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New outbreak of bird flu in China

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China has reported a new outbreak of bird flu with approximately 2,600 birds found dead of bird flu in Inner Mongolia, near the region's capital of Hohhot.

The birds have been found to be infected by the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, but no details were given on the species of birds or when they were located. The H5N1 strain has existed in Asia since 2003 and has infected people who have had contact with fowl.

Xinhua, the Chinese new agency, said the latest outbreak was now under control. Bird flu has killed at least 60 people in Asia since December 2003.

Other reports of the virus have come in from Romania, Greece and Turkey and it has now been reported that it may have spread westwards to the Tula region in Russia, about 200 kilometres away from the capital, Moscow.

In Germany, the state of Saarland has followed the example of Bavaria calling on farmers to keep domestic birds indoors in areas where they are considered to be at risk of contact with migrating wild fowl.

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/)
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