

## Annex 1

### Summary of preliminary clinical features of humans infected by influenza A(H5N1)

The incubation period for classic human influenza viruses is 2–3 days (range 1–7 days). However, the incubation period of influenza A(H5N1) is currently uncertain. Based on limited experience from 6 cases in Viet Nam, the median time between exposure and onset of illness is 3 days (range 2–4 days).

Cases have been characterized by high fever (above 38 °C), cough and shortness of breath.

Lower respiratory symptoms or signs developed early and include dyspnoea and auscultatory signs. Clinically apparent pneumonia with chest X-ray changes was seen in all patients, although the X-ray changes were nonspecific and included diffuse, multifocal or patchy infiltrates, interstitial infiltrates, and segmental or lobular consolidation with air bronchograms. The illness rapidly progressed to respiratory distress and subsequent respiratory failure within 1 week of the onset of symptoms. Most cases have died in spite of ventilatory support.

Common laboratory findings were lymphopenia ( $<1 \times 10^9$ /litre) and slightly or moderately raised alanine aminotransferase and aspartate transaminase.

For further information please see:

- *Preliminary clinical and epidemiological description of influenza A(H5N1) in Viet Nam*, available at [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/guidelines/vietnamclinical/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/vietnamclinical/en/)

and

- Avian influenza A(H5N1). *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, 2004, 79(7):65–70, available at <http://www.who.int/wer/2004/en/wer7907.pdf>