**H5N1**

**Influenza**

**Aliases:** Bird Flu, Avian Flu

**Hails from Family:** Orthomyxoviridae

**Genome:** Negatively Single-Stranded RNA

**Professional affiliations:** Disruption of Poultry Industry Society

**Favorite pastimes:** Hanging out in birds, traveling fecal-orally in them, killing them.

**Recently discovered pastime:** Jumping hoops to get past the species barrier.

**Fear Factor:** President Bush wants to sic the military on it...who wouldn't be scared?

**Power:** Hitches ride with birds to see and terrorize the world.

**Offenses of Malice**

- **Attacks:** Respiratory tract, causes complications in immuno-suppressed (young, old)
- **Arsenal:** Mutagenic capability through antigenic shift and drift
- **Outcome:** Recovery possible, but unusually high mortality rate for influenza; complications include: viral pneumonia, bacterial pneumonia, inappropriate immune response may kill, death
- **Speed:** Disturbingly fast in infection epidemiology and onset of disease (usually in 3 days)

**Defenses Against**

- **Vaccine:** Inactivated trivalent vaccine (injected), Live-attenuated vaccine (nasal)
- **Behavioral:** Hand washing, not socializing if infected
- **Treatment:** Usually bed rest/supportive treatment, neuraminidase inhibitors can reduce symptoms by 1 day if taken early (<48 hours post exposure)

**Game move:** Throw this card at someone’s face. If it hits them, the virus has mutated allowing for human infection and that person dies (looses 1 turn).

*Will the big bad bird flu get you? All that protects us is the species barrier...*
**Disease aliases:** Atypical Pneumonia (initial name), SARS

**Hails from Family:** Coronaviridae

**Genome:** Positive Sense Single Stranded RNA

**Professional affiliations:** Mile High Spreader, PETA$^3$, has financial stock in Purell, 3M and other respirator companies.

**Favorite pastimes:** Enjoys the company of the horseshoe bat, civet cats and other edible Asian animals.

**Fear factor:** High enough for you to get stabbed if you cough on someone$^1$, or hang yourself if you suspected your wife had SARS$^2$.

**Power:** New, previously undiscovered virus evades initial detection, allowing for dramatic spread.

**Offenses of Malice**
- **Attacks:** Respiratory tract, causes complications particularly in immuno-competent
- **Arsenal:** World travel through airliners
- **Outcome:** Recovery in majority of cases; 7%-15% mortality rate. Death appears to occur mostly due to inappropriate immune response (cytokine overload?).
- **Speed:** Fast enough to travel around the globe; symptoms seen 2-10 days post-exposure

**Defenses Against**
- **Vaccine:** None available yet
- **Behavioral:** Hand washing, “Respiratory Etiquette”, Respirators/Eyewear for HCWs
- **Treatment:** Ventilator may be needed, Ribavirin and corticosteroids controversially used

**Game move:** If someone coughs during the game, you have a chance to spread (You get 2 extra turns).

---

2. "MAN HANGS SELF, ANOTHER DIES INSIDE ISOLATED HOSPITAL" China Post  April 27, 2003
**Aliases:** hMPV

**Hails from Family:** Paramyxoviridae

**Genome:** Negative sense, helical, single stranded RNA

**Affiliations:** “People thought I was RSV, damnnit” Club

**Favorite pastimes:** Meeting young people (only to infect them, of course...nothing sketchy)

**Fear factor:** Barely raises an eyebrow on the network news.

**Power:** Most people are infected by age 5...wow! What a well-traveled little virus! Re-infection may be possible. May be associated with episodic asthma attacks.

**Offenses of Malice**
- **Attacks:** Respiratory Tract, risk groups include children, elderly, immuno-compromised
- **Arsenal:** Difficult to identify; respiratory transmission for infants very easy.
- **Outcome:** Ranges from self-limiting to respiratory pneumonia and death in severe cases.
- **Speed:** Epidemics in winter indicate high rate of spread in seasonal cycles.

**Defenses Against**
- **Vaccine:** None yet
- **Behavioral:** Proper isolation of infected infants, hand washing
- **Treatment:** Recovery is usually to be expected; ventilator may be needed for severe cases

**Game move:** If someone plays the RSV card, you are suddenly “discovered” and you get your 5 minutes of fame (get up, sing out loud, and get an extra turn).

---

Metapneumovirus may be newly discovered, but it’s been here for a long time... long, just like it’s own name.