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Your Ref. No.....



REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
P. O. BOX 221
TAKORADI

18TH January 2022

**ALL MUNICIPAL/DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF HEALTH SERVICE
THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, EFFIA NKWANTA REG. HOSPITAL
ALL MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS, WESTERN REGION**

**NOTIFICATION OF OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN SEKONDI TAKORADI
METRO AND EFFIA KWESIMINTSIM MUNICIPALITY**

This serves to alert you of an outbreak of Avian Influenza in Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis and Effia Kwesimintsim Municipality. This was brought to light when the Regional Veterinary Laboratory confirmed the infection in two poultry farms in the two Districts by veterinary officers in the municipality. All the birds in the two farms have since been destroyed and preliminary disinfection initiated.

You are by this letter requested to bring this to the attention of all health personnel to look out for signs and symptoms of Avian Influenza since it is highly infectious and can be fatal in humans. ***Please note that, suspected case and confirmed case definitions are as follows:***

Suspected case of Avian Influenza:

Any person presenting with unexplained acute lower respiratory illness with fever ($>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing **AND** on or more of the following exposures within 7 days prior to symptom onset:

- a. Close contact (within 1 metre) with a person (e.g. caring for, speaking with, or touching) who is a suspected, probable, or confirmed case;
- b. Exposure (e.g. handling, slaughtering, de-feathering, butchering, culling, preparation for consumption) to poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces in an area where Avian Influenza infections in animals or humans have been suspected or confirmed in the last month.

- c. Consumption of raw or undercooked poultry products in an area where Avian Influenza infections in animals or humans have been suspected or confirmed in the last month;
- d. Close contact with a confirmed Avian Influenza infected animal other than poultry or wild birds;
- e. Handling samples (animal or human) suspected of containing Avian Influenza virus in a Laboratory or other setting.

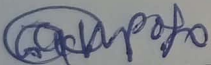
Confirmed Avian Influenza case:

A person meeting the criteria for a suspected case **AND** positive laboratory results from a laboratory whose Avian Influenza test results are accepted by WHO as confirmatory.

All suspected cases should be reported, managed in isolation, contacts traced and samples taken for confirmation.

Counting very much on your usual cooperation.

Thank you.



DR. GIFTY AMUGI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PUBLIC HEALTH)
For: REG. DIR. OF HEALTH SERVICES
WESTERN REGION

cc: Deputy Director, Clinical Care