

Don't let bird flu ruffle your feathers (Broadcast version)

INTRO:

A MULTI-STATE OUTBREAK OF BIRD FLU – ALSO KNOWN AS H-5-N-1 – HAS CAUSED THE C-D-C TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE SITUATION.

TAKE VO

THE VIRUS STARTS WITH WILD BIRDS. THEN – IT CAN SPREAD TO POULTRY... COWS... OR CATS. LASTLY – IT REACHES HUMANS WHO ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH POULTRY AND COWS. IT CAN BE PASSED THROUGH DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT... AFTER SOMEONE TOUCHES THE VIRUS THEN TOUCHES THEIR EYES... NOSE OR MOUTH. IT CAN ALSO SPREAD THROUGH CONTAMINATED SURFACES... OR EVEN IN THE AIR THROUGH DROPLETS OR DUST.

DR. DOUG KASPER – AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE – SAYS THE SPREAD TO HUMANS HAS BEEN VERY MINIMAL.

TAKE SOT

“This isn't something that's going to catch us by surprise. The cases that have occurred and found their way to humans have been relatively mild and have not progressed into the family units of those people. The cases have not led to any sustained change in how we usually identify or treat influenza.”

VO TAG

DR. KASPER SAYS RIGHT NOW – THE CURRENT FLU VACCINE DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST THE BIRD FLU. BUT THAT MAY REQUIRE A CHANGE IN THE FLU VACCINE STRATEGY MOVING FORWARD. HE SAYS THE GUIDANCE REMAINS FOR ANYONE 6 MONTHS OR OLDER TO GET THE FLU VACCINE EACH FALL.