

1 **Emerging *Chlamydia psittaci* infections in chickens and**
2 **examination of transmission to humans**

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10 Running title: *Chlamydia* in chickens and zoonosis

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26 **Abstract**

27 *Chlamydia psittaci* and atypical *Chlamydiaceae* infections are (re)-emerging in chickens. We
28 therefore examined the prevalence of *C. psittaci*, atypical *Chlamydiaceae* and their zoonotic
29 transmission on 19 Belgian chicken farms. Atypical *chlamydiaceae* were not detected in
30 chickens but 18 of 19 and 14 of 19 farms were positive for *C. psittaci* by both culture and
31 PCR, respectively. *C. psittaci ompA* genotypes A and D were discovered. None of the
32 examined humans (n= 31) was infected with atypical *Chlamydiaceae*, but 29 (93.5%) and 14
33 (45%) of them were positive for *C. psittaci* by both culture and PCR, respectively. Genotypes
34 A, D and a mixed infection with genotypes C and D were found. Humans (n = 2) working in
35 the *C. psittaci* negative farm never had respiratory complaints, while 25 of 29 (86.2%)
36 positive farmers, reported yearly medical complaints potentially related to psittacosis. Four of
37 them currently experienced respiratory disease and one of them was being treated with
38 antibiotics. Four farmers (12.5%) mentioned that they had pneumonia after start keeping
39 chickens. Occupational physicians should be aware of emerging *Chlamydiaceae* infections in
40 chickens.

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42 **Keywords:** *Chlamydia psittaci*, atypical chicken *Chlamydiaceae*, zoonosis, psittacosis,
43 chickens

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51 INTRODUCTION

52 *Chlamydiaceae* are gram-negative obligate intracellular bacteria and the species *Chlamydia*
53 *psittaci* (*C. psittaci*) causes respiratory disease in birds. *C. psittaci* infections could be
54 demonstrated in at least 465 different bird species, spanning 30 different bird orders (Kaleta
55 & Taday, 2003). The symptoms may vary from unapparent to severe, depending on the
56 chlamydial strain, stress condition, age and health status of the avian host. The symptoms in
57 birds include rhinitis, conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, dyspnoea, diarrhoea, polyuria, anorexia,
58 lethargy and dullness (Vanrompay *et al.*, 1995). *C. psittaci* is a well-known zoonotic agent
59 causing psittacosis or parrot-fever in humans. During the last 3 decades, psittacosis outbreaks
60 were reported in the US (Grimes & Wyrick, 1991; Newman *et al.*, 1992), China (Ni *et al.*,
61 1996), India (Chahota *et al.*, 2000), Australia (Tiong *et al.*, 2007) and European poultry
62 industries (Laroucau *et al.*, 2009; Ryll *et al.*, 1994; Sting *et al.*, 2006; Van Loock *et al.*,
63 2005a; Vanrompay *et al.*, 1997). Zoonotic transfer occurs through inhalation of contaminated
64 aerosols originated from feathers, fecal material and respiratory tract exudates. Handling the
65 plumage, carcasses and tissues of infected birds and in rare cases, mouth-to-beak contact or
66 biting also possess a zoonotic risk (Beeckman & Vanrompay, 2009). Psittacosis in humans
67 may vary from unapparent to fatal in untreated patients (Kovacova *et al.*, 2006). Symptoms
68 include high fever, chills, headache, myalgia, non-productive coughing and difficult
69 breathing (Beeckman & Vanrompay, 2009).

70 *C. psittaci* infections mostly occur on turkey or duck farms. However, *C. psittaci* infections
71 are emerging in European and Asian chickens. Recently, Dickx *et al.*, (2010) examined
72 Belgian broiler breeder, broiler and layer farms by a *C. psittaci* recombinant MOMP-based
73 antibody ELISA (Verminnen *et al.*, 2006) and found 98, 95, and 95% seropositive layers,
74 broilers, and broiler breeders, respectively. Moreover, they demonstrated *C. psittaci* genotype
75 D in the air of chicken hatching chambers and in slaughtered Belgian and French broilers.

76 Zoonotic transmission to hatchery and abattoir employees did occur (Dickx *et al.*, 2010;
77 Dickx & Vanrompay, 2011), albeit without severe clinical consequences. Recently, Yin *et*
78 *al.*, (2012), proved Hill's-Evans' postulates for *C. psittaci* genotype B and D strains isolated
79 from Belgian and French broilers.

80 Larouceau *et al.*, (2009) detected a new atypical chlamydial agent in chickens. The atypical
81 chicken *Chlamydiaceae* (ACC) caused apparently no disease in infected chickens, but the
82 detection of ACC coincided with 3 cases of atypical pneumonia in individuals working in a
83 French poultry abattoir. In 2012, ACC have been detected in Australian, German, Greek,
84 Croatian, Slovenian and Chinese chicken flocks (Robertson *et al.*, 2010; Zocevic *et al.*,
85 2012). Importantly, ACC are not detected with *C. psittaci*-specific molecular tools, rendering
86 the need for an ACC-specific PCR. The zoonotic potential and the exact taxonomic status of
87 ACC have yet to be defined.

88 The aim of the current study was to examine the presence of *C. psittaci* and ACC on Belgian
89 chicken farms, as well as their zoonotic transmission to farmers.

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91 **METHODS**

92 **Study concept**

93 We investigated the presence of *C. psittaci* and ACC, as well as their zoonotic transmission,
94 on 19 Belgian chicken farms: 7 broiler breeder (1600 to 50,000 animals), 7 broiler (200 to
95 150,000 animals) and 5 layer (7000 to 22,000 animals) farms from 4 difference geographical
96 regions (Antwerp, East-Flanders, West-Flanders and Limburg). Only 1/19 farms kept
97 additional birds species (ducks and geese). The study was conducted in the summer of 2012.
98 Participating poultry farms were randomly recruited by phone. A sampling package was
99 brought to each poultry farm and sampling was performed immediately. The package
100 contained a questionnaire designed to assess information on: 1) the farmers' professional and
101 nonprofessional activities, smoking habits, general health status, use of medication, influenza
102 vaccination, allergies, clinical signs potentially related to psittacosis, 2) the chicken breed,
103 hatchery, housing, feeding, health status, medication, mortality and 3) the presence of other
104 animals on the farm. The package also contained rayon-tipped aluminium shafted swabs
105 (Copan, Fiers, Kuurne, Belgium) for pharyngeal sampling of 10 ad random selected chickens
106 and the farmers (max 2 per farm). Sampling of the chickens was performed by one of the
107 researchers. In the mean time, humans sampled themselves (informed consent) while being in
108 their home. Swabs for culture contained 2 ml chlamydia transport medium (Vanrompay *et*
109 *al.*, 1992) while those for PCR contained 2ml DNA stabilization buffer (Roche, Brussels,
110 Belgium). Packages were transported on ice and stored at -80°C until use.

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112 ***C. psittaci* culture**

113 Culture was performed using Buffalo Green Monkey (BGM) cells, identifying the organism
114 by a direct immunofluorescence staining (IMAGENTM, Oxoid, United Kingdom) at 6 days
115 post-inoculation. *C. psittaci* organisms were identified by using the IMAGENTM direct

immunofluorescence assay (Vanrompay *et al.*, 1994). *C. psittaci* positive cells were monitored using a CX31 fluorescence microscope (600 x, Nikon Eclipse TE2000-E, Japan) and presented by a score ranging from 0 to 5 (Table I).

C. psittaci* genotyping and PCR detection of atypical *Chlamydiaceae

DNA extraction of swabs was performed as described by Wilson *et al.* (1996). Briefly, specimens were centrifuged (13,000 x g), suspended in 198 µl STD buffer (0.01 M Tris-HCl [pH 8.3], 0.05 M KCl, 0.0025 M MgCl₂·6H₂O, 0.5% Tween20) and 2 µl proteinase K (20 mg/ml stock solution; Sigma Chemical Co.). The specimens were incubated at 56°C for one hour and subsequently heated at 100°C for 10 min.

A *C. psittaci* specific nested PCR with internal inhibition control was used (Van Loock *et al.* 2005b). Outer membrane protein A (*ompA*) genotyping was performed by a *C. psittaci* genotype-specific real-time PCR (Geens *et al.*, 2005). The latter PCR distinguishes genotypes A to F and E/B using genotype-specific primers, genotype-specific probes and competitor oligonucleotides. Samples of chickens and humans were also examined for atypical chicken *Chlamydiaceae* by use of a recently developed 16S rRNA-based ACC-specific real-time PCR (Zocevic *et al.*, 2013).

Statistics

Potential zoonotic risk factors were statistically examined using SPSS (Inc., Chicago, Illinois, US). Logistic regression was used to search for non-exposure related risk factor for *Chlamydiaceae* culture/PCR positivity. The model contained data on the acquired information of the questionnaire.

RESULTS

C. psittaci and ACC in chickens

Nineteen of 32 (59%) contacted chicken farms participated, resulting in samples from 190 chickens (10 per farm) and 31 humans (max 2 per farm).

Atypical chicken *Chlamydiaceae* were not detected. 18/19 (94.7%) farms were positive for *C. psittaci* by both culture and nested PCR (Table II). The percentage of culture positive chickens per farm varied from 60 to 100%. *C. psittaci* genotype D was present in 17/18 (94.4%) positive farms, while a genotype A infection was discovered in 1 of 18 positive farms (Table III). Thus, *C. psittaci* was found in broiler breeders, broilers and layers. According to the questionnaire, respiratory symptoms were present in infected broiler breeders (3 of 7 farms; 42.8%), infected broilers (5 of 7 farms; 71.4%) and infected layers (1 of 5 farms; 20%). Mean mortality for infected broiler breeders, broiler and layer farms, was 5.4%, 2.8% and 9.8%, respectively. One of 6 infected broiler breeder, and 2 of 7 infected broiler farms currently used antibiotics (tylosine, Pharmasin[®], Eurovet and doxycycline, Soludox[®], Eurovet). Nevertheless, we were able to detect viable *C. psittaci*. A high stocking density (number of chickens/m²) was significantly related to the risk of acquiring chlamydiosis ($p = 0.006$). The negative farm was the only with no poultry farms nearby (<4 km). Plus, it was the only farm with a very long sanitary period (8 weeks), which is the period in between emptying the barn, cleaning, disinfection and restocking (usually 1 to 2 weeks). However, the latter two observations were not significantly related to the risk of chlamydiosis in chickens ($p = 0.08$ and 0.157 , respectively). Antibiotics were not used at the moment of sampling.

Zoonotic transmissions

The study population consisted of 11 women and 20 men and the average age was 42 years. Three of 31 farmers (9.6%) were vaccinated against human influenza. None were infected by ACC. However, 29/31 (93.5%) humans were *C. psittaci* positive by both culture and the *C. psittaci*-specific nested PCR. *C. psittaci* genotype D (n=26), genotype A (n=1) and a mixed genotype D plus C infection (n=1), was discovered in farmers. Genotyping revealed no result for one sample. The sample originated from a female employee of a layer farm, which only kept chickens (Table IV). Thus, *C. psittaci* zoonotic transmission was detected on all but one examined chicken farm.

Many *C. psittaci* positives were found, but only 4 of them (13.7%), who were non-smokers and had no allergies, currently experienced respiratory diseases (coughing, n = 3 and/or rhinitis, n = 1; sinusitis, n = 1; severe bronchitis, n = 1). They were all infected with genotype D, and the person with bronchitis was currently treated with Augmentin® (Glaxo Smith Kline), respectively. We informed the farmers and their physicians on the diagnostic results. Humans (n=2) working in the *C. psittaci* negative farm never had respiratory complaints, while 25 of 29 positive farmers (86.2%), reported yearly medical complaints potentially related to psittacosis (Table IV). Four of 31 farmers (12.5 %) mentioned that they had pneumonia after start keeping chickens (Table IV).

No potential risk factor like age, gender, living in the direct environment of the farm, number of years employed in the sector, daily time in contact with chickens, pet animals, smoking behavior and medical complaints were significantly related with psittacosis.

DISCUSSION

We examined the occurrence of *C. psittaci* on 19 Belgian chicken farms, as well as zoonotic transmissions of these pathogens to farmers as *C. psittaci* is (re)-emerging in chickens. Limited reports from 1960 to 2000 suggest that chickens are less sensitive to *C. psittaci*

infections. However, during the last decade, *C. psittaci* was detected and isolated from chickens raised in Australia, Belgium, China, France and Germany (Yang *et al.*, 2007; Gaede *et al.*, 2008; Zhang *et al.*, 2008; Laroucau *et al.*, 2009; Robertson *et al.*, 2010; Zhou *et al.*, 2010; Dickx & Vanrompay, 2011). Recently, Yin *et al.*, (2012), proved Hill's-Evans' postulates for *C. psittaci* genotype B and D strains isolated from Belgian and French broilers. Less is known on *C. psittaci* genotypes infecting chickens. Up to now, genotypes B, C, D, F and E/B have been found in chickens (Gaede *et al.*, 2008; Zhang *et al.*, 2008; Dickx *et al.*, 2010; Zhou *et al.*, 2010; Yin *et al.*, 2012).

C. psittaci is apparently not the only emerging chlamydial pathogen in chickens. Laroucau *et al.*, (2009), discovered a new chlamydial agent in chickens raised in France, designated atypical chicken *Chlamydiaceae* (ACC). Remarkably, ACC positive chickens appeared healthy, but the discovery of ACC coincided with three cases of atypical pneumonia in French poultry workers (Laroucau *et al.*, 2009), warranting the need for epidemiological surveillance in chickens. Since then, ACC has been found in chickens raised in China, Croatia, Germany, Greece and Slovenia (Zocevic *et al.*, 2012). This is why we also included the recently developed ACC-specific real-time PCR in our epidemiological study.

C. psittaci was highly prevalent in chickens and humans. *OmpA* genotyping revealed the presence of genotypes A, C, and especially D. To our knowledge, this is the first time that genotype A, the second time that genotype C, and only the third time that genotype D has been identified in chickens. Genotype A is most often found in *Psittaciformes* (cockatoos, parrots, parakeets, lorries) and is frequently being transmitted from pet birds to humans. Genotype A has also been isolated from turkeys and wild birds (Van Loock *et al.*, 2005; Verminnen *et al.*, 2008; Geigenfeind *et al.*, 2011; Kalmar *et al.*, 2013). Thus, the pathogen is not restricted to *Psittaciformes* and was probably never noticed before in chickens. However, genotypes B and D seem to be most prevalent in chickens. Genotype D is most often found in

turkeys, but recently has been associated with zoonotic transfer from chickens to slaughterhouse employees (Dickx *et al.*, 2010). Genotype C has primarily been isolated from ducks and geese, but has been found once before in chickens, namely in China (Zhang *et al.*, 2008).

Atypical chicken *Chlamydiaceae* were not detected in chickens, suggesting that ACC is currently not widespread in Belgium chicken flocks, at least when compared to *C. psittaci*. However, we cannot exclude the absence of this emerging chlamydial agent in our chicken flocks. Respiratory disease was present, albeit not on all, *C. psittaci* infected farms. Respiratory disease was most frequently present on broiler farms, followed by broiler breeder and layer farms, respectively. Only broiler and broiler breeder farms claimed to use antibiotics (tylosine, Pharmasin[®], Eurovet and doxycycline, Soludox[®], Eurovet). Antibiotic usage in European poultry decreased the last years (Moulin *et al.*, 2008; BelVet-SAC report 2012; <http://www.belvetsac.ugent.be/>), but antibiotics are still frequently used without proper diagnosis and among them are the ones being active against *C. psittaci*, with the risk of creating tetracycline resistance as occurred for *Chlamydia suis* (Dugan *et al.*, 2004).

Interestingly, a high stocking density (number of chickens/m²) was the only risk factor that was positively correlated with the occurrence of *C. psittaci* in chickens. This finding was no surprise, as *C. psittaci* transmission most often occurs from one bird to another bird close by.

As for chickens, ACC were not detected in farmers. However, viable *C. psittaci* were present in 93.5% of the farmers. Genotypes A, C and, as in chickens, especially genotype D were discovered in the farmers. In our study, genotype C (most frequently found in *Anseriformes*; ducks and geese) was not detected in chickens, but we cannot exclude the absence of genotype C on the farm, as only 10 chickens were sampled. Zoonotic transmissions of genotypes A, C and D, and even mixed genotype A, C and D infections in poultry workers, have been observed before by Dickx & Vanrompay (2011), examining employees of a turkey

and chicken hatchery. Thus, *C. psittaci* infected chickens present a substantial zoonotic risk. One human sample could not be genotyped, which could indicate the presence of a new genotype. Attempts to grow the strain to a higher bacterial titer for *ompA* sequencing failed. Humans (n= 2) of the *C. psittaci* negative farm never had respiratory complaints, while 25 of 29 (86.2%) humans, all working in *C. psittaci* positive farms, reported yearly medical complaints potentially related to psittacosis (Table IV). Four (12.5 %) of 31 farmers mentioned in the questionnaire that they had pneumonia after start keeping chickens, which was higher than the yearly rate of 8/1,000 pneumonia cases in Belgium. It is likely that chicken farmers are regularly infected, creating immunity, which protects them against severe disease. However, yearly complaints about fever and respiratory disease were of interest (Table IV). Whether farmers become carriers, clinical consequences and the importance of co-infections with other human respiratory pathogens are unknown.

Preventing avian chlamydiosis in poultry is difficult because of the endemic nature of the bacteria, the long-term survival of the bacteria in organic material, the intermittently shedding and the many asymptomatic carriers (Pelle-Duporte & Gendre, 2001). An all-in, all-out rearing regime, with thorough cleaning and disinfecting between broods is obligatory. *C. psittaci* is highly susceptible to heat and disinfectants (quaternary ammonium compounds, house-hold bleach) but is resistant to drying, acids and alkali (Smith *et al.*, 2005). The access of wild birds to the animals or food should be prevented. Equipment should be regularly cleaned and disinfected when used for several barns at the farm.

Personal protective measures are a good hand hygiene protocol and protective clothing, including gloves and an air filter full-face mask. A transition room should be available where protective clothing may be kept. The two most important collective protective measures are ventilation and cleaning. Natural or mechanical ventilation should try to prevent aerosol accumulation and cross-contamination between the different barns. Even continuous

disinfection (although expensive) of the air in the barns could be considered. Education and training are very important to guarantee that the preventive measures are well understood and performed (Deschuyffeleer *et al.*, 2012).

Conclusions

Despite the governments' obligation to assess any biohazard in the workplace, knowledge on *C. psittaci* and especially ACC in chickens is still relatively undeveloped and a specific risk assessment in poultry production has not been composed yet. Many health care providers are not familiar with psittacosis, especially with its occupational and zoonotic character. An occupational physician assigned to modern vertically integrated poultry farming covering the complete poultry production ranging from the feeding mill to processing facilities, could conduct a campaign to raise general awareness and to inform poultry workers on collective and personal protective measures. The occupational physician should address local physicians with a written document as this may lead to an early diagnosis and treatment in poultry workers (Deschuyffeleer *et al.*, 2012). However, most benefit is to be expected from an efficient avian *Chlamydia* vaccine.

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Table I: *C. psittaci* culture scores

Score	Meaning
0	Negative (no EB, no IPC)
1	1-5 EBs
2	6-15 EBs
3	15-25 EBs and/or 1-5 IPCs
4	25-100 EBs and/or 6-15 IPCs
5	1-10 EBs/field and/or 1-5 IPCs/field

EB = elementary body, IPC = inclusion positive cell

Table II: Pharyngeal excretion of viable *C. psittaci* by poultry (n = 10 per farm) and poultry workers (n = 1 or 2 per farm).

	Poultry					Poultry workers		
Farm Type	Farms	Culture score*		Positive	Genotype*	Culture score*		Genotype*
	Positive/total	Mean \pm SD	Range	%within flock		Mean \pm SD	Range	
Broiler	7/7	1.7 \pm 0.6	0-5	94	D (7/7)	1.9 \pm 1.4	1-5	D (7/7)
Layer	5/5	1.8 \pm 0.5	0-5	94	A (1/5) D (4/5)	2.1 \pm 0.9	1-3	A (1/5) D (4/5)
Broiler Breeder	6/7	1.8 \pm 0.2	1-4	100	D (6/6)	1.8 \pm 0.7	1-3	D (5/6) C,D (1/6)

* Within culture positive farms

Table III: Viable *C. psittaci* and perceived health status in poultry farms

<i>C. psittaci</i> in broiler farms (n = 10 per farm)				Health status broilers (questionnaire)			
Age (weeks)	Positive (%)	Score (Mean \pm SD)	Genotype	Density (#/m²)	Mortality (%)	Resp Symp (%broods)	AB_{resp} (%broods)
2	100	2.8 \pm 0.8	D	19	2	10	10 (doxy)
< 1	100	2.0 \pm 1.2	D	18	3.5	25	0
1	60	0.9 \pm 1.0	D	14	3.5	15	0
2-3	100	1.2 \pm 0.6	D	20	2.8	10	10 (tylo)
2-3	100	2.0 \pm 1.3	D	10*	3	10	0
2-3	100	1.3 \pm 0.5	D	20	2	0	0
5	100	1.7 \pm 0.9	D	19.5	3	0	0
<i>C. psittaci</i> in layer farms (n = 10 per farm)				Health status layers (questionnaire)			
32	100	1.8 \pm 1.0	A	7	5	0	0
37	100	1.5 \pm 0.8	D	5*	NA	0	0
39	100	2.4 \pm 1.0	D	9*	7 - 30	0	0
41	100	2.1 \pm 1.3	D	9*	10	10	0
74	70	1.1 \pm 1.4	D	9*	4	0	0
<i>C. psittaci</i> in broiler breeders farms (n = 10 per farm)				Health status broiler breeders (questionnaire)			
2	100	1.4 \pm 0.8	D	10	2	100	0
31	0	0.0 \pm 0.0		7	NA	0	0
34	100	2.1 \pm 1.2	D	16.5	5 – 10	0	0
42	100	2.0 \pm 0.9	D	7.2	10	10	0
48	100	1.8 \pm 1.0	D	6.5	9.3	0	0
50	100	1.6 \pm 0.5	D	NA	1.5	0	0
50	100	1.9 \pm 1.0	D	9	1.2	10	10 (doxy)

*Chickens have the ability be outside

NA: Not Available

Table IV: *C. psittaci*, perceived health status and psittacosis compatible symptoms (¹once or twice, ²repeatedly, ³frequent) in farm employees.

Broiler farm employees													
	Viable <i>C. psittaci</i>		Personnel data			Current health status		Yearly medical complaints					Confirmed Pneumonia
	Score	Genotype	Period	Time	Aves at home	Current symptoms	AB treatment	FI	Re	GI	Ey	De	# years ago
Male	5	D	27 y	2 h/w	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ¹	NPC ¹	S ¹ , D ¹	-	-	-
	1	D	20 y	7 h/d	layers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	D	2 y	7 h/d	birds	-	-	F ¹ , M ²	-	-	-	-	-
	1	D	15 y	2 h/d	layers	-	-	F ¹ , M ¹	NPC ²	-	-	-	-
	1	D	12 y	1h /d	-	-	-	M ²	-	-	-	R ²	3 y
	2	D	20 y	1 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ³	-	V ¹	E ¹	-	-
	1	D	30 y	2 h/d	-	-	-	-	PC ³	-	-	-	19 y
Female	4	D	25 y	8 h/d	-	-	-	F ³ , M ³	PC ¹	B ¹ , D ³	-	R ¹	-
	3	D	13 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	F ² , M ²	NPC ²	-	-	-	2 y (pleuritis)
	1	D	30 y	7 h/d	-	cold	-	every production round a cold at ± 5 weeks					-
Broiler breeder employees													
Male	2	D	15 y	2 h/d	-	-	-	-	NPC ²	-	-	-	-
	1	D	7 y	1 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ¹	PC ¹	V ¹ , S ¹ , D ¹	-	-	-
	2	D	19 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ¹	NPC ¹	S ¹	-	-	-
	1	D	4.5 y	8 h/d	-	cold	-	F ¹	NPC ² , B ²	-	E ²	-	-
	1	D	27 y	4 h/d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 y
	2	D	25 y	8 h/d	-	-	-	F ² , M ²	PC ² , B ²	V ² , S ² , D ²	E ²	-	-
	0	-	2 y	1 h/d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0	-	17 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	3	D	15 y	2 h/d	-	‘allergic feeling’	-	T ³	NPC ²	-	-	R ¹	-

	2	D	7 y	2 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ²	PC ²	V ¹ , S ¹ , D ¹	-	R ¹	-
	2	D	19 y	4 h/d	-	cold	Augmentin (4 wk ago)	-	NPC ¹	S ¹	-	-	-
	1	D	27 y	4 h/d	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	D + C	30 y	8 h/d	-	-		F ² , M ²	PC ²	V ² , S ² , D ¹	-	-	-
Layer farm employees													
Male	3	D	40 y	1 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ²	NPC ¹ , DB ¹	-	-	-	
	3	D	7 y	5 h/d	-	-	-	M ²	NPC ¹	-	-	-	
	1	D	12 y	0.5 h/w	-	-	-	-	NPC ³ , Ex ³	-	-	-	
	2	D	2 m	0.5 h/w	ducks, geese	Cold	-	F ¹	-	-	-	-	
	3	A	17 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	F ²	-	S ² , D ²	-	R ²	
Female	3	D	24 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	F ¹ , M ³	NPC ¹ , B ¹	-	-	-	
	1	D	23 y	4 h/d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	1	NA	3 y	3 h/d	-	-	-	F ² , M ²	-	-	E ²	-	

Fl: Flu like : F, fever; M, myalgia; T, tired-fatigue

Re: Respiratory : NPC or PC, (non) productive cough; B, painful breathing; Ex, morning expectoration

GI: Gastro intestinal : V, vomiting; D, diarrhea; S, stomach ache

Ey: Eye : E, painful eyes

De: Dermatologic : R, non-specific rash

NA: not applicable