



AVIAN FLU

In 1997, some people in Hong Kong got sick with a new kind of flu virus. Six people died. The virus was influenza A (H5N1)-avian flu. A CDC team went to Hong Kong to help control the outbreak. Avian flu was first found in birds in 1961, but 1997 was the first time an avian influenza virus made people sick. So, the CDC team had to make a new test that could find out if people had been infected. Human flu viruses travel around the world and make thousands of people sick every year. When lots of people living in the same place get sick, it's called an epidemic. Because flu viruses change a lot, epidemics can occur almost every year. To keep from getting the flu, people need to get a flu shot every year.

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