

預防禽流感：
減低人類感染風險的長遠方針諮詢文件

目的

本文件旨在就政府為減低人類感染風險而制訂的長遠方針徵詢議員意見。

背景

2. 自一九九七年起，本港曾經爆發四次家禽感染高致病性 H5N1 禽流感事件。在一九九七年本港發生的人類感染禽流感事件中，有 18 人發病，其中 6 人死亡。

3. 近日在亞洲爆發的家禽感染禽流感疫潮是前所未見的。在越南和泰國出現的人類感染 H5N1 個案，更令人非常關注禽流感病毒跨越物種傳染人類的風險。禽流感很可能成為亞洲區內家禽風土病。目前香港採取的預防和監控禽流感措施並非萬全之策，而出售活家禽的零售點正是最大的風險來源。因此，政府有必要增訂進一步措施，防止人類感染禽流感。

諮詢文件

4. 二零零四年四月二日，政府發表一份題為《預防禽流感：減低人類感染風險的長遠方針諮詢文件》。現於附件夾附有相關的諮詢文件和資料單張。

5. 諮詢文件第二章載述政府保障公眾免受禽流感感染的長遠目標，即保持本港零感染和傳播的狀況。為達致這長遠目標，我們會推行政策，將人雞分隔。諮詢文件第三章簡述香港防範禽流感的措施。第四章分析實施有關措施後仍存在的公共衛生風險。第五章提出了多項即時和中期改善措施，

以進一步減低禽流感對人類的潛在威脅。雖然這些改善措施是必需和可取的，但要達至「人雞分隔」的政策目標，這些改善措施並不足夠。因此，為實踐上述的政策目標，政府在諮詢文件第六章制訂以下兩大策略性方案－

方案 A： 所有活家禽須集中屠宰，並在屠房經冰鮮加工。零售點只准售賣冰鮮家禽(“冰鮮鏈”方案)。

方案 B： 所有活家禽須分區屠宰和處理。消費者可以在屠宰中心的零售點購買鮮宰雞或要求把鮮宰雞送到其住所／酒樓；但鮮宰雞須以設有空調設備的車輛運送。(“鮮宰雞”方案)

6. 政府希望徵詢市民對上述兩個方案的意見，諮詢期至二零零四年七月二日結束。我們會審議在諮詢期所收到的意見後，才決定最終的策略性方案。

徵詢意見

7. 請議員就以下事宜提出意見－

(a) 應否引用“冰鮮鏈”概念處理供零售點售賣的禽肉；以及

(b) 應否以“鮮宰雞”取代在零售點售賣的活家禽。

衛生福利及食物局
食物環境衛生署
二零零四年四月

**Prevention of Avian Influenza:
Consultation on Long Term Direction to
Minimize the Risk of Human Infection**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the Government's long term direction to minimize the risk of human infection of avian influenza.

Background

2. Hong Kong has experienced four highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks in poultry since 1997. Human infection of H5N1 was detected in the 1997 outbreak in which 18 persons developed the disease, of whom 6 died subsequently.

3. The recent outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry across Asia are unprecedented and the human infections in Vietnam and Thailand have aroused great concerns over the risk of avian influenza viruses jumping across species to infect humans. It is likely that avian influenza would become endemic in poultry in the region. The current preventive and surveillance measures are not foolproof. Indeed, retail outlets that sell live poultry pose the greatest risk. There is a need to put in place further measures to prevent human infection of avian influenza.

The Consultation Paper

4. On 2 April 2004, the Government published a consultation paper entitled "Prevention of Avian Influenza : Consultation on Long Term direction to Minimize the Risk of Human Infection". A copy of the paper and an information leaflet is attached at Annex.

5. Chapter 2 of the paper outlines the Government's long-term vision to further protect public health from avian influenza, i.e., to sustain the goal of zero infection and transmission in Hong Kong. To achieve this long-term vision, it is our policy to separate humans from live poultry. Chapter 3 of the paper summarizes the current measures to prevent avian influenza. This

is then followed by an analysis of the potential health risk despite these measures in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 of the paper then outlines various immediate and medium term improvement measures to further reduce the potential threat of avian influenza to humans. Although these measures are necessary and desirable, they are insufficient in achieving our policy objective of separating humans from live poultry. Hence, the Government has identified two strategic approaches to achieve the policy objective which are set out in Chapter 6 of the paper. These approaches are -

Approach A : All live poultry will be slaughtered and undergo chilling process in a slaughterhouse. Retail outlets would only be allowed to sell chilled poultry (“cold-chain approach”).

Approach B : All live poultry will be slaughtered and dressed at regional slaughtering hubs. Consumers can purchase freshly slaughtered chickens from the retail outlets located at the slaughtering hubs or have them delivered to their homes/restaurants by vehicles with refrigeration facilities (“freshly slaughtered chicken approach”).

6. The Government would like to gauge the public’s views on these approaches. We will take full account of the views received during the consultation period, which will end on 2 July 2004, before making a final decision on the strategic approach.

Views Sought

7. Members are invited to give their views on the following –
- (a) Whether the concept of “cold-chain” should be applied to the sale of poultry meat at retail outlets; and
 - (b) Whether “freshly slaughtered chickens” should replace the sale of live poultry at retail outlets.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
April 2004