

Two more suspected avian flu deaths in Indonesia

Jakarta, March 29 (RIA Novosti) Two more people have died in Indonesia after apparently contracting the lethal H5N1 strain of avian flu, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

A preliminary test has revealed the presence of the pathogenic virus in the blood of a 14-year-old boy from West Sumatra and a 28-year-old woman from Jakarta.

The results of a second test are yet to be released. If they confirm the initial test results, Indonesia's death toll from bird flu will rise to 71 since 2003 when bird flu first hit Asian countries.

Experts fear the virus could mutate into a form that spreads easily among people, sparking a pandemic across the world.

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