

# Indonesia reports fourth bird flu death of the year

February 25 2012

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A 12-year-old boy on the Indonesian resort island of Bali has died from bird flu, the fourth human death from the virus this year, an official said Saturday.

The boy developed fever on February 11 and was admitted to hospital five days later, the Indonesian health ministry's head of animal-borne infectious disease control, Rita Kusriastuti, told AFP.

"He suffered shortness of breath and eventually died on February 21. Laboratory tests confirmed he died from the H5N1 virus," she added.

Concerns about avian influenza have risen in Asia since China in late December reported its first fatality from the [H5N1 virus](#) in 18 months.

Indonesia has been the hardest-hit by bird flu, with 150 deaths reported between 2003 and 2011, according to the [World Health Organization](#).

The [health ministry](#) said on its website that 154 people had now died of [bird flu](#) in Indonesia since 2005.

The virus typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form that is easily transmissible between humans, with the potential to kill millions in a pandemic.

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