



AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS FOUND IN IMPORTED CONSIGNMENT FROM ONE DUCK FARM IN PERAK CONFIRMED TO BE NOT PATHOGENIC

1 Further tests by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) on the Avian Influenza (AI) virus detected in a consignment of ducks imported from a farm in Perak on 28 July 2004 has confirmed that it was not the highly pathogenic strain responsible for the current outbreaks of bird flu in Asia.

2 The virus that was isolated from the ducks does not have the potential to cause disease.

3 Although there is no public health risk, import of ducks from the affected farm will continue to be suspended as an added precaution to minimize the risk of exposure of any AI virus to our local poultry farms. AVA will consider lifting the ban when Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services completes its investigations and submits its findings to AVA. The import of ducks from other Malaysian farms continues to be allowed.

4 Singapore remains free from bird flu and all precautionary measures to prevent the incursion of the disease have been put in place. AVA wishes to reiterate that all poultry and poultry products sold locally are safe for consumption.

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