Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Human infection with H7N9 virus

April 2024

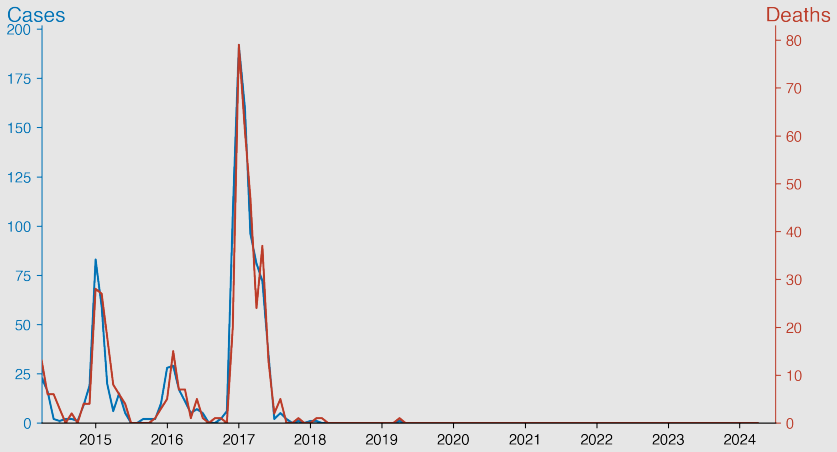
Introduction

H7N9 is a bird flu strain of the species Influenza virus A. First reported in China in 2013, it primarily affects poultry. Transmission to humans has been associated with direct exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environments. Most infected individuals experience severe respiratory illness, including pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. Despite its high mortality rate among humans, H7N9 virus does not easily transmit from person to person, limiting its potential to cause a pandemic. Effective control strategies in poultry are key to reducing human risk.

Highlights

1. H7N9 virus infections peaked in January 2017, with 192 reported cases and 79 deaths in China mainland.
2. From 2018 onwards, there was a significant drop in both the incidence and mortality rate, with near-zero reported cases since.
3. The data shows no new cases or deaths from H7N9 virus on the Chinese mainland from January 2019 to April 2024.
4. Despite occasional earlier spikes, the general trend indicates effective control of the H7N9 virus over the examined period.

Temporal Trend



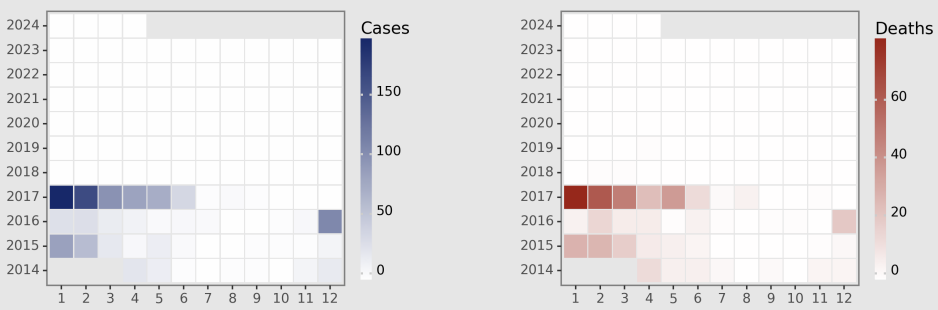
Cases Analysis

The H7N9 virus had a significant outbreak in mainland China between 2014 and 2017, with cases peaking at 192 in January 2017 before gradually declining. From July 2017 onwards, the number of cases stabilized to single digits per month, before completely ceasing in July 2018. Since then, there have been no reported cases. The total number of recorded cases reached its peak in 2017, which then showed the effectiveness of the control measures and prevention strategies put in place.

Deaths Analysis

Concerning deaths, the highest number resulted from January to April 2017, with 79 deaths in January alone, reflecting high case virulence and fatality during this period. The mortality count fluctuated but remained relatively high from 2014 to mid of 2017, after which it significantly diminished. Despite reducing case reports after 2017, death occurrences persisted up to March 2018. No deaths were recorded from April 2018 henceforth, corresponding with the downturn in infections over that period.

Distribution



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