



# Ex-CDC Director Forecasts Bird Flu as Source of Next Pandemic

## Description

Former CDC director Robert Redfield has raised concerns about the possibility of the next pandemic originating from **avian influenza**. He warned that the **mortality rate** for **avian influenza** could be as high as 25 to 50 percent, **significantly** higher than that of Covid-19.

Redfield's comments come in the wake of the World Health Organization reporting the first human death from **avian influenza** in Mexico, with cases also found in cattle across the US. Despite this, there is currently no evidence of human-to-human **transmission**.

Researchers have identified key changes needed for **avian influenza** to be able to spread between humans, similar to Covid-19. Redfield emphasized the risk of the virus being grown in a laboratory, as the recipe for making **avian influenza** highly **infectious** for humans is already available due to past experiments.

While the CDC is monitoring the situation and conducting tests on water treatment facilities to track the virus, they maintain that the current risk to the public is low. Redfield stressed the need for vigilance, as more than 40 cattle herds have been found to be infected with the virus.

With the **potential threat** of an **avian influenza pandemic looming**, experts like Redfield are **urging** proactive measures to prevent and prepare for such an event.

## Vocabulary Insights

1. **Avian influenza** /?e?vi?n ?n?flu??nz?/ (noun): A viral infection that affects birds and can sometimes infect humans.
2. **Mortality rate** /m??r?tæl?ti re?t/ (noun): The percentage of deaths in a given population during a particular period.
3. **Transmission** /trænz?m???n/ (noun): The act of passing something from one person or place to another.
4. **Infectious** /?n?f?k??s/ (adjective): Likely to spread or transmit infection.
5. **Vigilance** /?v?d??l?ns/ (noun): The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.
6. **Proactive measures** /pr???ækt?v ?m???rz/ (noun): Steps taken in advance to prevent problems or address potential issues before they become serious.
7. **Significantly** /s???n?f?k?ntli/ (adverb): In a sufficiently great or important way as to be worthy of attention.
8. **Pandemic looming** /pæn?d?m?k ?lu?m??/ (noun phrase): The threat or possibility of a widespread outbreak of disease occurring soon.
9. **Potential threat** /p???t?n??l ?r?t/ (noun phrase): The possibility of something dangerous or harmful happening in the future.
10. **Urging** /??rd??/ (verb): Strongly advising or encouraging someone to do something.



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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Avian influenza** /'eɪ.vi.ən ɪn'fluː.ən.zə/ (noun): A viral infection that affects birds and can sometimes infect humans.
2. **Mortality rate** /mɔːr'tæl.i.ti reɪt/ (noun): The percentage of deaths in a given population during a particular period.
3. **Transmission** /trænz'mɪʃ.ən/ (noun): The act of passing something from one person or place to another.
4. **Infectious** /ɪn'fɛk.ʃəs/ (adjective): Likely to spread or transmit infection.
5. **Vigilance** /'vɪdʒ.ɪ.ləns/ (noun): The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.
6. **Proactive measures** /prəʊ'æk.tɪv 'meɜ.ərz/ (noun): Steps taken in advance to prevent problems or address potential issues before they become serious.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What is the potential mortality rate for bird flu according to Robert Redfield?  
Option: 5 to 10 percent  
Option: 25 to 50 percent  
Option: 80 to 90 percent  
Option: 0 to 2 percent
2. Where was the first human death from bird flu reported?  
Option: Mexico  
Option: United States  
Option: China  
Option: Canada
3. What is one precaution mentioned by Robert Redfield for preventing a bird flu pandemic?  
Option: Quarantine all birds  
Option: Monitor wastewater treatment sites  
Option: Promote human-to-human transmission  
Option: Ignore the situation
4. What concern did Redfield raise about the risk of bird flu spreading among humans?



- Option: Lack of necessary mutations
- Option: Difficulty in identifying the virus
- Option: Possibility of lab manipulation
- Option: Ineffective vaccines

5. What is a key similarity between bird flu and Covid-19 according to researchers?

- Option: Mode of transmission
- Option: Origination from bats
- Option: Incubation period
- Option: Target demographic

6. How is the current risk to the public regarding bird flu described by the CDC?

- Option: High
- Option: Moderate
- Option: Unknown
- Option: Low

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 25 to 50 percent 2. Mexico 3. Monitor wastewater treatment sites 4. Possibility of lab manipulation 5. Mode of transmission 6. Low

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. Which disease is transmitted through the saliva of infected animals?

- Option: Rabies
- Option: Avian influenza
- Option: Lyme disease
- Option: Muscle mass

2. What is a preventive measure taken to boost immunity against specific diseases?

- Option: Vaccinations
- Option: Transmission
- Option: Unincorporated
- Option: Contaminated

3. Which term refers to the frequency of deaths within a specific population?



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- Option: Precautionary  
Option: Mortality rate  
Option: Cognitive  
Option: Impact
4. How is an infectious disease passed from one individual to another?  
Option: Determine  
Option: Rabies  
Option: Transmission  
Option: Antidepressant
5. What term describes the ability to move or be moved freely and easily?  
Option: Mobility  
Option: Infection  
Option: Surgeon General  
Option: Accountability
6. Who is the leading spokesperson on matters of public health in the United States?  
Option: Proactive measures  
Option: Mobility  
Option: Surgeon General  
Option: Rabies
7. What type of measures are taken in advance to prevent possible harm?  
Option: Antidepressant  
Option: Precautionary  
Option: Infectious  
Option: Lyme disease
8. What term describes something that has been infected with harmful substances?  
Option: Avian influenza  
Option: Contaminated  
Option: Bureau  
Option: Ultimate
9. What is the invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissues?  
Option: Infection  
Option: Categorize  
Option: Vigilance  
Option: Exposure
10. What term describes the sudden increase in the occurrences of a disease in a specific time and place?  
Option: Outbreak



- Option: Surgical masks
- Option: Equine
- Option: Vigilance

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ to a contaminated environment can lead to the spread of infectious diseases.
12. Patients with depression may be prescribed \_\_\_\_\_ medications to manage their symptoms.
13. Medical advancements have helped to \_\_\_\_\_ the treatment of many illnesses.
14. Healthcare professionals have a responsibility to uphold high standards of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Ticks carrying the bacteria that causes \_\_\_\_\_ can transmit the disease to humans through bites.
16. Proper nutrition is essential for maintaining good \_\_\_\_\_ function.
17. Public health officials emphasize the importance of maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ during disease outbreaks.
18. Regular exercise can help increase \_\_\_\_\_ and overall strength.
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ goal of vaccination campaigns is to achieve herd immunity.
20. Maintaining joint flexibility is important for overall \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Farm animals such as cattle and poultry raised for food or other agricultural purposes.
22. An administrative unit or office typically in government or large organizations.
23. A type of influenza virus that primarily infects birds but can also affect humans and other animals.



24. To ascertain or establish exactly by research or calculation.
25. Alert attention watchfulness or caution especially in detecting and preventing danger.
26. Steps taken to prevent or control a situation before it happens.
27. To ascertain or establish exactly by research or calculation.
28. To change something radically or significantly in a positive way.
29. To arrange or classify things according to determined criteria.
30. The effect or influence of one person thing or action on another.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Rabies 2. Vaccinations 3. Mortality rate 4. Transmission 5. Mobility 6. Surgeon General  
7. Precautionary 8. Contaminated 9. Infection 10. Outbreak

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Exposure 12. Antidepressant 13. Revolutionize 14. Accountability 15. Lyme disease 16.  
Cognitive 17. Vigilance 18. Muscle mass 19. Ultimate 20. Mobility

**Matching sentence:** 1. Livestock 2. Bureau 3. Avian influenza 4. Determine 5. Vigilance 6. Proactive measures  
7. Determine 8. Revolutionize 9. Categorize 10. Impact

## CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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