

Person-to-person transmission of avian flu in China

An early online publication in The Lancet reports on possible person-to-person transmission of avian flu in a family in China.

In December 2007, researchers in China found two family members infected with a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza (H5N1) in Jiangsu Province. The 24-year old person who was initially infected with the virus apparently died, but his 52-year old father - who had probably caught the virus from his son - survived after receiving early antiviral treatment and an experimental vaccine. Only two of 91 close contacts of the infected pair appeared to have been infected, but had only a mild illness.

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