

Hong Kong officials meet after bird flu confirmed

November 18 2010

(AP) -- Hong Kong has confirmed its first case of human bird flu in seven years.

Health Secretary York Chow said late Wednesday that a 59-year-old woman had tested positive for H5N1 [bird flu](#) after returning to Hong Kong from the Chinese mainland, and is in serious condition in a local hospital.

With the announcement, the government raised the bird flu alert to "serious," meaning there is a risk of contracting the disease within the territory.

Chow said Hong Kong officials were meeting Thursday and would determine whether additional measures are needed to safeguard local residents.

The [bird flu virus](#) first struck Hong Kong in 1997. Six people died in that [outbreak](#) and all chickens in the territory were culled.

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Citation: Hong Kong officials meet after bird flu confirmed (2010, November 18) retrieved 22 January 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-11-hong-kong-bird-flu.html>

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