

Evening News

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12-year-old 'China's first bird flu death'

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl has died of suspected bird flu in a village in central China where the mainland's third outbreak of bird flu in a week has been reported.

If the cause of the girl's death is confirmed, it would be China's first known human death from bird flu, which experts across the world fear could mutate to spread easily from human to human and become a pandemic.

He Yin and her ten-year-old brother fell ill about a week ago after eating a chicken that had died from an unspecified illness in the village of Wantang.

The girl's father, He Tiegua, said: "We had dead chickens before and nobody has ever got sick because of that. So I thought it's okay."

A spokesman for China's Health Ministry said he doubted the girl's death was caused by bird flu.

"We haven't received any relevant report on that and I have no information if health authorities have done an autopsy on the girl either," he said. "We don't even know how the chicken died."

Web links

- [Dept of Health - pandemic flu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en)
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en>
- [WHO - Bird Flu fact sheet](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/)
http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/

Related topic

- [Bird flu](http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161)
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