

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Bird Flu Sample from Chilean Man Showed Some Signs of Adaptation to Mammals

Article

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/14/science/bird-flu-humans.html?searchResultPosition=2>

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Tweet: There is evidence that the ongoing avian influenza pandemic shows signs of adaptation to mammals according to the @CDCgov. @NYTScience

Summary: A sample of avian influenza isolated from a Chilean man who fell ill last month contains two genetic mutations that are signs of adaptation to mammals, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. In experimental animal studies, the mutations, both of which are in what is known as the PB2 gene, have previously been shown to help the virus replicate better in mammalian cells. The risk to the public remains low, health officials said, and no additional human cases have been linked to the Chilean man, who remains hospitalized. Moreover, the sample was missing other critical genetic changes that scientists believe would be necessary for the virus, known as H5N1, to spread efficiently among humans, including mutations that would stabilize the virus and help it bind more tightly to human cells

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