

Bird Flu Heist (aka H5N1)

[\[back\] The Diseases](#) [\[back\] Viral mania](#) [\[back\] Infectious scares](#)



[Just another attempt in taxpayer extortion with vaccines and pharma anti-virals, plus the Fearmongering--they have to keep the population in fear so they clamour to be saved by pharma med, and government, while giving away more freedoms to usher in the overt Fascist state, from our present covert one. These are the very same villains who brought us [Spanish Flu](#) (from vaccines), [AIDS](#) in vaccines, [SARS](#), [Foot and Mouth holocaust](#), [Anthrax](#) vaccine (Gulf War Syndrome). Go figure---doesn't exactly want to make you run out and have the Bird Flu jab. And to top that it doesn't say much for their medication (holding for a nanosecond the fantasy that they didn't create this), when they say it will kill millions, but their pharma anti-virals have always been useless. If you think they are out to help us with vaccines and pharma anti-virals then ask yourself why they have suppressed [vitamin C](#) which will deal with all viruses. And get a Croft [zapper](#) which will also.]

See: [Oseltamivir \(Tamiflu\) Lanka](#)

See: [Infectious scares](#)

See **vaccine diseases:** [Spanish Flu](#) [Gulf War Syndrome](#)

[\[2011 Dec\] Terror fear as scientists DELIBERATELY create 'Armageddon' bird flu virus in lab](#)

The Heist [£220 million and counting---£500 million planned for Tamiflu, UK alone]

[\[Media Nov 2006\] £3bn plan for flu pandemic](#) while the government will triple its usual supplies of the antiviral drug [Tamiflu](#) at a cost of almost half-a-billion pounds.

[\[Media Nov 2006\] Mersey plant in £20m US deal for bird flu vaccine](#)

[\[Media Nov 2006\] UK urged to stockpile two anti-bird flu drugs](#) Britain has stockpiled about 14.6 million treatment courses of Tamiflu at a cost of around 200 million pounds (\$380 million).

[\[vid\] Vitamin D is better than ANY vaccine and increases the immune system by 3-5 times](#) Germans found that Vitamin D increases the immune system by 3-5 times and is BETTER than any vaccine at helping the immune system beat the h5n1 (bird flu) virus. See 2:20

Articles

[\[2006\] BIRD-FLU UPDATE BECAUSE IT'S TIME by John Rappoport](#)

[\[2005\] Interview with Stefan Lanka on "bird flu" and some related subjects](#)

[\[2005\] HOW DO THEY ACTUALLY TEST FOR BIRD FLU? --Rappoport](#)

[\[Media\] Bird Flu fearmongering](#)

[Bird Flu or Cash Cow? The Pandemic Some Want To Have By Eve Hillary](#)

[Dr. Len Horowitz Debunks Avian Flu Hysteria Campaign](#)

[\[Media scaremonger special 30th September 2005\] Mutated bird flu 'could kill 150m people'](#)





[MOUNTAIN VIEWS: BIRD FLU SCAM TO COST US PLENTY](#)

"There are two viruses going around at the moment; one is avian flu and the other is the fear of avian flu."--Patrick Holden, of the Soil Association

[\[Media Oct 2005\] Chiron Wins \\$63M Contract For Avian Influenza Vaccine](#)

External links

[\[Sherri Tenpenny\] Bird Flu Hype](#)

Book

FOWL! BIRD FLU: It's Not What You Think by Sheri [Tenpenny](#)

Quotes

"AIDS and SARS are ways for epidemiologists (e.g., the CDC, WHO, etc.) to secure their jobs and continued funding for their agencies. No new emerging epidemics, maybe no CDC, no WHO, so we've got an infrastructure that REQUIRES the "discovery" of new, threatening epidemics. And the media pick a new one every year. This year, it's SARS. For the past couple of years, it's been West Nile Virus. Next year it'll be something else."----- [Dr Dan Duffy DC](#)

We are experiencing in the present bird flu panic that the state, contrary to its knowledge, in Germany is surrendering the population into the hands of some persons or other who are camouflaging themselves as scientists. An enforced chemotherapy is being planned, and next spring the entire German population is to be forcibly vaccinated twice against the purported bird flu phantom. But neither has ever a bird flu virus been demonstrated to exist, nor has the existence of any virus whatsoever that would have anything to do with anybody's falling ill been demonstrated. **Such viruses do not exist.** Precisely in the same manner as the minister admitted, concerning the purported AIDS virus, they are being maintained to be proven and therefore to exist because of an international scientific consensus.....[\[27.10.2005\] Interview with Stefan Lanka on "bird flu" and some related subjects](#)

[\[2009 April\] Pandemic of panic - After salmonella, bird flu, the Millennium Bug... should we actually be scared this time?](#) It is not long since, in 2005, an even more senior WHO official was telling us that, any time soon, a worldwide epidemic of Asian bird flu could kill '150 million people'. The actual death toll from bird flu to date is around 200, barely double the number already dead when that hysteria was at its height.

The name of that English laboratory the public has not gotten to know. It's the reference laboratory of the EU for bird flu, in Weybridge. I have asked the scientists several times for the pieces of proof of the existence of the H5N1 virus. They have replied to me only once, and after that never again, and wrote that they did not understand my question. To the World Health Organization and in particular to the bird flu pandemic co-ordinator, the German Klaus Stöhr, I also have written several times and asked for proof of the existence of the bird flu virus. Neither the WHO nor Klaus Stöhr has reacted to this.

For demonstrating the existence of H5N1, really no sample is necessary either, since, as is the case with all purported contagious diseases, it is a question of a planned action, intended for political reasons to induce fear.

Firstly, those round formations which supposedly are influenza viruses are, as every molecular-biologist can see, artificially produced particles consisting of fats and proteins. The layman can check on this by asking for a scientific publication in which these pictures are reproduced and described and the composition of the formations shown is documented. Such a publication does not exist.

Secondly, those pictures which supposedly show bird flu viruses in reality show, as every biologist can make out without any doubt about it, quite normal component parts of cells, or even show complete cells which happen to be in the process of exporting or importing cell and metabolism component parts. Again, the layman can check on this very precisely, by asking for those publications on which those photos are based and from which they originate: He will never receive such publications. The scaremongers'

craftguild is loth to expose its trade basis, the swindles with laboratory and animal experiments.

If you ask the picture agencies or a news agency such as the dpa from where they are getting these photos of theirs, then they will refer you to the American contagious-disease authority the CDC of the Pentagon. From this CDC it is that the only photo of the purported H5N1 originates too.

This photo shows the length section cut and also the cross section cut of tubes in cells which have been caused to die in a test-tube. These small tubes in the professional language are called microtubuli, and serve the transport and communication in the cell and in the process of cell division. [\[27.10.2005\] Interview with Stefan Lanka on "bird flu" and some related subjects](#)

[Daily Mail April6, 2006.] Bird Flu Kills British Swan.





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GARDEN TOOLS
P&P PAYABLE PAGE 46

BIRD FLU KILLS BRITISH SWAN

Emergency exclusion zone imposed ... local farmers ordered to bring poultry indoors

FULL REPORT: PAGE FOUR

By Fiona MacRae
and Stuart Nicolson

Death of swan confirms UK now has bird flu outbreak



Diseased birds will be slaughtered

AN outbreak of bird flu was last night confirmed in Britain.

A wild swan has died of the disease which has been sweeping across the globe, officials said.

The swan had a virus from the same family as the H5N1 strain that has killed more than 100 people and millions of birds worldwide.

Tests show the H5 bug found in the swan is extremely infectious and deadly to poultry - and experts believe it is 'highly likely' it is the feared H5N1.

Leading vet Dr Bob McCracken said: 'H5N1 is already present in 13 member states of the European Union.'

'It is highly likely this will turn out to be H5N1. What is common is common and H5N1 is very common throughout the world at the moment.'

The swan was found in the Cellarayke area of Anstruther, Fife, in the south-east of Scotland. It is unclear if the swan was a native bird or had migrated here. However, it is likely the virus was brought into the country by migratory birds.

A spokesman from the Scottish Executive said: 'Preliminary tests have found a highly pathogenic H5 avian flu in a swan which died in Fife.'

The spokesman added it was impossible to tell at this stage whether the bird had died from H5N1. Test results which will confirm whether it is the H5N1 strain are due today.

Confirmation would send shockwaves through Britain's £3billion-a-year poultry industry. If the bug was to spread to domestic birds it could lead to widespread culls and the collapse of the poultry and egg markets.

In an attempt to prevent the spread

to farmed birds, officials have put a two-mile 'protection zone' around the area where the swan was found and a six-mile 'surveillance zone'.

Poultry keepers within the protection zone have been told to keep their birds indoors to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

The movement of poultry, eggs and poultry products out of both zones has been restricted.

If the disease is confirmed as H5N1 more severe restrictions may will be brought in, such as housing and movement controls.

Birds that are diseased, suspected

of being diseased or which have been exposed to infection would be slaughtered. Eggs would also be destroyed.

The Scottish Executive said in a statement: 'There is no reason for public health concern.'

'Avian influenza is a disease of birds and while it can pass very rarely and with difficulty to humans this requires extremely close contact with infected birds, particularly faeces.'

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell, in whose constituency the bird was found, said he would follow the situation 'very closely'.

He said he had been assured by agriculture minister Ben Bradshaw 'that all necessary steps will be taken and that there is no health risk to humans'.

Britain's chief veterinary officer Debby Reynolds said: 'We are already in a high state of readiness and I have every confidence that officials north and south of the border will work together to manage this incident successfully.'

Bird flu was discovered in Britain in parrots and finches last October. However, because the outbreak was confined to birds

kept in quarantine, the country has until now been classed as disease-free.

Earlier, experts had warned that cats may help bird flu mutate into a form that spreads easily among humans.

They said the role the animals play in spreading bird flu should be examined when governments

'Difficult to assess the risk'

draw up guidelines to prevent a global pandemic.

Virtually all bird flu cases so far detected in EU countries have been in wild species - and extensive precautions are in place to stop it spreading to commercial flocks.

But cats are so adept at catching wild birds that they could play an important role in helping the virus spread, according to Dr Albert Osterhaus from Erasmus University in the Netherlands.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, Dr Osterhaus and Peter Roeder, of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, said it is still not

clear how easily cats pick up the virus, how long they may excrete it for, or if they can pass it on to other animals including humans.

'In the absence of these data, it is difficult to assess the overall risk posed by infected cats,' they warned.

'Cats may provide the virus with an opportunity to adapt to efficient transmission within and among mammalian species including humans, thereby increasing the risk of a human influenza pandemic.'

They recommend that in areas where avian flu is widespread, cats should not be in contact with birds or their droppings. Domestic pets may need to be kept indoors and if they show signs of illness, they should be tested for H5N1.

Studies at Erasmus University have shown that cats can be infected through the respiratory tract, although the more likely route is by eating infected birds.

The warning came as it emerged the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu has been identified on a poultry farm in Germany - only the second confirmed case in domestic birds in the EU.

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[Daily Mail Feb 20, 2006] You couldn't make it up, a Fearmongering classic from Dad's Army.]



Here we have [Professor Colin Blakemore](#) (the usual villains) doing his bit on the fearmongering front:

Confusion as killer virus claims more victims

BIRD FLU: IS TURKEY SAFE FOR HOLIDAYS?

A TOP scientist last night warned British tourists to cancel visits to Turkey.

Professor Colin Blakemore spoke as more cases of bird flu were reported in a country visited by 1.7million Britons a year.

He said he believed the chances of the

By **Fiona MacRae**
and **Sean Poulter**

disease spreading to the UK were high. But his alert was in stark contrast to official advice. The Foreign Office said simply that travellers should take 'sensible precautions', MPs accused it of complacency.

By last night Turkey had confirmed 15

cases, including five new incidences in children. All are thought to have had contact with sick birds. More than 60 other suspected cases are being treated.

It was feared the bug may have reached Istanbul, 1,600 miles from the UK and seen as the gateway to Europe. Thirteen children and 10 adults were undergoing

Turn to Page 4, Col. 1

[Daily Mail Feb 20, 2006] Nice little earner for vaccines and anti-virals:

Killer flu: The shocking facts

By Rachel Ellis

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE alarming truth of the Government's lack of investment in **antiviral drugs** to defend the nation against a bird flu pandemic can be revealed today.

While France has ordered 13 million of the pills, which block all known types of flu, the Department of Health has now admitted it has a stock of just 100,000.

Even if it ordered the drugs tomorrow, they would not be available for at least a year - leaving the country virtually helpless in a flu crisis.

Other European countries, such as France, have already ensured they have enough antivirals to cope with a worldwide outbreak of avian flu. They acted after the World Health Organisation recommended that governments should stockpile enough drugs to treat 25 per cent of the population, which in Britain would mean 15 million people.

Last week it emerged that many more people may have died from bird

France orders 13m vaccines... while Britain has just 100,000

flu, also known as H5N1, than the official death toll of 42 in Asia last year. Some experts predict that if bird flu were to spread globally, there could be 100 million deaths, including hundreds of thousands in Britain.

Last night, Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: 'People will be shocked. They will conclude that if a country such as France, which is in the same situation as us, is taking steps, that is deeply worrying.'

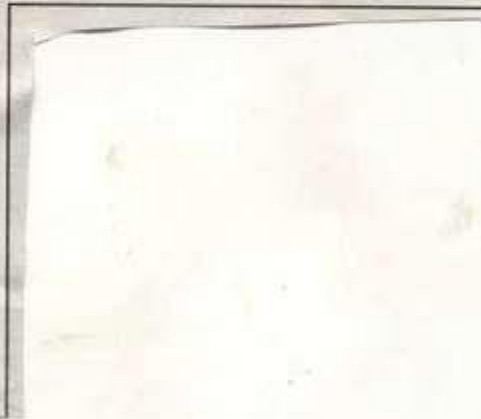
'The Government says our contingency plan is being drafted and will be published in due course but it's not good enough.'

Antivirals work by blocking the neuraminidase protein, a spike on the outside shell of a flu virus that helps it to break out of our cells and spread throughout the body.

Research has shown that one particular antiviral - oseltamivir or Tamiflu, made by pharmaceutical company Roche - is effective. A spokeswoman

for Roche said: 'The Government is talking to us now about stockpiling.'

The Department of Health said 100,000 was 'about the right figure' for the amount of Tamiflu currently available. A draft plan of how to deal with an outbreak would be published in the spring.



The new smallpox?

By Julie Wheldon
Science Correspondent

ASIAN bird flu has the potential to become one of the biggest killers in history, a leading scientist warned yesterday.

The death rate from the H5N1 strain is far higher than that seen in the pandemic of Spanish flu of 1918, which led to 50million deaths worldwide.

Of the 55 people who have already caught the latest virus, 42 - or three-quarters - have died, compared with a death rate of only one per cent in the 1918 outbreak.

Nancy Cox, of the U.S. government's Centre for Disease Control, said that if bird flu gained the ability to pass from person to person - which could happen at any time - the consequences could be devastating.

'It is very frightening to see such a high case fatality rate,' she told the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual conference in Washington. 'It is definitely quite striking.'

'It is at least as dangerous as smallpox and potentially, if viruses developed that had the ability to transmit efficiently and in a sustained manner in human populations, we would expect rapid global spread of the disease.'

Dr Cox's comments will add to concerns that Britain is not doing enough to guard against the threat.

Last week, the country's leading flu expert, Professor John Oxford, of Queen Mary's School of Medicine in London, accused the

Death rate from bird flu raises fear of a pandemic

Government of a lack of urgency in preparing for a potential pandemic - an epidemic which affects a number of countries.

Despite the World Health Organisation urging countries to stockpile vaccines, Britain has no stock to deal with the bird flu virus.

Oxford University scientists have suggested the death toll could be far higher than the official figure of 42.

Researchers have found that bird flu can attack all parts of the body - not just the lungs as previously thought - suggesting many victims may have been wrongly diagnosed with other conditions.

Some experts say that, if it were

to spread globally, the virus could kill up to 100million, including hundreds of thousands in Britain alone.

The greatest fear is that it mutates and starts to spread easily between people. So far it is thought

'Frightening to see'

most cases have been caught directly from birds, but last month it emerged that an 11-year-old girl in Thailand could have given the virus to her mother and aunt.

Dr Cox said it was vital that health and veterinary experts

Another superbug threat to babies

BABIES are at risk from a potentially deadly flu-like virus, it emerged yesterday.

There are fears the airborne infection could be spreading through hospital wards in the same way as the superbug MRSA.

Figures reveal that cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) were around twice as high in the final three months of last year as in the same period in 2003.

The virus, in the same family as mumps and measles, is a common cause of coughs and colds in adults and older children.

But in babies under six months - and particularly those born prematurely - it can lead to pneumonia and even death.

As well as spreading from person to person, the virus can survive on surfaces for up to seven hours. Infection can be stopped through simple measures such as regular handwashing, but it is feared that dirty hospital wards

could allow it to spread like MRSA. Figures from the Health Protection Agency show there were 2,842 cases of RSV diagnosed in the last quarter of 2004.

The HPA insists the 'vast majority' of cases were caught outside hospitals but could not provide figures on how many were due to infection within wards.

More than 60 per cent of children are infected before their first birthday and 80 per cent by two years, with most requiring no treatment.

But in some babies it can cause severe breathing problems such as bronchiolitis, in which the tiny airways leading to the lungs become inflamed and filled with mucus.

An HPA spokesman said that, like the flu, cases of RSV peak at different times from year to year, which could explain the figures. Cases since the beginning of this year are lower than in the same period of 2004.

worked together to monitor any developments.

She said it was 'almost certain' that another flu pandemic would occur, but it was not clear which viruses would spark it.

However, she said that if the bird flu virus did mutate to become easily transmissible among humans, it could become less deadly in the process.

Referring to the last major pandemic - Hong Kong flu, which killed 46,500 worldwide - she added: 'We might have a relatively small pandemic as occurred in 1968 or a severe pandemic as occurred in 1918 or perhaps something worse.'

Dr Cox also said that it was pos-

sible the death rate could be lower than 76 per cent because many milder cases of infection may have gone unreported.

Doctors have finally defeated the deadly SARS virus, the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference heard.

Dr Kathryn Holmes, a lung disease expert at the University of Colorado, said cases still existed in animals but it no longer has the ability to infect humans.

The respiratory illness, which first broke out in southern China in November 2002, went on to kill 800 people, mainly in the Far East.

It brought tourism in the region to a virtual halt.

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Pandemic's potential toll is greatly underestimated, says professor

Bird flu 'could kill two million Britons'

TWO million Britons could die if bird flu starts to spread among humans, it was claimed last night.

The startling prediction came from the country's top infection control expert, who warned that British officials had massively underestimated the potential death toll of a flu pandemic.

Professor Hugh Pennington criticised the 'very relaxed' attitude of ministers to the possibility of a global outbreak of the virus, likening it to official complacency over BSE a decade ago.

In the past 16 months bird flu has claimed 47 lives in South-East Asia. Ministers have

By **Julie Wheldon**
Science Correspondent

suggested that it would kill around 50,000 if it reached the UK.

But Professor Pennington, president of the Society for General Microbiology, put the figure much higher.

He said if there was an outbreak, he would expect many people to die from pneumonia 'which we are still not very good at treating'.

'If the virus moves into people there will be no stopping it,' he warned. 'It will be here before we know it.' His warning came as fears were raised that bird flu is starting to spread

more easily among humans. Until now, most of the victims have been poultry workers who picked up the virus directly from birds.

But on Saturday, Vietnamese health officials revealed that a nurse who had cared for a victim had contracted the disease.

Experts are concerned that if someone with human flu becomes infected with bird flu, the viruses could mix and mutate into a form that is readily transmitted from one person to another.

Professor Pennington claimed ministers were being slow to react to the threat of a pandemic.

It was not until earlier this month that the Government finally placed a £200million order for 14.6million courses of the antiviral Tamiflu.

However, the first batch will not be ready until April of next year - by which time it is feared the virus may have already spread to the West. The remainder will not follow until 2007.

'They hope that by the time they have to spend the money the problem will have gone away,' said Professor Pennington.

'It is rather reminiscent of BSE.'

But the chief medical officer Sir Liam Donaldson rejected the accusations. 'Until the particular strain of pandemic flu emerges, there can be no specific vaccine developed



Stark warning: Professor Pennington

against it,' he said. 'We have taken steps to ensure the process of developing that vaccine is as rapid as possible.'

'However, it is likely that antiviral drugs can reduce the impact of the illness. That is why we have announced that we are to buy 14.6million courses of antivirals.'

'That could provide treatment for a quarter of the population - the proportion which the World Health Organisation recommends countries plan for being ill - although the drugs will be used in the best way to achieve maximum benefit at the time.'

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 led to 50million deaths worldwide - more than died in the First World War.

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'It is very frightening to see such a high case fatality rate,' she told the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual conference in Washington. 'It is definitely quite striking.'

'It is at least as dangerous as smallpox and potentially, if viruses developed that had the ability to transmit efficiently and in a sustained manner in human populations, we would expect rapid global spread of the disease.'

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Killer flu: 'Britain needs action now'

BRITAIN'S leading flu expert yesterday accused the Government of a lack of urgency in preparing for a potential pandemic that could kill millions.

Experts fear the bird flu virus, which has already killed 42 people in Asia, could spread across the globe with devastating consequences.

But despite the World Health Organisation warning countries to stockpile vaccines, the British Government has no stocks to deal with bird flu - also known

By **Robin Yapp**
Science Reporter

as H5N1. Professor John Oxford, of Queen Mary's School of Medicine in London, said he feared Britain was in danger of being left behind.

'At the moment, if you line up the candidate viruses for a pandemic, H5N1 is at the top,' he said. 'I wish the UK would be even more active because other European countries are now beginning to stockpile.'

'We have got plans but we have not seen any action or serious

investment of cash and I find that disappointing.'

The U.S. has already ordered four million doses of the H5 vaccine to combat the human strain of the virus, while Italy and France plan to stockpile two million doses each.

Many scientists have previously said there is little point in stockpiling vaccines as the virus could mutate at any time, making any vaccine already produced useless.

But the WHO, a United Nations body of international experts, believes the threat of a pandemic is now so great that

governments should order vaccines which may help prime the human immune system against the virus.

Tests on animals indicate that while vaccination with a similar strain may not protect against illness, it can reduce the chances of death.

In the event of a global outbreak countries with H5 vaccine stockpiles could therefore vaccinate vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly, or key workers such as health professionals.

They may then only need one booster shot of a specific pandemic vaccine rather than the usual two.

'My feeling is that if you're primed with H5, you'll respond better to the flu or to the real vaccine,' said Tony Colegate, of Liverpool-based manufacturing firm Chiron Vaccines.

Bird flu originated in chickens in Asia and the first documented human-to-human case last month, where an 11-year-old girl killed by the virus in Thailand is thought to have given it to her mother and aunt, has raised fears of a global pandemic.

This week the New Scientist magazine revealed that a report from the WHO, to be released next month, will call on governments to consider vaccine stockpiles.

Dr Klaus Stohr, head of the WHO's influenza programme, said slow progress in eradicating the H5N1



Professor John Oxford: Warning

version of bird flu among poultry in Asia, and a growing number of human cases, had heightened their concerns. 'When we realised H5N1 was not going to be eradicated in poultry in Asia for at least another couple of years, that made the risk of H5 much higher,' he said.

A Department of Health spokesman said the Government's plans for dealing with a flu pandemic were being updated and a draft plan would be published in the spring.

But she added: 'Viruses constantly mutate so it is impractical to stock large quantities of existing bird flu vaccine as it may not protect against a future strain of bird flu. However, we are working closely with industry and experts to develop a vaccine.'

'This could be important in making sure that a safe and effective vaccine is available should H5N1 emerge as a pandemic strain.'

The last major pandemic was an outbreak of Hong Kong flu in 1968 which killed millions of people worldwide and more than 7,000 in Britain.

It could hit Britain any time and kill millions. This week experts revealed that a deadly new flu virus had passed between humans for the first time. So why is the Government doing nothing to prevent an epidemic?



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For even that fl be the start of th son who coughs w tious for days. caught the dise unwittingly sprea

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Vaccination, n defence against fl present vaccine against the new s

A vaccine cann deal with the rapi until the variant humanity emerge

At best, says th at least four mo new vaccine in su Then it will take people; two dose to be given two w time the pandem swept through th

There seems, h defence that wo saving millions c and authorities Oxford, the Harv lic Health and Dr Director of the R Birmingham Re their faith in anti- ularly oseltamavi



Oxford, the Harvard School of Public Health and Dr Douglas Fleming, Director of the Royal College of GPs' Birmingham Research Unit place their faith in anti-viral drugs, particularly oseltamavir (the best-known

Present vaccines won't protect against the virus

brand is Tamiflu) which appears effective against all types of flu of this kind.

Australia and Japan have built up enough stockpiles, but in Britain, according to Professor Oxford, there are only 'minute quantities'. He says that 20 million courses of the drug (two capsules should be taken twice a day within two days of the onset of symptoms) would be needed to make any sort of impact. That would take months to accumulate because manufacturing the drug takes time.

Professor Oxford is calling for urgent action to remedy this, but the Government is moving with all the speed and urgency of a superannuated sloth. The drug is not even mentioned in its official 60-page 'Multi-phase Contingency Plan for Pandemic Influenza'.

Yesterday, the Department of Health said the plan is being revised, but that no decision will be taken on building up a stockpile of Tamiflu until 'the spring'.

Instead, the Department has been drawing up lists of the people who would be given the limited supplies of the life-saving drug when the pandemic hits Britain. Healthcare staff, the police, firefighters, the Army, and undertakers — those providing essential services — would be top of this list.

Curiously, ministers and senior civil servants do not figure on it, but since they would be taking the decisions, we can be sure many of them will be first in the queue.

'When they know the stuff works, why aren't they stockpiling it in anticipation of an outbreak so that they can protect their citizens?' asks Professor Oxford.

The answer appears to be money. Tamiflu is expensive. But, as Professor Oxford points out, Tony Blair has been happy to spend billions in Iraq, supposedly to eliminate weapons of mass destruction that proved to be fictitious.

He must urgently devote a fraction as much to averting a real, and much greater, peril. And he must do it now.

PLAGUE!

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Without a vaccine this disease may kill millions of people

By **Professor Peter Dunnill**

BIRD FLU VACCINE EXPERT AND FORMER GOVERNMENT HEALTH ADVISER

WAITING for a pandemic is like watching a train crash in slow motion. If you are looking all the time you see the two trains on a collision course – if you only take a quick look occasionally, nothing much seems to happen.

For most people it is the odd news item, such as a dead swan with bird flu in Scotland, which

H5N1 was found in 16 countries in 2005 and in 55 in 2006. It is expected that each migration season will spread it further and also cause new infections.

This virus has the capacity to kill humans but, so far, it does not infect them easily. Human to human transfer, in its present form, seems to require very close contact and probably poor hygiene.

With H5N1 in so many countries connected by bird migration and also by the illegal trading of birds, the virus has more and more chances of forming a variant which can infect humans easily and transmit between them.

It is these small changes which will contribute to whether it will become a pandemic virus. The danger is that the public, governments and the media do not find such details newsworthy – the 'slow-motion train crash' could be taking place by imperceptible degrees, as the virus gradually accumulates the necessary mutations.

The single sure way to protect people from viruses is by vaccination, as experience with smallpox and polio shows.

However, influenza is a tricky virus, constantly evolving so that each year's vaccine will have to be adjusted. At present, only a few countries offer vaccination and the amount produced worldwide is small. At best, with current methods of production, only nine per cent

