Situation report period covered: 6 January 2024 to 26 January 2024

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS) between 6 January and 26 January 2024 (3-week period).

Key messages

The current HPAI epidemic season continues with 33 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 45 in non-poultry birds and mammals over the 3 weeks covered by the report, in Americas, Asia and Europe. About 1.3 million poultry birds died or were culled worldwide during the 3 weeks period, mostly in Asia.

WOAH stresses the importance of reporting outbreaks of avian influenza in unusual hosts, as the virus has been increasingly detected in mammals in recent months, a situation that should be monitored. Over the 3 weeks covered by the report, cases in mammals were reported to WOAH by South Georgia and Finland.

WOAH recommends that countries maintain their surveillance efforts, implement biosecurity and preventive measures at farm level, and continue timely reporting of avian influenza outbreaks in both poultry and non-poultry species.

WOAH also continues to pay close attention to the Antarctic region and is calling on the animal health community to monitor the situation. Experts are concerned about the huge potential negative impact of HPAI H5 on Antarctic wildlife. Cases continue to be reported in the Sub-Antarctic region (6 marine mammals in South Georgia).

Seasonal trend

Using data reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) between 2005 and 2019 by 76 affected countries and territories for 18,620 HPAI outbreaks in poultry, we carried out a Seasonal and Trend decomposition using Loess (STL) analysis to determine the seasonal pattern of the disease (detailed methodology presented in Awada et al., 2018). Based on the data reported to WOAH, spread is lowest in September, begins to rise in October, and peaks in February. Figure 1 shows the global seasonal pattern of HPAI in poultry and the red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the cycle based on the period covered in “recent updates” below.

Recent updates (06/01/2024-26/01/2024)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events which started during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events
that started before the 3-week period but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks\textsuperscript{2} that started during the 3-week period and d) events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during the 3-week period are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAH.

**HPAI in poultry**

**New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)**

**Europe**

- **H5N1**
  - A recurrence started in Germany (Bayern) on 6 January 2024.
  - A recurrence started in Bulgaria (Plovdiv) on 8 January 2024.
  - A recurrence started in Hungary (Somogy) on 12 January 2024.
  - A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit East) on 23 January 2024.
  - 3 events started in Moldova (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian):
    - The first occurrence in the area of Şoldăneşti on 10 January 2024.
    - A recurrence in the area of Glodeni on 11 January 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian).
    - Another recurrence in the area of Dubăsari on 15 January 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

**Africa, Americas, Asia, and Oceania**

No new events reported.

**On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):**

**Americas**

- **H5N1**
  - Canada (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), United States of America

**Asia**

- **H5N1**
  - Cambodia, Korea (Rep. of)

- **H5N6**
  - Korea (Rep. of)

**Europe**

- **H5**
  - France

- **H5N1**
  - Germany, Hungary, Moldova (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Poland, Sweden

**Africa, Oceania**

No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

**New outbreaks and associated subtypes**

During the period covered by this report, a total of 33 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 12 countries (Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Korea [Rep. of], Moldova, Poland, Sweden, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.

\textsuperscript{2} As defined in the glossary of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “outbreak” means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.
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Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications)

**Europe**

**H5N1**

3 events started in Moldova (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian):
- A recurrence in Rîşcani on 3 December 2023
- A recurrence in Soroca on 5 December 2023
- The first occurrence in the area of Edineț on 30 December

A recurrence started in Sweden (Sjöbo) on 5 January 2024.

**Africa, Americas, Asia, and Oceania**

No events reported.
HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

**Europe**
- H5N1 in non-poultry birds
  - 3 events started in Ukraine:
    - The first occurrence in the area of Kirovohrad on 12 January 2024
    - The first occurrence in the area of Volyn on 17 January 2024
    - A recurrence in the area of Mykolayiv on 24 January 2024

**Africa, Americas, Asia, and Oceania**
- No new events reported.

On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

**Americas**
- H5N1 in non-poultry birds
  - United States of America

**Asia**
- H5N1 in non-poultry birds
  - Japan
- H5N5 in non-poultry birds
  - Japan
- H5N6 in non-poultry birds
  - Korea (Rep. of)

**Europe**
- H5N1 in non-poultry birds
  - Austria, Czech Republic (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Denmark, France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine
- H5N5 in non-poultry birds
  - Norway

**Africa, and Oceania**
- No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, a total of 45 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 16 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea [Rep. of], Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 4 and 5.
Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications or through emails)

**Asia**

**H5N5 in non-poultry birds**
Japan reported the occurrence of the new strain in the area of Hokkaido with a start date on 19 December 2023.

**Europe**

**H5 in non-poultry birds**
A recurrence started in Finland (Etelä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto) on 27 July 2023.
A recurrence started in Sweden (Katrineholm) on 21 December 2023.
**H5N1 in non-poultry birds**
A recurrence started in Finland (Etelä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto) on 4 October 2023.
A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit South) on 5 December 2023.
A recurrence started in Sweden (Simrishamn) on 24 December 2023. 
**Europe, Americas, and Oceania**
No new events reported.

Other cases in mammals by world region (reported through emails)

**Americas**
H5N1 in mammals
Samples were collected from five dead Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) and one dead Antarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*) in South Georgia on 9 December 2023. They tested positive.

**Europe**
H5N1 in mammals
Samples were collected from five hunted red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) in Sweden between August and December 2023. One (collected in August 2023 on western shore of Lake Vättern) tested positive.

Self-declarations of freedom submitted during the 3-week period

In accordance with the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from HPAI. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Code.

No Member submitted a self-declaration for HPAI during the three weeks covered by this report.

Epidemiological background

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is caused by influenza A viruses in the family Orthomyxoviridae. Since its identification in China (People's Rep. of) in 1996, there have been multiple waves of intercontinental transmission of the H5Nx Gs/GD lineage virus. HPAI has resulted in the death and mass slaughter of more than 316 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2021, with peaks in 2021, 2020 and 2016. During each of the years 2006, 2016, 2017 and 2021, more than 50 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. In addition, up to now, humans have occasionally been infected with subtypes H5N1 (around 870 cases reported, of which half died), H7N9 (around 1,500 cases reported, of which about 600 died), H5N6 (around 80 cases reported, of which about 30 died), H9N2 (around 80 cases reported, of which 2 died) and sporadic cases have been reported with subtypes H3N8, H7N4, H7N7 and H10N34,5,6,7,8.

Recent news

- [WOAH policy brief: Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade](https://www.wahis.net/policybriefs/190)
- [OFFLU statement: Continued expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/2023-10)
- [OFFLU call to discuss AI in the Latin America and Caribbean Region](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/11-12-2023--offlu-call-to-discuss-avian-influenza-outbreaks-in-the-latin-america-and-caribbean-region)
- [OFFLU avian influenza matching (OFFLU-AIM) report](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/offlu-aim)
- [OFFLU ad-hoc group on HPAI H5 in wildlife of South America and Antarctica: Southward expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America: estimated impact on wildlife populations, and risk of incursion into Antarctica](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/offlu-aim)
- [OFFLU's annual report: tackling animal influenza through data sharing](https://www.who.int/influenza/annual-report)
- [WOAH Statement on avian influenza and mammals](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/2023-11)
- [OFFLU statement: Infections with Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus in cats in Poland](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/2023-11)

WOAH resources

- [Avian influenza portal](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/avian-influenza)
- [Self-declared disease status](https://www.who.int/influenza/animal-resource-centres/self-declared-disease-status)
- [World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)](https://www.who.int/wahis/gateway)
- Q & A: Avian influenza in cats
- Animal Health Forum on avian influenza: policy to action: The case of avian influenza – reflections for change
- Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza
- Resolution adopted in WOAH General Session 2023: Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI
- Preliminary FAO/WHO/WHO Joint Rapid Risk Assessment - Human infection with influenza A(H5N1), Cambodia (2023)
- One health Joint plan of action (2022 – 2026)
- The first meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on HPAI for Europe, May 2023
- Technical meeting on HPAI vaccination, GF-TAD Americas, March 2023

Awareness tools

- Infographic: Understanding avian influenza
- Avian influenza: understanding new dynamics to better combat the disease
- Avian influenza: why strong public policies are vital
- Video: Avian influenza threatens wild birds across the globe

Press inquiries: media@woah.org

OFFLU resources

- OFFLU annual report 2022
- OFFLU Statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza caused by viruses of the H5N1 subtype
- OFFLU avian influenza matching (AIM) pilot study
- OFFLU avian influenza VCM report for WHO vaccine composition meetings (September 2023)

Other relevant resources

- Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023
- WHO, Human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses
- Epidemiological Alert Outbreaks of avian influenza and human infection caused by influenza A(H5) public health implications in the Region of the Americas
- WHO, Influenza at the human-animal interface, Summary and risk assessment, from 2 November to 21 December 2023