

## **Avian Influenza (bird flu) :**

### **Mondial Assistance Group announces precautionary measures to prevent contamination of travellers**

Paris, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004

International leader in medical assistance and travel insurance, Mondial Assistance Group encourages people travelling to countries concerned by the Avian flu to strictly observe the following recommendations :

1. avoid all contact with poultry and living pigs, even in markets ;
2. avoid all contact with surfaces that appear to be soiled with animal secretions or feces;
3. avoid buying, keeping or bringing back a living animal from these countries, especially ornamental birds, and reminds travellers that it is not necessary to recommend flu vaccinations for people travelling to these countries;
4. avoid eating raw or lightly cooked food, especially meat and eggs;
5. wash hands regularly.

Given Mondial Assistance Group's information at the current time of this release, countries concerned by the Avian Influenza are : Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Pakistan and China.

Further measures concerning the spread of the virus to humans may be taken in function of results obtained from the WHO's investigations that are currently underway.

When suspecting a contamination, it is recommended to consult a doctor immediately. Should symptoms appear (high fever, headaches, shivers, muscle aches, acute respiratory distress...) while travelling (incubation period of 1 to 3 days), it is necessary to immediately contact your respective assistance company for recommendations on the appropriate health facilities nearby.

In 2003, Mondial Assistance Group organised and handled over 200 000 medical assistance cases around the world. With over 50 years of expertise in the areas of assistance and travel insurance, its international infrastructure provide the Group with immediate reactivity to deploy emergency procedures in order to face all kinds of situations, whether they consist of daily life situations or exceptional circumstances, such as catastrophes.

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***Mondial Assistance Group: an intervention every 3 seconds.***

Worldwide leader in assistance, travel insurance and customer services, today Mondial Assistance Group counts more than 7,000 staff members speaking over 40 languages. They work throughout the world in collaboration with a network of 400,000 service providers and 240 correspondents. Present on 5 continents in 28 countries, the Group mainly operates under its three international brands: ELVIA, Mondial Assistance and World Access. A subsidiary of AGF and RAS, each holding a 50% capital stake respectively, Mondial Assistance Group is a member of the Allianz Group. [www.Mondial-Assistance-Group.com](http://www.Mondial-Assistance-Group.com)

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