# New Bird Flu Cases in Australia and the US Prompt Swift Response



**New Bird Flu Cases Reported in Australia and the US**

On Wednesday, Australia reported its first human case of the H5N1 strain of bird flu, which has rapidly spread worldwide. The infected individual, a child returning from India to Victoria in March, experienced a severe infection but has since fully recovered. Contact tracing revealed no additional cases linked to this infection.

The following day, a new case of highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected at a poultry farm in Terang, Victoria. This incident is linked to an earlier outbreak at an egg farm in Meredith, Victoria, where the H7N3 strain of the virus led to numerous poultry deaths. Mass culling of approximately 400,000 chickens is underway to control the outbreak. Agriculture Victoria has established control zones around both farms to prevent further spread.

Victoria has faced nine outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza since 1976, with each promptly contained. In response to the current outbreaks, Agriculture Victoria personnel are working to manage the situation and enforce quarantine measures.

In a separate but related event, the United States confirmed its second human case of H5N1 bird flu since March, this time involving a dairy farm worker in Texas. The worker suffered severe eye symptoms resembling pink eye but did not exhibit typical flu symptoms. The worker was treated with antiviral medication and recovered.

Additionally, Western Australia detected a low pathogenic H9N2 strain of avian influenza at a poultry farm in the state's southwest. Authorities have implemented biosecurity measures to manage the outbreak and prevent further spread.

Of note, authorities in both Australia and the US reassure the public that poultry products available in supermarkets remain safe for consumption.