

## Information for Travellers

### Avian flu, an animal epidemic

Since 2004 there have been increasing outbreaks of avian flu ("bird flu") in several countries. Travel to the affected countries is still possible, but some information should be borne in mind in order to avoid infection and above all to prevent the further spreading of this animal epidemic. The virus is passed on by infected animals, but can also be carried by products such as eggs and poultry meat or by clothes, shoes or other objects from infected areas.

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Travellers can therefore bring in the virus unintentionally and without being aware of it!

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### Travellers should adhere to the following measures:

#### Before the journey

- When travelling to a region already affected by "bird flu" it is recommended to discuss the prescription and taking of a neuraminidase inhibitor in case of infection.

#### During the journey and upon return

- If you or members of your group experience flu symptoms (sudden fever, coughing, shortage of breath) during a stay in an country affected by avian flu, seek immediate attention from a doctor.
- If you or members of your group experience flu symptoms shortly after a stay in a country affected by avian flu, seek immediate attention from your doctor and inform him or her about your previous journey.
- Avoid contact with living or dead poultry and poultry products.
- Avoid visiting markets where poultry or eggs are sold and avoid animal farms in the affected countries.
- Avoid places with bird droppings (the virus occurs particularly in bird excrement)

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- Thoroughly clean shoes and clothing if you have visited a market selling live poultry or birds.
- Avoid eating raw or insufficiently cooked (over 70° C) poultry meat. Poultry meat and eggs that have been sufficiently boiled, cooked or fried represent no risk.
- If cleaning on site is not possible, pack shoes and clothing in sealed plastic bags.
- Do not import poultry, poultry meat or poultry products from the affected countries.
- Do not visit poultry farms in the EU before your clothes and shoes have been cleaned.

## Import of poultry, poultry meat and poultry products to the EU in holiday traffic from third countries:

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Please note: it is forbidden for travellers to import living poultry, meat and meat products from all third countries. For countries\* where avian flu has occurred, the importing to the European Union (EU) of birds, eggs and other poultry products, as well as feathers or untreated hunting trophies is also forbidden!

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From all other third countries, no more than five birds may be imported to the EU in holiday traffic. An inspection by a veterinary doctor at the border is required. This must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate and a declaration of the owner.

\*Countries affected: current list at [www.bmgf.gv.at](http://www.bmgf.gv.at)

**Situation:** February 2006

For further information please contact the **Information Hotline** of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) at **050 555 666**

**Legal note:**

This paper does not claim to be complete and no responsibility is accepted for its correctness.



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Further information can be obtained from [www.ages.at](http://www.ages.at) and [www.bmgf.gv.at](http://www.bmgf.gv.at), from where the Austrian pandemic plan and the "Crisis Plan for Classic Avian Flu and Newcastle Disease 2000" can be downloaded.