

DOH Monitoring of Exposed Workers During the SD H5N2 Avian Influenza Outbreaks 2015



SD One Health Meeting

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DOH Role in H5N2Avian Influenza Outbreaks

- The risk of human infection from this virus was considered low but not zero
- State Health departments were tasked with:
 - Identifying number of exposed workers
 - Educating exposed workers
 - Arrange evaluation and testing of symptomatic exposed workers
 - Arrange antiviral chemoprophylaxis
 - Monitoring exposed workers
 - Reporting to CDC within 72 hours
 - Report to CDC upon completion of monitoring

Exposed Worker

- An exposed worker is defined as a person with contact in the past 10 days to infected sick or dead birds, or infected flocks.
- Infected refers to infection with avian influenza A viruses which have a potential to cause human disease.

Education of Exposed Workers

- DOH created an info packet for employers to distribute to exposed workers
- Not the best way to educate but was the best solution we were able to come up with
- DOH had no way of verifying all exposed workers were educated about their exposure

Monitoring of Exposed Workers

- This was handled differently by states
- In SD we chose to have exposed workers monitor themselves for new illness for 10 days after their last known exposure.
- Workers were asked to monitor and document daily presence of fever and respiratory symptoms
- If symptoms developed they were asked to contact DOH immediately so we could arrange for evaluation, antiviral treatment and testing

Testing of Exposed Workers

- DOH was involved in arranging testing of one person with respiratory illness that did have exposure to an infected flock: negative
- DOH assisted IA in testing a group of individuals who were contracted to cull chickens in IA but were staying in hotels in the Sioux Falls: Influenza tests negative

Post-Exposure Chemoprophylaxis of Exposed Workers

- Chemoprophylaxis with influenza antivirals can be considered for all exposed persons
- Highly recommended for exposed workers with underlying health conditions or otherwise considered high risk
- Not recommended for those individuals involved in culling of non-infected birds as a control measure who were using proper PPE
- Chemoprophylaxis dosing: Different than seasonal Influenza
 - twice daily of oseltamivir should be continued for 5 or 10 days.
 - If exposure was time-limited and not ongoing, 5 days of medication from the last known exposure is recommended.
 - If exposure is likely to be ongoing (e.g., household setting or extended exposure without PPE), 10 days of antiviral medication is recommended
- We did not have any exposed workers in SD recommended to take antiviral medication.

DOH Report to CDC

- DOH was tasked to report to CDC within 72 hours
- Report was always incomplete simply because DOH did not have the information requested this early in the investigation
- Updated report at end of investigation was also incomplete because DOH did not know exactly what type of exposure each worker had and for how long (e.g. feeding & general care of flock, egg gathering, testing, culling, burial, composting, or which workers were issued PPE and which exposed workers had no PPE issued)

Any Questions?

