

NDCC Disease Update 9 of 2025- Avian Influenza

1. Current situation in Ireland

In the past three weeks, there have been a number of reports of groups of dead wild sea birds washing up on shorelines in counties Kerry, Clare and Galway.

- In Kerry, a guillemot tested positive for H5N1 on 18th June.
- In Galway, a pooled sample taken from a group of four gulls tested positive for H5N1 on 25th June.
- In total, 25 wild birds have tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 2025 (January-June) (Figure 1).
- Several species collected countrywide have tested positive for HPAI.
- **Poultry farmers in coastal areas, whether commercial or backyard, should implement stringent biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading to their flocks.**
- Dead wild birds should be reported to DAFM using the [Avian Influenza Wild Bird reporting App \(AvianCheck\)](#).

Figure 1 detailing the cases of HPAI detected in wild birds in Ireland in 2025 (as of 30/06/2025)



Source: [Wildbirds basemap](#)

Biosecurity continues to remain the #1 method in disease prevention and control

2. 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.*

3. HPAI Situation Summary across Europe

- No outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been detected in poultry in Ireland during 2024 or 2025 (to date).
- 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.



 Metric	 Details
Confirmed cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In June 2025, there have been 5 outbreaks of HPAI in domestic poultry in Great Britain (<i>Figure 2</i>). ❖ Since the 1st January 2025, there have been 896 outbreaks of HPAI in Europe; 250 in poultry flocks and 646 outbreaks in wild and captive birds cross Europe reported to the European Commission (<i>Figure 3</i>).
HPAI spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ A map detailing the cases of Avian Influenza detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland following surveillance testing can be viewed here. ➔ HPAI continues to be detected in wild birds and domestic poultry in Great Britain in 2025. Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England - GOV.UK

Figure 2 detailing the current HPAI control zones and cases of HPAI in the UK since November 2024 (as of 30/06/2025)

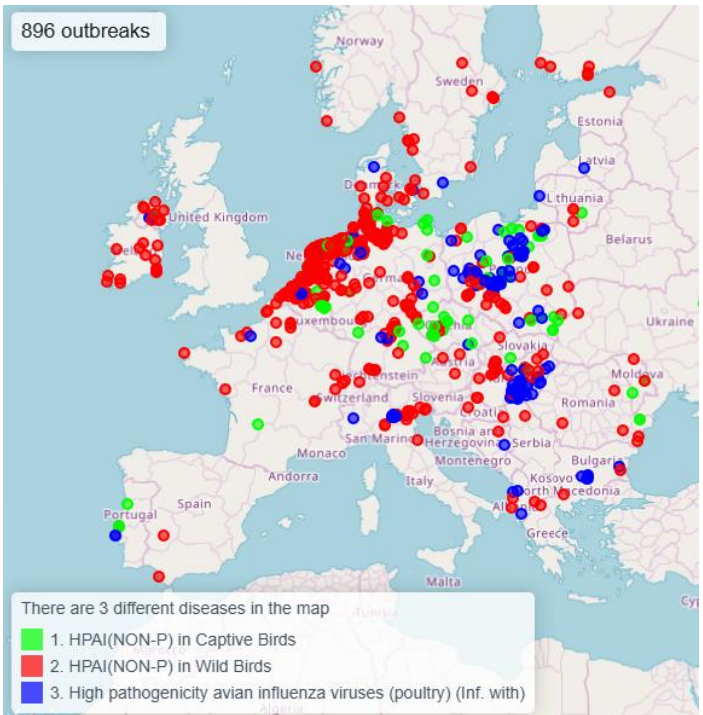


	HPAI H5N5	HPAI H5N1
England	1	60
Scotland	0	2
Wales	0	2
Northern Ireland	0	4
Total	1	68

Overall total: 69

Sources: [APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map](#), [Bird flu \(avian influenza\): latest situation in England - GOV.UK](#)

Figure 3. HPAI outbreaks in captive birds, wild birds and poultry flocks across Europe (01/01/2025-30/06/2025)



Source ADIS (Animal Disease Information System, European Commission).

4. Managing the Risk

Biosecurity continues to remain the #1 method in disease prevention and control
BE VIGILANT FOR THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN YOUR FLOCK

- ❖ 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. Maintaining high biosecurity measures on farm, is key to protecting Ireland's poultry industry from avian influenza and the serious consequences of an outbreak.
- ❖ A **guidance document** on biosecurity measures for poultry and captive bird keepers is available [here](#).


5. 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.

6. 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

30th June 2025