

Evening News

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Six more cases of suspected bird flu hits eastern Turkey

SIX people have been taken to hospital in eastern Turkey believed to be suffering from bird flu, according to reports.

The latest suspected cases follow the deaths of two teenagers, a brother and sister, in Van hospital in the country overnight - the first human bird flu casualties outside China and Southeast Asia.

Turkish television said the six patients were from Igdir province on the Armenian border, just to the north of Agri province where the two dead children came from.

Seven other people from Agri are also being treated in for suspected bird flu.

Meanwhile, a British expert urged the public not to panic as the deadly virus crept on central Europe.

Professor Hugh Pennington, president of the Society of General Microbiology, said:

"It's still an avian virus and hasn't mutated to enable human-to-human infection."

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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