

Evening News

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China and Vietnam hit by fresh bird flu outbreaks

NEW outbreaks of bird flu have been reported in China and Vietnam, killing 12,000 chickens.

Outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of the virus, which has killed at least 60 people in Asia since 2003, have been discovered in the north-eastern Lianing province in China and in the northern Bac Giang province in Vietnam.

The news came as Japan revealed plans to kill 180,000 chickens after a suspected case of the less virulent H5N2 was found on a farm. China's new outbreak - the fourth in three weeks - has resulted in more than 300,000 birds in the area around the village of Badaoha being culled as a precaution.

The latest report came despite Beijing's efforts to tighten control on the country's poultry flocks and vaccinate millions of birds.

Meanwhile, a pregnant 24-year-old Vietnamese woman with a fever and respiratory problems is being tested for the virus.

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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