

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 12/29/2014

**GAIN Report Number:** HK1449

## **Hong Kong**

**Post:** Hong Kong

### **Human Case of Avian Influenza (H7N9) Confirmed in Hong Kong**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Poultry and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Approved By:**

M. Melinda Meador

**Prepared By:**

Caroline Yuen

**Report Highlights:**

The Hong Kong government (HKG) confirmed a human case of avian influenza A(H7N9) on December 27, 2014. While the HKG has launched contingency measures under the Serious Response Level relative to public health, sales and imports of live poultry remain unchanged while authorities trace the origins of the case.

## **Background**

The HKG confirmed a human case of avian influenza A (H7N9) on December 27, 2014. According to the HKG, on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the woman travelled to Guangdong (a province in China adjacent to Hong Kong) and ate cooked chicken. Further official information is that the woman had not been in contact with live poultry in Hong Kong during the incubation period so the HKG has classified this as an imported case. While Hong Kong and Chinese government authorities continue to investigate the patient's connections to poultry, to date, the HKG has not imposed any restrictions on live chicken imports or local retail sales of live poultry.

Nevertheless, the HKG has launched public health precautionary measures under the Serious Response Level and conducted epidemiological investigations and control measures. Close contacts of the infected patient have been put under quarantine and are undergoing antiviral presumptive treatment. All private and public hospitals are on alert for suspected cases.

In December 2013, Hong Kong recorded the first human case of avian influenza A (H7N9) in the territory. The infected woman had travelled to Shenzhen where she slaughtered and ate a chicken. As the victim for that time had a recent history of contact with live chicken in Shenzhen, the HKG banned live chicken imports from the three registered farms in Shenzhen while the supply of live chickens to the Hong Kong market from other registered farms in China and local farms were not affected.

According to the HKG sources, a total of 470 cases (including at least 184 deaths) of human H7N9 cases have been reported since March 2013, including 454 cases in the Mainland and 16 cases exported to Hong Kong (eleven cases), Taiwan (four cases) and Malaysia (one case).