



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

National Disease Control Centre

Avian Influenza Alert

Number 08 of 2020

24/04/2020

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Avian Influenza

1. High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 - Europe

Since AI Alert No. 7 issued on 27th March 2020 the following outbreaks have occurred in Europe:

- **Hungary** has confirmed a further 175 outbreaks since the 25th March 2020. 174 of these were secondary outbreaks and 1 primary outbreak was notified. The primary outbreak was reported from Csongrád in a commercial duck flock with 141,652 birds. The majority of the total number of outbreaks occurred in the Bács-Kiskun region and 10 confirmed cases were in the Csongrád region. This brings Hungary to a total of 184 confirmed cases.
- **Germany** reported a primary outbreak in Borde on the 31st March in a flock of 20,087 fattening turkeys. This brings Germany to a total of 3 confirmed cases.
- **Poland** confirmed one further outbreak in a flock of 28,938 15 week old Turkeys. This confirmation was on the 31st March 2020 in the Sulecinski region. This brings Poland to a total of 32 confirmed cases.
- The total number of outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in Europe now stands at 238.
- The table attached summarises the outbreaks of H5N8 in Europe year to date.
- In all cases disease control measures in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC have been implemented including establishment of protection and surveillances zones where applicable.

2. Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H6N1 - Ireland

Outbreaks in Ireland

- DAFM has confirmed Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) of the H6N1 subtype in **five** more poultry flocks in County Monaghan.
- This brings the total number of LPAI H6N1 outbreaks here to nine.
- One additional flock in the Monaghan area is being investigated as suspect for avian influenza.
- The confirmed flocks include 7 table egg layer flocks and 2 fattening turkey flocks.
- Presenting clinical signs in the new flocks are consistent with previous findings including:
 - Significant drop in egg production (where applicable)
 - Reduced feed intake
 - Mild depression
 - Green diarrhoea (one case)
 - Slight increase in mortality.
- All nine holdings have been derestricted under the Avian Influenza Legislation as the H6N1 subtype is not included in the definition of a notifiable avian influenza at EU level.ⁱ

- The flocks are restricted under Irish Law however and are subject to compliance with certain requirements in order to prevent further disease spread.
- Culling of birds has occurred in the case of eight of the flocks to date– note this is a commercial decision on behalf of the flock owners.

Outbreaks in Northern Ireland

- The authorities in Northern Ireland have confirmed **one** additional outbreak of LPAI H6N1.
- This brings the total number of outbreaks in the North to 15.
- Affected flocks include table egg layers and broiler breeders & one grandparent flock.

3. High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N3 - USA

- The United States of America has confirmed the presence of HPAI H7N3 avian influenza in a commercial turkey flock in Chesterfield County, South Carolina.
- This is the 1st confirmed case of HPAI in commercial poultry in the United States since 2017.
- It appears this HPAI strain mutated from a low pathogenic strain that has been found in poultry in that area recently.
- Preventative measures (regionalization) have been put in place at EU level in relation to the importation of poultry and poultry products from affected regions into the EU.

4. Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N1

- Italy has confirmed LPAI H7N1 in a commercial Turkey flock with 7,150 birds in the Treviso region.
- This is the first confirmation of H7N1 this year in Europe.

5. Advice to flock owners

The ongoing spread of HPAI H5N8 in Europe and of non notifiable avian influenza here and in Northern is concerning. DAFM has been working with industry in order to increase awareness amongst stakeholders on the risk of avian influenza and what needs to be done to reduce that risk.

Flock owners, particularly those located in the area affected by H6N1 and surrounding high density poultry areas (Monaghan, Cavan & Louth) should review their individual risk for avian influenza and ensure strict mitigating biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the disease spreading to their flocks. DAFM has created specific AI biosecurity advice for flock owners as well as a checklist to allow them to review their biosecurity. These documents are attached to this update and are available on the AI page of the DAFM website.

Flock owners should also monitor their flocks closely for signs of disease and consult their private veterinarian or local Regional Veterinary Office if they have concerns. Note that the presenting signs for H6N1 are relatively mild and **flocks presenting with any of the clinical signs of avian influenza should be reported to DAFM so that a full investigation can be carried out in order to rule out the presence of notifiable disease.**

5. Further information

For information on avian influenza clinical signs and biosecurity advice please see:

[DAFM - Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\)](#)

[DAFM – Biosecurity Advice during high risk periods](#)

To contact DAFM regional offices:

[DAFM - Contact](#)

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ⁱ **Avian influenza- legal requirements on notification and controls explained**

Avian influenza is defined in EU law in and the OIE Terrestrial code for the purposes of notification, control, eradication and trade. Notifiable avian influenza includes all influenza A viruses of the H5 or H7 subtypes, whether they are low pathogenic or highly pathogenic. It also includes non H5 or H7 subtypes, provided they are classified as highly pathogenic following a specific testing regime set out in the legislation. **Under these rules the H6N1 subtype of avian influenza in this case is not deemed to be notifiable to the EU or the OIE as it is not a H5 or H7 subtype and testing has confirmed that it is not highly pathogenic (this is also supported by the clinical picture).** Therefore there is no legal requirement to cull affected flocks or to introduce the same high level controls required by other notifiable subtypes of avian influenza such as H5N8 or H5N1.