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## Bird flu 'deadly to humans' appears in Turkey

BEN JUDGE

THE avian flu virus that has appeared in Turkey has been confirmed as the deadly H5N1 strain which has killed 60 people in Asia.

EU Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said: "We have received confirmation that the virus found in Turkey is an avian flu H5N1 virus."

"There is a direct relationship with viruses found in Russia, Mongolia and China."

Kyprianou urged those vulnerable to influenza - the old, young children, those with chronic respiratory disease or weakened immune systems - to be vaccinated this winter.

Although a flu jab would not prevent H5N1 infection, scientists believe it is the strain most likely to mutate into a human transferable form if a person suffering from a normal strain of flu were to be infected with the H5N1 virus.

Such a scenario could cause the deaths of millions of people worldwide.

Meanwhile, tests are still being carried out into the strain of flu found in ducks in Romania's Danube Delta.

### 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/](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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