All patients who present to or telephone a health-care setting with a history of fever and respiratory symptoms should be questioned regarding their recent travel history. The CDC/CSTE CASE DEFINITION OF SUSPECTED AVIAN INFLUENZA (H5N1) includes:

Hospitalized patient with:

- Radiographic confirmed pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or other severe respiratory illness for which an alternate diagnosis has not been established, AND

History of travel within 10 days of symptom onset to a country with documented H5N1 avian influenza in poultry and/or humans (CDC web site of affected countries at: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/current.htm#animals)

OR

Hospitalized or ambulatory patients with:

- Documented temperature of >38°C (>100.4°F), AND

- One or more of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, AND

- History of contact with poultry (e.g., visited a poultry farm, a household raising poultry, or a bird market) or contact with a known or suspected human case of avian influenza in an H5N1-affected country within 10 days of symptom onset.

As soon as a patient is identified as suspected of avian influenza, Riverside County Department of Public Health and your infection control practitioner must be notified.