# Second Human Case of Avian Influenza A H5N1 Identified in Michigan, Researchers Develop mRNA Vaccine



A second human case of avian influenza A H5N1 has been identified in Michigan, involving an agricultural worker who had direct contact with infected cattle. This follows the first human case in the U.S., reported in Texas, where a dairy worker was similarly infected.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have developed an mRNA vaccine for H5N1, effective in mice and ferrets. This technology, initially used for COVID-19 vaccines, allows for rapid production and modification. The H5N1 virus, primarily infecting birds and more recently cattle, poses minimal risk to humans but has the potential to mutate. The study was published in "Nature Communications."

Michigan's health authorities confirm the dairy worker has recovered. The case raises concerns about testing adequacy, with Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo of Brown University calling for better access to eye swab testing for farm workers. Despite vigilant monitoring, experts assert that the risk to the general public remains low. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has initiated a support program to encourage more comprehensive testing among farm workers.