



NDCC Avian Influenza Update 13 of 2025

1. HPAI outbreak confirmed in Co. Carlow and Co. Meath

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in two turkey flocks, one in Co. Carlow on 4th November 2025 and one in Co. Meath on 5th November 2025. This is the first time outbreaks of HPAI have been confirmed in poultry in Ireland since November 2022.
- Disease control measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of disease spread. These include the humane culling of all remaining poultry on the site, movement restrictions on birds and their products, restriction zones (*Figure 1*), surveillance measures and enhanced biosecurity and prohibition of gatherings of poultry within the zones.
- **There remains a significant risk of further outbreaks. Strict biosecurity is a mandatory requirement on all poultry and captive bird holdings.**
- All poultry and captive bird owners are reminded to review and, where necessary, improve their biosecurity procedures on their premises to ensure that all appropriate measures are in place.
- Contact with wild birds and/or environmental contamination remain the major risk factors of a HPAI incursion.
- HPAI outbreaks in Ireland are reported to the European Commission and to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
- Following these HPAI outbreaks, Ireland has lost its WOAH disease-freedom status from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in poultry.

➤ **Current restriction zones are available to view on the live map [here](#)**

Figure 1 detailing the restriction zones surrounding the HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in two poultry premises in Co. Carlow and Co. Meath.





2. Introduction of Housing Order in Ireland on 10th November 2025

Avian Influenza (Precautionary Confinement of Birds and Restriction on Assembly of Live Birds) Regulations 2025

- Following on from confirmation of an avian influenza outbreaks and circulation of the virus in wild birds across the island of Ireland.
- The risk of occurrence of further outbreaks of the disease into poultry flocks in Ireland is **high**.
- **New regulations come into force effective from Monday, 10th November 2025** which require flock keepers to confine all poultry and captive birds in their possession or under their control in a secure building.
- **In coming days, please prepare your poultry holding to house your birds.**
- These regulations aim to help protect Irish poultry and captive birds against avian influenza (bird flu).
- **All flock owners are reminded to continue implementing the highest levels of biosecurity. Housing of poultry and captive birds alone will not protect birds from the threat of avian influenza virus. Biosecurity still remains the #1 method in preventing and controlling the spread of disease.**
- Under these regulations, it is not permitted to organise or take part in events which involve the assembly of live birds from different premises e.g. shows, fairs, markets or sales, in order to protect the birds themselves from the risk of becoming infected.

3. Biosecurity Measures Regulations in force 1st November 2025

Biosecurity continues to remain the #1 method in disease prevention and control
Strict Biosecurity measures are ESSENTIAL to help prevent HPAI outbreaks

- 'Best practice' biosecurity measures as usually advised by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, are mandatory for all poultry and captive bird keepers effective from 1st November.
- These are precautionary measures to reduce the risk of an incursion of avian influenza to poultry in Ireland.
- A guidance document on the measures which must be taken by poultry and captive bird keepers has been developed and is available at www.gov.ie/birdflu
- Biosecurity is a set of preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases, the objective being that 'prevention is better than cure'.
- It is a comprehensive approach, encompassing different methods of prevention and containment with responsibility spread across the food chain, from the primary producer in the first instance, to transporters, food producers, slaughterhouses, veterinarians and others involved in animal production and trade.
- All poultry owners and keepers must implement very high levels of biosecurity on their holdings to help protect their flocks.
- General biosecurity information is provided on the DAFM Animal Health & Welfare Biosecurity page [here](#).



4. Advice for poultry keepers

BE VIGILANT FOR THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN YOUR FLOCK

Biosecurity is the single most effective way to prevent the virus spreading from wild birds into poultry, or between poultry flocks. The ongoing risk posed by avian influenza and is a reminder to all who keep poultry, whether commercial holdings or those who have some backyard hens, to stay aware and take precautions to prevent contact with or contamination from wild birds.

- It is extremely important at this time that high **biosecurity standards** are followed and that all poultry holdings are [registered with DAFM](#), whether commercial farms or those who have one or two backyard hens. Apart from being a legal requirement, it is also essential to help protect poultry flocks and farmers' livelihoods from the impacts which an outbreak of this disease would bring.

Monitor your birds carefully for any clinical signs of disease. If in doubt, contact your veterinary practitioner for advice and report any suspect cases promptly.

5. Advice for members of the public regarding wild birds

1.	Do not touch sick or dead wild birds.
2.	Do not touch wild bird feathers or droppings.
3.	Avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with wild bird droppings.
4.	Maintain good hand hygiene practices.
5.	If you are travelling from an area known or suspected to be affected with avian influenza or where wild birds have been found dead, do not make contact with poultry or captive birds without prior cleaning and disinfection of clothing and footwear and do not bring sick wild birds' home, particularly if you own or work with poultry or other captive birds.
6.	Where handling sick or dead wild birds is unavoidable, you must wear gloves. Dispose of your gloves appropriately. If you do not have immediate access to a bin they should be placed inside a plastic bag and brought with you. Wash your hands and arms with hot soapy water afterwards.
7.	Keep pet dogs on a leash in areas where there are sick or dead wild birds.

**The HSE-HPSC has advised that the risk to public health from the strain of avian influenza currently circulating (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza subtype H5N1) is considered low for the public, and low to medium for occupationally exposed people.*



6. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza confirmed in a captive bird establishment in Cork

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in a captive bird establishment in Cork on 15.10.2025.
- Following a report of suspicion of avian influenza to the Department, the establishment which usually has public access was closed.
- An official investigation was initiated by the Department on 13.10.2025. Testing for avian influenza virus was conducted in the Department's veterinary laboratory in Backweston, Co. Kildare.
- The establishment is actively supporting DAFM and HSE with the ongoing management of this case.
- This HPAI outbreak in captive birds does not affect Ireland's disease-free status from HPAI in poultry.
- On foot of a risk assessment conducted by DAFM, it is considered that risk of onward disease spread from this site is negligible, given the technical and physical disease control measures that are in place. Restriction zones have therefore not been placed around this infected premises.
- Management of the infected premises is ongoing.

7. Current situation in wild birds in Ireland

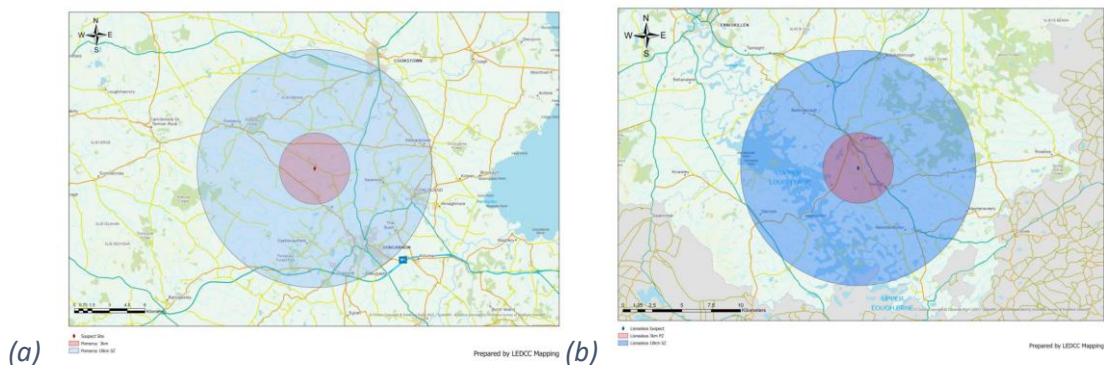
- Wild birds continue to test positive for avian influenza in Ireland.
- The [Bird Flu Radar](#), a tool developed for the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) as a spatiotemporal risk assessment model details the risks of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds in Ireland.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to circulate in wild birds in Ireland. 44 wild birds have tested positive to HPAI in the first nine months of 2025.
- Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) was detected in dead wild birds from The Lough area in Cork city which were submitted for testing in September 2025.
- Dead wild birds should be reported to DAFM using: [Avian Influenza Wild Bird reporting App \(AvianCheck\)](#).

8. Subsequent HPAI outbreaks reported in Northern Ireland

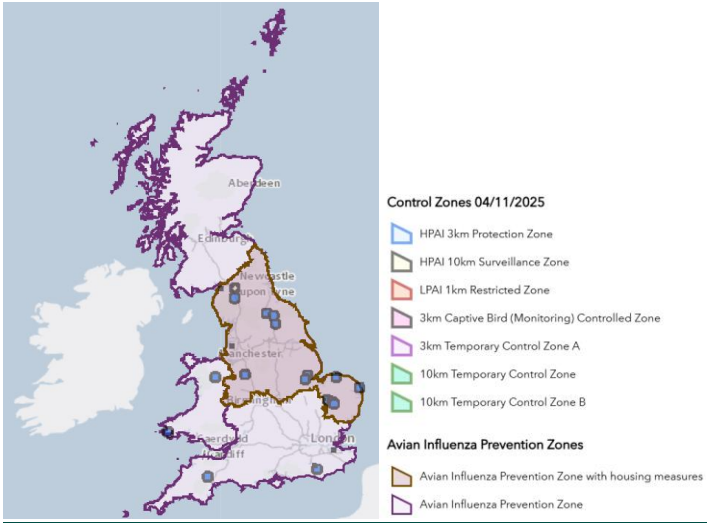
- **The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) of Northern Ireland has implemented temporary control zones in response to following preliminary positive results for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on two suspect commercial poultry premises in Pomeroy Co. Tyrone and in Lisnaskea Co. Fermanagh.**
- Prior to this, the most recent case of HPAI in poultry in Northern Ireland was confirmed in a commercial poultry premises near Omagh in Co. Tyrone as HPAI H5N1 on 09.10.2025.
- Disease control measures including a Temporary Control Zone (TCZ), have been established.
- DAERA have also declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone across Northern Ireland, which aligns with Ireland's Biosecurity Measures Regulations.
- A map detailing the cases of Avian Influenza detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland following surveillance testing can be viewed [here](#).
- Further information: [Avian Influenza \(AI\) | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)



Figure 2 detailing the restriction zones surrounding the HPAI H5N1 cases in poultry premises in (a) Pomeroy Co. Tyrone and in (b) Lisnaskea Co. Fermanagh. [Disease Control Zone Declarations](#) | [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)



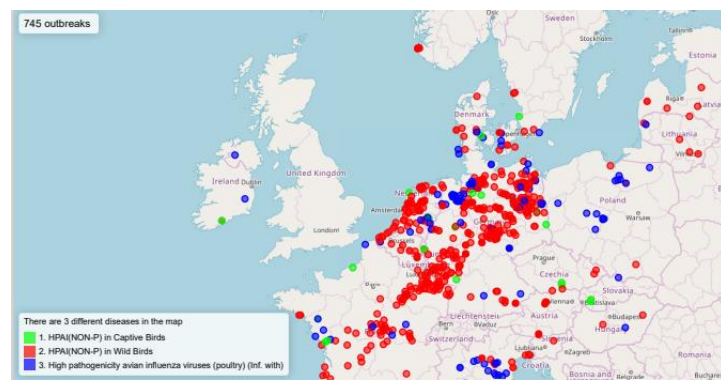
9. HPAI situation in Great Britain and Europe

 HPAI spread	 Details
<u>Situation update in Great Britain:</u> Figure 3 detailing the current HPAI control zones and cases of HPAI in GB (as of 04/11/2025)  Source: APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map	❖ Several cases of HPAI H5N1 have been confirmed in the 2025- 2026 outbreak season to date across England and Wales. No cases have been reported to date in Scotland (Figure 3): ❖ All of Great Britain is under an Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) with mandatory biosecurity measures in place. ❖ Part of this AIPZ in England is under mandatory housing measures. ❖ 81 cases of HPAI were reported in the UK during the 2024-2025 season. Further information: Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England – GOV.UK



Situation update across Europe:

Figure 4 HPAI outbreaks in captive birds, wild birds and poultry flocks across Europe (01/10/2025-05/11/2025)



- ❖ Since the 1st October 2025, there has been a significant number of HPAI outbreaks in Europe reaching a total of 745 between 01/10/2025-03/11/2025).
- ❖ 48 outbreaks have been reported in the last 48 hours.
(Figure 4).
- 126 outbreaks in poultry (8 in last 48h)
- 592 outbreaks in wild birds (39 in last 48h)
- 27 outbreaks in captive birds (1 in last 48h)

10. How to report a suspect outbreak in poultry

Report a suspect to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during normal office hours or the National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026 (outside of normal office hours) without delay.

How to report sightings of sick or dead wild birds:

If you find a sick or dead wild bird which is included on the [List of Target Species for Avian Influenza Surveillance](#), you can report it using the [Avian Influenza Wild Bird reporting App \(AvianCheck\)](#). Even where birds are not collected, reports of dead wild birds is important and useful to understand the disease situation in wild bird populations and to inform stakeholders of avian influenza risks.

11. Further information

 Further information on Avian Influenza and biosecurity guidance [here](#)

 [Regional Veterinary Office](#) / National Disease Emergency Hotline on 01-492-8026

This update is designed to keep you informed and help protect Ireland's bird populations and livelihoods. The cooperation of all stakeholders is crucial in the protection of the health and welfare of Irish poultry flocks.

National Disease Control Centre
5th November 2025