

BIRD FLU

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Doctors are watching the cases of Bird Flu in Southeast Asia. The Bird Flu is caused by a virus* doctors named "H5N1." Some people have gotten this bird flu from pets or from farm birds. One hundred sixteen people have died. The governments in Southeast Asian countries have killed 110 million chickens and ducks. They are trying to stop the Bird Flu from spreading. The American Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has stopped American food companies from bringing in any chickens, turkeys, ducks, and other birds from Southeast Asia.

The CDC wants to prevent a pandemic*. A pandemic could happen if the Bird Flu virus changes so it can spread from person to person.

People do not have any immunity* to a new bird flu. Millions of people around the world could become sick. There are no vaccines* against this new kind of flu.

So far, H5N1 viruses have not spread from person to person. Governments are getting ready to prepare vaccines in case it does. The best way to prevent getting a flu is to wash your hands often, and stay away from crowds of people.