

Evening News

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Bird flu deaths raise fears virus is spreading faster

BIRD flu has killed two people in Indonesia the day after China reported its first human cases, including at least one death.

Experts fear they are signs the virus is spreading faster as the winter flu months near.

The World Health Organisation in Jakarta said tests sent to a Hong Kong laboratory came back positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus for a 20-year-old woman and a 16-year-old girl who both died last week.

Yesterday, China's health ministry confirmed the virus killed a poultry worker and struck down a nine-year-old boy who later recovered in central Hunan province.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai approved another £48 million for the fight against bird flu in Vietnam.

The bulk of the money - £30m - will be allocated to the health ministry .

The remainder will be divided among agriculture, defence and public security and public transport.

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/

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