Three Taiwanese down with avian flu

TAIPEI: Three poultry farm workers and quarantine officials have been tested positive for the H5N2 avian influenza strain, but none have displayed flu symptoms, Taiwan's disease control authorities said.

They were among 141 people working at five poultry farms where the avian flu was found. Ten of thousands of chickens in these farms have been culled since the outbreak of H5N2 in the past few months.

Medical experts believe the test result may well be cross-reactivity since all the three had flu jabs last year and were vaccinated another two times against H5N1 in the past two months.

Taiwan authorities confirmed the outbreak of H5N2 on Sunday following sporadic reports at farms in central Taiwan. — Xinhua