



Alert for Bird Flu in UP

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh has issued a **state-wide alert** due to the growing **threat of Bird Flu (H5N1)**, directing relevant departments to implement strict safety protocols to protect animals and birds, especially in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

- CM Yogi has instructed to **reinforce safety measures in zoos, bird sanctuaries, national parks**, wetlands, and cow shelters to prevent any outbreak of Bird Flu.

Key Facts About Bird Flu

- **About: Bird flu (avian influenza)** is a highly contagious viral disease **caused by avian influenza A viruses**, particularly subtypes **H5N1 and H5N8**, affecting both wild and domestic birds.
- **History of Human Cases: First human cases** were reported in **1997 (Hong Kong)**. Most have occurred in Asia and were linked to close contact with infected birds.
- **Transmission:** H5N1 spreads primarily **through direct contact with infected live or dead birds** or contaminated environments (e.g., live bird markets).
 - **Human infections of H5N1** are **rare**, with a **high fatality rate** (~60%), much **higher than Covid-19** (~3%).
 - **Transmission from mammals to humans** has been observed, **but airborne and sustained human-to-human transmission are not confirmed**.
 - **H5N1 is listed as a priority disease under WHO R&D Blueprint.**
- **Symptoms:** Common symptoms include high fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches.
 - Severe cases can **lead to respiratory failure or neurological complications**. Some individuals may remain asymptomatic despite exposure.
- **Treatment:** Current seasonal flu vaccines do not protect against H5N1.
 - **Antiviral drugs** like oseltamivir are effective, especially when administered early in high-risk or severe cases.

Types of Influenza Virus

Type	Hosts	Impact on Humans	Key Features	Public Health Relevance
Influenza A	Humans, birds, pigs, other animals	High – causes pandemics and severe epidemics	Subtypes (H1N1, H5N1) based on HA & NA proteins	Major global concern; pandemic potential
Influenza B	Humans	Moderate – seasonal flu outbreaks	Two lineages: B/Yamagata and B/Victoria; slower mutation	Seasonal flu impact; affects vulnerable groups
Influenza C	Humans (rare)	Low – mild respiratory illness	No epidemics; long-lasting immunity	Limited concern; self-limiting
Influenza D	Cattle and other animals	None	No human infections; animal monitoring	Veterinary relevance; no human threat

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