

Egyptian poultry sellers ignore live sales ban despite new bird flu cases

Fifteen new suspected cases of the deadly H5N1 strain of the avian flu virus were reported last week in five governorates in Egypt as government measures to strengthen national pandemic preparedness provoked mixed reactions in Cairo's streets.



Many Egyptians keep and raise domestic poultry, making it difficult to eradicate bird flu completely, the government says. (Photo: Martina Fuchs/IRIN)

According to local media, the latest cases were detected in Qena, Al-Buheira, Al-Gharbia, Al-Minya and Al-Sohag. The patients were admitted to hospital for treatment and surveillance after suffering high temperatures and breathing problems.

In response, the government's Supreme National Committee for Combating Bird Flu met last week to discuss the current outbreak and to implement measures to combat the spread of bird flu.

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