



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Health Security

HPAI A(H5) Scenario-Based Human Health
Risk Assessment for the United States
Center for Outbreak Response Innovation (CORI)
Updated as of November 26, 2024

In this update, the Center for Outbreak Response Innovation (CORI) reports the latest developments in the H5N1 outbreak; the risk levels remain unchanged.

	Risk to farm workers	Risk to other people in contact with affected workers and animal populations	Risk to healthcare workers	Risk to the US general public
Scenario for Increased Potential for Human Adaption and Increased Human Reports: Increased potential for reassortment and human adaptation, increased reports of human infections, potential early laboratory/epidemiological/sequencing evidence for human-to-human transmission but still no human-to-human transmission confirmed	High	Moderate	Low*	Low*

At the beginning of November, CORI **created a new H5N1 risk level** to reflect the slow, continued escalation of risk of infection for individuals in direct contact with animals. CORI released two additional updated risk assessments to highlight the first case in a Canadian teen and the **first case in** an American child. Both of these cases are concerning, as the Canadian teen remains hospitalized **and** both cases had no known contact with animals or raw animal products.

While the immediate risk to the general public and healthcare workers is still currently low, the long-term consequences of continued, uncontrolled transmission presents a high risk to all populations.

For this reason, along with the uncertainty and complexity of these events, CORI will continue to monitor the situation and update this risk assessment.

[Click here for the current and historical risk assessments](#)

Current Public Health Burden of Selected Infectious Diseases

Updated as of December 2, 2024

Last Updated December 2, 2024

Weekly Morbidity Table - Week 47

Disease	Cum YTD 2024	Cum YTD 2023
Avian Influenza A(H5)	<u>55</u> ↗	0
Dengue	<u>2,691</u> ↗	<u>1,660</u> ↗
Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)	<u>19</u> ↗	<u>7</u> ↗
Measles*	<u>280</u> ↗ ***	<u>44</u> ↗
Mpox	<u>2,455</u> ↗	<u>1,407</u> ↗
Oropouche**	<u>94</u> ↗	-
Pertussis	<u>26,989</u> ↗	<u>5,593</u> ↗

The Center for Outbreak Response Innovation is monitoring key diseases for the United States.

The morbidity for each disease, along with key resources for the public, state and local health departments, and governors are now available.

[Click here to view resource](#)

Measles Scenario-Based Human Health Risk Assessment for the United States

Updated as of November 22, 2024

Currently, the Center for Outbreak Response Innovation (CORI) judges the measles outbreak in the United States to be in Scenario 2:

	Risk to unvaccinated people	Risk to children	Risk to healthcare workers	Risk to the US general public
Scenario 2 – Development of small to medium-sized outbreaks	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Our confidence in these risk scores is high given the amount of information available locally, nationally, and globally.

[Click here to view updated Risk Assessment](#)

CORI has updated our measles risk assessment, moving from Scenario 3 to Scenario 2 as of November 22, 2024, due to the end of a large-sized measles outbreak in Minnesota.

Several strategies implemented in Minnesota, including targeted vaccine messaging and the promotion of a temporary, accelerated vaccine schedule, align with CORI's mitigation recommendations and may have supported outbreak control.

In 2024, a total of **280 measles cases** have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CORI Spotlight

CORI IN THE NEWS

“Here is where matters stand: The most recent risk assessment from the Johns Hopkins Center for Outbreak Response Innovation, issued on Nov. 19, listed the risk of infection to farm workers as high, and the risk of infection to people in contact with affected farm workers and animals as moderate.”

Dr. David A. Kessler, Guest Essay, New York Times, 26 November 2024.



[Click here](#) to read the full essay in The New York Times

CORI's HPAI A(H5) Scenario-Based Human Health Risk Assessment for the United States was featured in a recent New York Times essay by former FDA Commissioner Dr. David A. Kessler, "I Ran Operation Warp Speed. I'm Concerned About Bird Flu". In this powerful piece, Dr. Kessler highlights the growing concern that the virus could become

capable of efficient human-to-human transmission, and how the future administration could address this potential threat.

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