# Public Health Concerns Rise with Bird Flu and Dengue Fever Spread



### Public Health Concerns Surround Bird Flu and Dengue Fever

#### Bird Flu in the US: Fragmented Response Highlighted

Researchers at the Broad Institute's Sabeti Lab have reported testing milk from grocery stores for the presence of H5N1, commonly known as "bird flu." The virus is reportedly widespread in the US, with cases identified in states from Michigan to Texas. Experts criticize the US response as fragmented and inadequate.

Finland recently successfully halted the spread of H5N1 using rapid response measures, close coordination between human and animal health officials, and building trust within the farming community. In contrast, the US has faced challenges with insufficient testing and tracking, leading to delayed outbreak responses. The US Department of Agriculture has introduced financial incentives to encourage testing and containment measures, seeking to build trust among farmers.

#### Dengue Fever Warning Ahead of Paris Olympics

Health expert Mark Booth from Newcastle University has raised alarms over potential dengue fever outbreaks during the 2024 Paris Olympics. Dengue cases were recorded in Paris in 2023, making it the most northerly outbreak to date. The upcoming international event might turn into a 'super-spreader event,' with millions of visitors and the presence of Aedes mosquitoes that transmit the virus.

Dengue fever can spread rapidly if infected individuals are bitten by mosquitoes, potentially sparking outbreaks in their home countries. The French government is actively monitoring mosquito populations, yet the risk remains significant, particularly given the tiger mosquito’s adaptability to urban environments and its high reproductive rate.

These scenarios underline the need for vigilant public health measures and international cooperation to manage the risks effectively.