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Opinion regarding about culling/killing ALL Hong Kong live chicken when one chicken is found to be infected with the H5N1 or one human case.

I am in opposing view regarding this policy. Before I go further in explaining my view, I want to emphasize that I agree and advocate with culling/killing ALL INFECTED OR EXPOSED BIRDS. I DO NOT AGREE with killing all chickens in Hong Kong. I will elaborate these points further and first I would like to offer and explain reasons why I have an opposing view are as follow:

1. WHO recommends culling/killing all infected or exposed birds during outbreaks.
2. Killing all chickens adds neither additional benefit nor security as compared to killing all infected or exposed birds.
3. Since 1997, biosecurity measures among all chicken farms have improved and since 2002, chickens in Hong Kong are immunized with the bird flu vaccine.
4. Present time, each chicken farm in Hong Kong is under closed monitoring by the AFD for H5N1.
5. Still at this present moment, WHO has a close monitoring network reported NO human to human transmission. In fact, NO evidence of efficient human-to-human transmission.
6. Human infection with H5N1 does not happen often, in fact very rarely!
7. Non-infected chickens are safe to consume and pose no additional risk to human health.
8. Culling ALL Hong Kong chicken does not stop future occurrences/outbreaks of H5N1.

Since 1997, Hong Kong Government specifically the AFD has worked with the agricultural sector to improve the biosecurity measures at the live markets by instituting mandatory cleaning days. All imported live chickens are from licensed chicken farms from Pearl Delta region and additional screening is performed at the broader. Routine screening are set up for local chicken farm to monitor the H5 bird flu, and the government even goes further in putting and monitoring sentinel birds at each chicken farm. All these measures indeed have helped Hong Kong to up hold the bird flu free status and all countries around us seem to have problem in controlling the outbreaks.

In fact, killing all infected or exposed bird is a WHO recommendation and I share the same view. All counties apply the same protocol and the difference may lie on the isolation,

quarantine and monitoring radius from the infected farm. Hence killing all live chicken in a city, town, provenance, or country does not add more assurance in stopping the spread of the virus. In fact, it promotes fear among the public. Let examine the recent outbreaks in Japan and Korea, they have outbreaks and NO spread of the virus because the biosecurity measures and responses manage and stop the spread of the virus. Hence, it minimizes the exposure to human. The bird flu seems to run wild in farms and countries where biosecurity are lacking and birds are not immunized.

In summary, I agree with culling and killing ALL infected or exposed chicken and I am AGAINST killing all live chicken in Hong Kong after one bird is found to be infected by bird flu.