



## **NDCC Avian Influenza Update 12 of 2025**

### **1. Introduction of Biosecurity Measures Regulations 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**

- 'Best practice' biosecurity measures as usually advised by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, will become mandatory for all poultry and captive bird keepers effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- These are precautionary measures to reduce the risk of an incursion of avian influenza to poultry in Ireland.
- There will not be a requirement for birds to be permanently housed from this date, nor will there be any restrictions on bird gatherings, shows or sales at this time.
- A guidance document on the measures which must be taken by poultry and captive bird keepers has been developed and is available in the **Annex** below and at [www.gov.ie/birdflu](http://www.gov.ie/birdflu)

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

- The introduction and spread of infectious diseases including HPAI is an ever-present risk for poultry flocks.
- 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](#).

## 2. 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.**

## 3. Advice for members of the public regarding wild birds

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

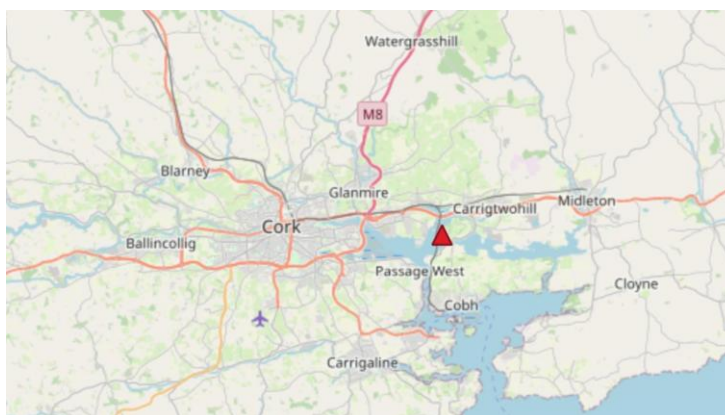
*\*The HSE-HPSC has advised that the risk to public health from the strain of avian influenza currently circulating (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza subtype H5N1) is considered low for the public, and low to medium for occupationally exposed people.*

## 4. 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.

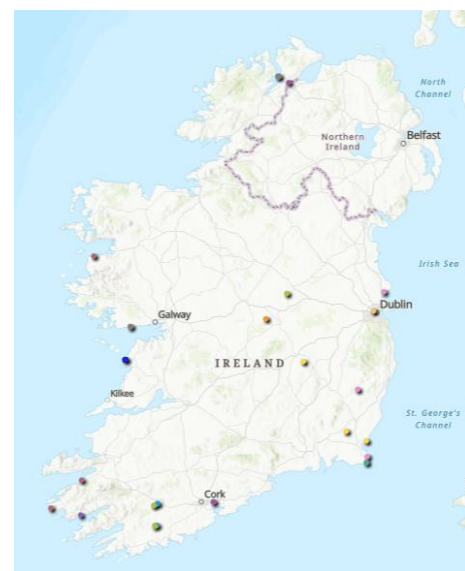
*Figure 1 detailing the location of outbreak of HPAI in captive bird flock confirmed on 15 October 2025 marked with red triangle*



## 5. 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. 41 wild birds have tested positive to HPAI in the first nine months of 2025 (*Figure 2*).
- 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 \(AvianCheck\)](#).

*Figure 2 detailing the cases of HPAI detected in wild birds in Ireland in 2025 (as of 30/09/2025)*

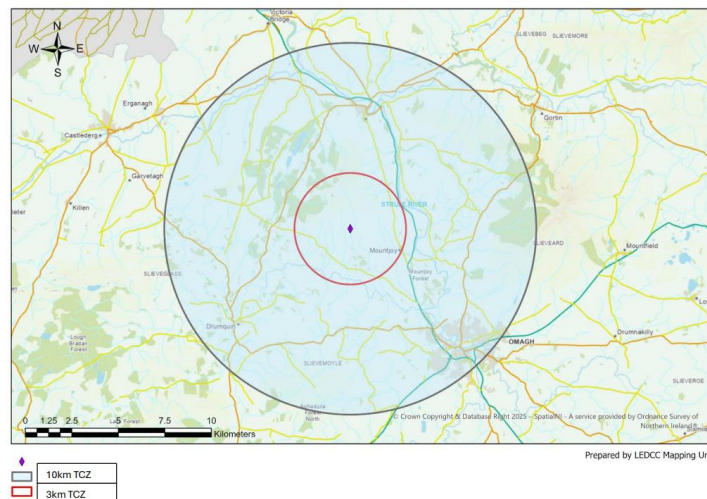


Source: [Wildbirds basemap](#)

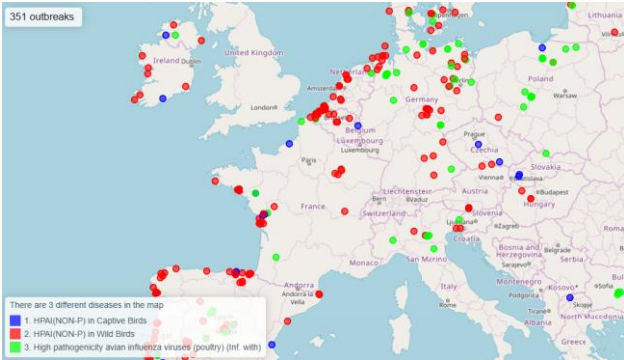
## 6. Current situation in Northern Ireland

- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) of Northern Ireland confirmed the **suspect case of notifiable avian influenza** in a commercial poultry premises near Omagh in Co. Tyrone as HPAI H5N1 on 09.10.2025.
- The Temporary Control Zone (TCZ) that was in place from 05.10.2025 was replaced with a 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) (*Figure 3*).
- Disease control measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of disease spread. These include the humane culling of all poultry on the site, disease surveillance, movement restrictions on animals and their products, enhanced biosecurity and prohibition of gatherings of poultry within the zones.
- Restriction zones do not cross into Co. Donegal. At their closest point they zone is approximately 3.5 km from the border.
- A map detailing the cases of Avian Influenza detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland following surveillance testing can be viewed [here](#).
- Further information: [DAERA website](#)

Figure 2 detailing the 3km PZ and 10km SZ surrounding the confirmed HPAI h5N1 case in a poultry premises in Co. Tyrone. [DAERA publications](#)



## 7. HPAI Situation Summary across Europe

| <div>  <b>HPAI spread</b> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <div>  <b>Details</b> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><b><u>Situation update in Great Britain:</u></b></p> <p><i>Figure 4 detailing the current HPAI control zones and cases of HPAI in GB (as of 23/10/2025)</i></p>  <p>Sources: <a href="#">APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map</a></p>                | <p>The first cases of HPAI H5N1 of the 2025- 2026 outbreak season have been confirmed (<i>Figure 4</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ England: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in captive birds at a premises near Stockbridge, Hampshire on 11.10.2025.</li> <li>❖ HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in poultry at a premises near Wybunbury, Cheshire on 13.10. 2025. This was a commercial flock with more than 10,000 birds.</li> <li>❖ HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a premises near Penrith, Westmorland and Furness, Cumbria on 18.10.2025. This was a commercial flock with more than 10,000 birds.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ England is in an AIPZ with mandatory biosecurity measures.</li> <li>➤ Wales &amp; Scotland – no HPAI cases to date in current 2025-2026 avian influenza season</li> <li>❖ 81 cases of HPAI were reported in the UK during the 2024-2025 season.</li> <li>❖ Further information: <a href="#">Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England – GOV.UK</a></li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>Situation update across Europe:</u></b></p> <p><i>Figure 5 HPAI outbreaks in captive birds, wild birds and poultry flocks across Europe (01/06/2025-23/10/2025)</i></p>  <p>Source ADIS (Animal Disease Information System, European Commission).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Since the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025, there have been 351 outbreaks of HPAI in Europe; 73 in poultry flocks, 21 in captive birds and 257 in wild birds across Europe reported to the European Commission (<i>Figure 5</i>).</li> <li>❖ Since the 1<sup>st</sup> October in Europe there have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 54 outbreaks in poultry.</li> <li>➤ 93 outbreaks in wild birds.</li> <li>➤ 13 outbreaks in captive birds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## 8. 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.

## 9. 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**

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## ANNEX

### Avian Influenza (Biosecurity measures) Regulations 2025

#### Guidance Document for Schedules 1 & 2

##### Why has this Regulation been adopted?

Significant levels of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) subtypes H5N1 and H5N5 or 'bird flu' cases have been confirmed in wild birds, poultry and captive birds in mainland Europe, Iceland and Great Britain during 2025. HPAI subtype H5N1 has also been confirmed in wild birds in Ireland during this period and in two captive bird premises in the second half of 2025 in which exposure to infected wildlife is considered to be the most likely origin of the infection. The confirmation of avian influenza in the wild bird population in Ireland presents a risk of spreading avian influenza to poultry and captive bird flocks.

DAFM continually advises that all poultry and captive birds' keepers (irrespective of flock size) should adopt strict biosecurity standards at all times, in order to help protect their flocks against diseases including avian influenza.

This regulation makes that advice a mandatory requirement, to help protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza at this period when the risk of bird flu outbreaks is higher. This regulation lays out the most appropriate biosecurity advice which must be followed to reduce the risk of an outbreak in Irish poultry and captive bird flocks.

##### What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity refers to practices, whether physical or through management, that help to prevent introduction of disease into a flock, spread within the flock and to leave the flock to infect other animals.

Maintaining high biosecurity measures on farm, is key to protecting Ireland's poultry industry from avian influenza and the serious consequences of an outbreak. Biosecurity is everybody's responsibility: from flock owners in the first instance, to transporters, food producers, slaughterhouses, veterinarians and others involved in animal production and trade.

##### Where do these rules apply?

For the purposes of this regulation, 'poultry' means birds which are kept for meat or egg production, game birds used as re-stocking supplies, and any birds kept in order to breed these categories of birds.

'Other captive birds' are any birds other than poultry which are kept in captivity.

**Schedule 1** – applies to all land/premises that keep poultry or other captive birds

**Schedule 2** – in addition to schedule 1, schedule 2 also applies to land/premises with over 350 poultry or other captive birds.



# GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR SCHEDULE 1

**Applicable to ALL land/premises keeping poultry and captive birds.**



## Wild Birds

One of the most important biosecurity measures is to prevent contact between wild birds and poultry or captive birds. Poultry can become infected with avian influenza (bird flu) by being in close contact with a wild bird or from contact with an infected bird's droppings or feathers. This is the reason we must not only prevent wild bird access to poultry and captive birds themselves but also to their environment.

- Outdoor areas where poultry and captive birds have access to *must* be fenced or surrounded by netting. This will prevent contact between wild birds and poultry and prevent outdoor areas becoming contaminated with bird droppings/feathers. If wild birds do gain access to poultry areas any droppings/feathers should be removed.
- Poultry should not have access to open water, standing water or waterlogged areas as this will attract wild fowl. Keep these areas well fenced or use netting.
- Avoid attracting wild birds to your holding. Locate all feeding and watering points indoors. Feeding birds outside, not clearing up spilled feed and fallen fruit will all entice wild birds as well as rodents.
- Discourage wild birds from your holding with the use of deterrents such as bird scarers, flutter tape, scarecrows etc.
- Sick and dead wild birds could be carriers of avian influenza. Poultry and captive birds must not be in contact with wild bird carcasses. If you find a sick or dead wild bird, remove your poultry from the area and contact your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) who will arrange to collect the bird and submit it for testing, where appropriate. Sick or dead wild birds can also be reported via the Wild Bird-Avian Check App <https://aviancheck.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>
- Sick wild birds must not be handled or brought to a premises where poultry or other birds are kept.
- Avoid any contact with wild birds, their carcasses, droppings or feathers where possible. Where this is not possible, ensure that you wear gloves. When removing your gloves, turn them inside-out as you remove them and dispose of them in your household bin. Wash your hands and forearms with hot soapy water. Where water is not immediately available use hand sanitiser until hands can be washed. Clean and disinfect your footwear afterwards, shower and change your clothes.





## Environment

- All poultry houses should be bird and rodent-proof, and always keep the doors closed. Wild birds, especially pigeons and waterfowl, are a particular risk for spreading bird diseases. Bird-proof netting should have apertures no larger than 25mm.
- Check regularly for any holes or leaking in roofs, guttering and downpipes.
- Diseases can be carried on contaminated vehicles. For this reason, staff and service vehicles etc. should be parked outside the perimeter. Only allow essential vehicles onto the site. Insist that all vehicles that do need to enter the site have been cleaned and disinfected beforehand.
- Keep the environment clean and unattractive to wild birds. This includes removal of any spilled feed or fallen fruit, fencing/netting any standing water and preventing overgrown vegetation.
- Removing all visible dirt and contamination can remove up to 99% of disease-causing agents.
- Regular cleansing and disinfection (C&D) should be carried out on all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry and wild birds could have access. C&D should also be carried out when birds are removed from their housing i.e. at the end of a production cycle. This is good practice which will reduce the level of disease-causing agents in your bird/poultry housing and should help keep your birds healthier in general.
- Provide footbaths containing [DAFM Registered Disinfectants](#) outside each poultry house. Ensure that the disinfectant is used at the manufacturer's recommended dilution rate and change the disinfectant frequently, especially when the liquid has become visibly dirty.
- Poultry should not be exposed to manure or slurry which could contain bird flu viruses.
- No other animals including pets are to be permitted into poultry/captive bird housing.



## Personnel and Equipment

- Keep movements of visitors, vehicles and equipment onto your holding to a minimum. The less movements onto your holding, the lower the risk of introducing any disease including bird flu.

- Equipment should not be shared between farms as this may lead to spread of disease e.g. trolleys, pallets. Ensure that all equipment used on the farm or for the collection of eggs has been cleaned thoroughly and disinfected with [DAFM Registered Disinfectants](#) made up according to the manufacturer's instructions before each use.
- Do not re-use plastic egg trays which are not thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and do not re-use disposable egg trays as they cannot be properly disinfected.
- It is recommended that anyone with poultry or captive birds at home is not in contact with poultry at any another premises.
- Only allow essential visitors to have access to the poultry site and provide farm or disposable overalls and footwear for visitors and staff. Provide hand-washing facilities and insist that these are used by staff and visitors.
- Use designated clothing and footwear for attending and looking after your birds.
- Where there is more than one poultry house on a holding, personnel must prevent spreading any disease from one house to another. Footwear, clothing and any equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between poultry houses.
- If you have staff, give them the information and training they need to maintain good standards of hygiene (an important aspect of biosecurity) at all times. If they keep their own birds at home, they will need to be extra vigilant for signs of disease and even more careful about biosecurity both at home and on your farm.

## **Feed & Bedding**

- Feed and bedding must be stored where animals in particular wild birds cannot gain access. This is to prevent animals from contaminating feed and bedding with their droppings which could be a source of disease.
- Feed and water your birds indoors or under cover so that wild birds and vermin will not be attracted to the area. Remember to clean up any spillages of feed.
- Provide clean drinkable water for your birds. Don't allow them to drink from places which may have become contaminated with wild bird droppings as this could lead to the spread of diseases including bird flu.



## Records

- Record all visitors and vehicles that enter your holding, or any premises where poultry or captive birds are kept. In the event of a confirmed case of bird flu in a holding, this would enable DAFM to trace where infection may have come from and track where it may have spread to (track and trace system). This would be a vital part of containing the outbreak. An easy way to do this is by keeping a 'Visitors book' that anyone visiting the farm must sign and date. Remember to include vehicle registration numbers as these can also carry viruses should they become contaminated with bird droppings etc.
- Record any movements of birds or eggs on and off the holding. You should include the number, species of bird or type of egg, date of movement, destination of the eggs/birds and the name and address of the person to which they are going. This is to allow tracking and tracing in the event of a bird flu outbreak.



## Poultry

- Only buy birds from a known reputable source - isolate any newly introduced poultry for 2 weeks if possible and attend to your own birds before the new birds.
- Ducks and geese tend not to develop as severe signs of bird flu as poultry such as chickens and turkeys (although this is not always the case). Keep ducks and geese apart from other poultry as they could be carriers of disease without showing signs.
- Poultry or other captive birds must not be able to mix with birds from another holding.
- Check your birds regularly for signs of illness. You can find information on signs of bird flu [here](#). If you have any suspicion that your birds may be affected by bird flu, you are legally obliged to notify DAFM. You may do this by alerting your [Regional Veterinary Office](#)

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR SCHEDULE 2

**For ALL land/premises with over 350 poultry or other captive birds, both Schedules 1 and 2 apply.**

Land & Premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept must be divided into 3 separate parts:

### **1. Live bird housing/accommodation**

- Only essential personnel are allowed access.
- All personnel must change clothing and footwear before entering and on exit.
- All vehicles, in particular wheels and wheel arches, and any equipment must be cleaned and disinfected with [DAFM Registered Disinfectants](#) *both* when they leave and on their return to the holding.
- Records must be maintained of all vehicles and people who enter or exit the holding.

### **2. Ancillary Areas including Storage (feed, water, equipment etc)**

- This area must be fully and clearly separated from the live bird housing/accommodation area.
- Only essential personnel are to be granted access following all the usual biosecurity protocols including changing clothing and footwear on both entry and exit.
- Waste and carcasses are to be kept in this area of the premises, where no other animals or vermin can gain access. A suitable lidded (lockable) bin kept outside the perimeter of the holding is ideal so that unnecessary movement of collection vehicles onto the premises is avoided. All vehicles, in particular wheels and wheel arches, and any equipment must be cleaned and disinfected with [DAFM Registered Disinfectants](#) *both* when they leave and on their return to the holding.
- Do not re-use plastic egg trays which have not been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and do not re-use disposable egg trays.
- The packaging, handling and storage of second quality eggs must be managed in a biosecure manner.

### **3. Restricted access area with a biosecure barrier**

- Only essential personnel are to be granted access following all the usual biosecurity protocols including changing clothing and footwear on both entry and exit.
- Non-essential vehicles are not permitted access.

**\*Please note that this document is for guidance only and is not a legal text**