

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an [online](#) epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

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- **A(H5N1) Avian influenza – None**
- **“OUTSIDE” Events:**
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- **“INSIDE” Events :**
  - **France – Anthrax, laboratory incident**
  - **France – LPAI A(H5N1), A(H5) – Epizootic**

Area:	Event:	Area:	Event:	<u>Comments</u>
Egypt, Vietnam	A(H5N1) – Human	Egypt	A(H5N1) – Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The occurrence of human A(H5N1) influenza cases in countries where the virus widely circulates among poultry is not an unexpected event.</li> </ul>
		Vietnam	A(H5N1) – Human	
WORLD	A(H5N1) – Epizootic			

#### **Egypt**

Egyptian authorities confirmed a human A(H5N1) influenza case:

- A 38 year-old woman from Asyut Governorate (Map 1);
- Symptomatic on March 14th 2009; hospitalised the same day;
- To date, her condition is stable and satisfactory;
- Contacts with sick or dead poultry have been documented

**Map 1. Asyut governorate, Egypt**



**Map 2. Dong Thap province, Vietnam**



#### **Vietnam**

Vietnamese authorities reported a human A(H5N1) influenza case:

- A 23 y.o. woman, from Quang Ninh. Province (see Map 1):
- Hospitalized on February 3rd, 2009
- According to the latest information available, she's in critical condition
- Contacts with the sick or dead poultry have been documented.

Area:	Event:	Area:	Event:	<u>Comments</u>
WORLD	A(H5N1) – Epizootic			

- No event reported this week.
- See “INSIDE EVENTS” section for description of a low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in France.

**REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA**  
(not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Area:	Event:	Comments
<p>Saudi Arabia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the beginning of 2009, 4 Alkhurma hemorrhagic fever virus (AHFV) infections have been reported in Najran province (Map 3).</li> <li>• 1 additional case was diagnosed in 2008 and is still hospitalised (no clinical improvement).</li> <li>• Information about contacts with animals, ticks or mosquito bites is not available.</li> <li>• Epidemiological investigations (human, entomological and veterinary) and vector control measures are ongoing. Najran's health professionals (physicians, veterinaries...) received training on AHFV diagnosis and management.</li> <li>• Before 2008, only one case had been reported in Najran (2005).</li> </ul>	<p>Alkhurma virus infections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alkhurma virus is an emerging tick-borne hemorrhagic fever agent, with a high Case Fatality Rate (25-30%). It is classed as level four biosafety pathogen by the CDC.</li> <li>• To date, AHFV infections have only been detected in Saudi Arabia. Its circulation remains limited to Makkah and Najran provinces (Map 3).</li> <li>• For more details, see the EpiSouth thematic note on <a href="#">AHFV note</a></li> </ul> <p align="center">Map 3. Makkah and Najran provinces</p> 

**REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA**  
(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Area:		Event:		Comments
<p>France</p>		<p>Anthrax laboratory incident</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009, French authorities reported an incident in a research laboratory working on zoonotic affecting human in Maisons-Alfort (close to Paris). Following a handling error, five laboratory workers were exposed to a pathogenic <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> strain.</li> <li>• All were hospitalised and treated (antibioprophylaxy).</li> <li>• All five remained asymptomatic and were discharged from hospital on March 25<sup>th</sup>, after a two-days monitoring.</li> <li>• Decontamination of the premises has been implemented.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This event is a localised accident occurring after a mishandling (no intentional release); All exposed cases have been identified and treated. .</li> <li>• This accident will not have an impact on public health</li> </ul>

Area:	France	Event:	LPAI A(H5N1), A(H5) –epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009, French authorities reported 2 avian influenza outbreaks:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ LPAI A(H5N1) virus in decoy ducks in Calvados (Map 4)</li> <li>✓ A(H5) virus, also in decoy ducks in Pas-de Calais (Map 4) Neuraminidase identification is pending but N1 has been excluded.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Surveillance and biosecurity have been increased in both sites, investigations are ongoing.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wild birds are a natural reservoir of avian influenza virus.</li> <li>● Low pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks are frequently isolated when a veterinary surveillance system exists.</li> <li>● First results of the Calvados outbreak have shown that the stain is low pathogenic and therefore different from the strain responsible of current A(H5N1) panzootic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Map 4. LPAI outbreaks in decoy bird, France, March 2009 (<a href="#">source</a>)</b></p> 