

Evening News

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## Fears bird flu will become widespread in Turkey

THE bird flu virus could become widespread in Turkey and poses a serious risk to neighbouring countries, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned today.

The FAO urged neighbouring countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Iran and Syria to be on high alert, apply control measures and ensure that the public is fully informed.

"The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 could become endemic in Turkey," the FAO said.

Juan Lubroth, FAO health officer, said the virus may be spreading despite measures already taken to combat it.

"Far more human and animal exposure to the virus will occur if strict containment does not isolate all known and unknown locations where the virus is currently present," he said.

Fifteen children in Turkey are believed to have been infected in the past week.

### 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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