

Information to travellers and tourists

- Since 2004 there has been an increasing number of outbreaks of Avian Influenza in several countries ("bird flu"). In principle, humans can be affected by contact with infected animals. However, this is a rare effect resulting from very close contact between man and animals.
- During 2005, 2006 and 2007 the virus further spread into the bird and poultry populations of several European countries.
- Travelling the affected countries is still possible. However, some advice should be followed in order to avoid infection and a further spread of the animal disease.
- The main vector of infection is live poultry, but the virus may also be spread by products like eggs and poultry meat or clothes, shoes or other items from infected areas.

It can therefore not be ruled out that travellers introduce the disease agent unknowingly or unintentionally.

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

Weblinks: www.bmgfj.gv.at
www.ages.at

Travellers should take the following measures

Prior to the journey

When travelling to regions already affected by „bird flu“, you are recommended to consider with your doctor prophylactic prescription and taking along of a neuraminidase inhibitor to be taken in the event of an infection.

During and after the journey

- Avoid contact with live or dead poultry or poultry products.
- Abstain from visiting markets where live poultry or eggs are being offered for sale, or animal farms in the affected countries.
- Avoid places soiled with bird droppings (the virus can be found in particular amounts in the excrements of birds).
- If you can not avoid visiting markets, where live poultry or birds are being offered for sale have your shoes and clothes thoroughly cleaned.
- If cleaning on the spot is impossible, make sure to pack your shoes and clothes in tight plastic bags.
- Avoid consumption of raw or not thoroughly heated (>70°C) poultry meat. If thoroughly boiled, cooked or roasted, poultry meat and eggs are of no risk according to present knowledge.
- Do not visit poultry farms in the EU before having had cleaned your clothes and shoes.
- Strictly observe all import bans affecting travellers.
- If you fall ill during or after your stay (sudden fever, cough, shortness of breath) consult a doctor at once and inform him/her on where you have been and whether you got into contact with birds or poultry.

Import controls and imports by tourists

The following conditions apply to the import of poultry, poultry meat and poultry products from third countries into the EU by tourists:

- **Travellers are prohibited to import live poultry (chicken, geese, ducks, turkeys, quails, pheasants, guinea fowl, partridges, pigeons and ratites) under the conditions of tourist traffic!**
- **Travellers are prohibited to import meat and meat products of poultry, bovines, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and game from all third countries under the conditions of tourist traffic!**
- Not more than five birds (no poultry) may be introduced by travellers from all third countries. They must be subjected to checks by a border veterinarian. For this purpose, a veterinary certificate and a declaration of the owner have to be carried along!
- Compliance with these requirements is being checked by border control officials, seized articles will be destroyed at owner's expense. In addition, penalties will be imposed.
- You can find information on specific topics, e.g. import of game trophies on the web site of the ministry at:
www.bmgfj.gv.at

Advice of the Minister of Health



In order to protect your health and our poultry flocks I call upon you to strictly adhere to the advice in this leaflet:

- If you notice symptoms of influenza (sudden fever, cough, shortness of breath) in yourself or a travel-companion during your stay in a country affected with avian influenza consult a doctor at once.
- After a stay in a country affected by avian influenza clean shoes and clothes you wore abroad thoroughly and refrain from visiting poultry farms for at least seven days.

Yours

Dr. Anura Kołosky



Keep infectious animal diseases out of the European Union!

Products of animal origin may carry pathogens that cause infectious diseases in animals

There are strict procedures and veterinary controls on the introduction of products of animal origin into the European Union

Travellers (*) must surrender these products for official controls

(*) Other than those arising with small quantities for personal consumption from Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland.

Information as of March 2007

Legal notice:

No claims may be asserted as to the completeness of this information since it is subject to change.



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