bird flu has also caused the death of over 100 million birds world wide.

The H5N1 influenza virus is a deadly strain of the flu virus spread from birds to humans. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), since 2003 the virus has infected 206 people and killed 114.

The latest victim was a 27-year-old woman from Cairo whose H5N1 death was announced on May 5th. She was hospitalized with bilateral pneumonia on May 1 and was the 13th Egyptian confirmed to have an H5N1 infection and the fifth to die of it. Her case was the first reported in Egypt since early April.

Meanwhile, virologist and influenza expert Robert G. Webster, attending an avian flu conference in Singapore, told the Associated Press (AP), "I've worked with flu all my life, and this [H5N1] is the worst influenza virus that I have ever seen." Webster, who works at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, said that in poultry, the virus invades the brain and destroys the respiratory tract, the Associated Press reported. Concerning the threat of a human pandemic triggered by H5N1, he said, "If that happens, God help us." If the H5N1 virus evolves the ability to spread easily from human to human it would spark a deadly pandemic capable of killing millions across the world.

This is perhaps the only time since 1968, which was the last pandemic, that we are getting signs, symptoms and warnings from nature ... More and more birds are dying in different parts of the world - this is the kind of signals, and early warnings that we are referring to." said Margaret Chan, the World Health Organization's new director for pandemic influenza preparedness.

The United Nations has warned that flu vaccine stockpiles may prove useless against an outbreak of the human form of bird flu. "Current vaccines may not work against whichever mutant strain triggers the pandemic that UN officials view as inevitable", said David Nabarro, the United Nations coordinator for avian and human influenza. "During a pandemic, it could take six months before vaccine stocks are available because drug companies can't produce an effective vaccine until the genetic makeup of the mutant strain is known."

US Government officials say they are stockpiling antiviral drugs and working to create vaccines to combat a pandemic, but no one knows whether existing medications will work against a new virus. "The take-home message is 'don't count on them.' They may not be available and they may not work," said Dr. Steven Lawrence, an infectious disease researcher at Washington University.

So how can you protect yourself and your family and prepare for the oncoming virus? You should take care to use proper hygiene when handling raw fowl, washing hands, cooking the meat thoroughly, and sanitizing the countertops. You should also research more in to this virus, and if possible purchase viral medicines such as [Amantadine](#), [Rimantadine](#) or [Tamiflu](#) from a reputable US online pharmacy such as [Prescription.MD](#). These antivirals are available while supplies last.

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