

Press Release

Not for op-ed

Date: November 22, 2024

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FROM: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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PUBLIC ADVISORY

California Department of Public Health Reports Single, Possible Case of Bird Flu in Child in the Bay Area. No person-to person is suspected, risk to public remains low

California has identified a possible bird flu case in a child who had mild respiratory symptoms and is recovering at home. Repeat testing four days later was negative.

To date in the United States, there are a total of 53 confirmed human cases, 27 in California. None of the US cases required hospitalization. All but one of the 53 confirmed cases were in dairy farmworkers or people involved in culling infected poultry.

"It's natural for people to be concerned, and we want to reinforce for parents, caregivers and families that based on the information and data we have, we don't think the child was infectious – and no human-to-human spread of bird flu has been documented in any country for more than 15 years," said **CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón.**

Individuals with confirmed H5N1 commonly report mild eye irritation (conjunctivitis) in addition to the common flu-like symptoms. A fever may or may not be present.

There are still no known cases of H5N1 Bird Flu in Mendocino County. Usual handwashing and hygiene help reduce spread of all flu viruses, including H5N1.

Pasteurized milk and dairy products are safe to consume. Drinking raw milk or eating raw milk products could be dangerous. Reduce your risk by choosing pasteurized milk and dairy foods like cheese and yogurt. Pasteurization, the process of heating milk to specific temperatures for certain times, inactivates the bird flu virus and harmful germs that can be found in raw milk.

The Department of Public Health continues to work with CDPH and local healthcare providers to monitor for emerging diseases, including H5N1. Contact your doctor if you or your child develop red eyes or fall ill within 10 days of working with or handling sick birds, cows, or any other animals who can be infected by H5N1.

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