



NDCC Avian Influenza Update 14 of 2025

1. HPAI outbreaks confirmed in three Irish turkey flocks in November.

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in three turkey flocks in November.
- These outbreaks were confirmed:
 - 4th November 2025 in Co. Carlow
 - 5th November 2025 in Co. Meath
 - 10th November 2025 In Co. Monaghan
- Restriction Zones surrounding the infected sites are in place (Figure 1). The zone in CO. Monaghan crosses the border with Northern Ireland.
- Disease control measures including surveillance measures, enhanced biosecurity and movement prohibitions are ongoing, to reduce the risk of onward disease spread in the zones.
- HPAI outbreaks in Ireland are reported to the European Commission and to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
- Following these outbreaks, Ireland has lost its WOAH disease-freedom status from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in poultry.
- This is the first time outbreaks of HPAI have been confirmed in Irish poultry since November 2022.
- **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 counties Carlow, Meath and Monaghan.

There remains a significant risk of further outbreaks of HPAI in Ireland

Strict biosecurity is a mandatory requirement on all poultry and captive bird holdings.

Contact with wild birds and environmental contamination remain major risks for HPAI incursions.



2. Current HPAI situation in wild birds in Ireland

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to circulate in wild birds nationwide across Ireland.
- To date, 60 wild birds have tested positive to HPAI in 2025.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza was confirmed in November 2025 in **pheasants in Co. Wicklow, swans and a buzzard in Co. Wexford, and in swans in Co. Monaghan and Co. Cork.**
- Figure 2 shows wild birds detected in Ireland in 2025. The live map showing the exact locations and details of all wild birds tested, both positive and negative, can be accessed [here](#).
- 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.
- The [Bird Flu Radar](#), a tool developed for the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) as a spatiotemporal risk assessment model, provides context on the risks of HPAI in wild birds in Ireland.
- A map detailing the cases of Avian Influenza detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland following surveillance testing can be viewed [here](#).



Figure 2 detailing the location of wild birds that have tested positive to H5N1 HPAI in Ireland since January 2025 to date. Access live map [here](#).

How to report sightings of sick or dead wild birds:

- Dead wild birds should be reported to DAFM using the [Avian Influenza Wild Bird reporting App \(AvianCheck\)](#).
- Even where birds are not collected, reports of dead wild birds are important and useful to understand the disease situation in wild bird populations and to inform stakeholders of avian influenza risks.
- An analysis of the data submitted by the public in recent years via the app can be found at www.gov.ie/birdflu.



3. 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 very low for the public, and low to medium for occupationally exposed people.*

4. Measures to protect against Avian Influenza in place in Ireland

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

- The Avian Influenza (Precautionary Confinement of Birds and Restriction on Assembly of Live Birds) Regulations 2025) came into force on Monday, 10th November 2025.
- Flock keepers are required to confine all poultry and captive birds in their possession or under their control in a secure building.
- 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.
- These regulations aim to help protect Irish poultry and captive birds against avian influenza (bird flu).
- **Housing of poultry and captive birds alone will not protect birds from the threat of avian influenza.**

Biosecurity Measures Regulations 2025

- '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.

- 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](#).
- 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 continues to remain the #1 method in disease prevention and control

Strict Biosecurity measures are ESSENTIAL to help prevent HPAI outbreaks

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.

5. Reporting a suspect HPAI 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.

6. HPAI confirmed in a captive bird establishment in Cork

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was 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.
- The establishment is actively engaging with DAFM regarding ongoing management of this event.
- 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.

7. Subsequent HPAI outbreaks reported in Northern Ireland

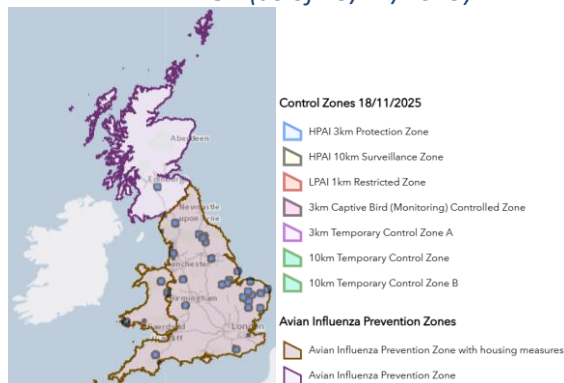
- **On 13th November 2025, a Temporary Control Zone (TCZ) has been established around a backyard flock near Bangor, Co. Down, following suspicion of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1.**
- **HPAI has been confirmed in two commercial poultry premises in Pomeroy Co. Tyrone and in Lisnaskea Co. Fermanagh on 7th November 2025.** Disease control measures and restriction zones have been established.
- Prior to this, HPAI was confirmed in a commercial poultry premises near Omagh in Co. Tyrone on 9th October 2025.
- An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place across Northern Ireland, which aligns with Ireland's Biosecurity Measures Regulations.
- Further information: [Avian Influenza \(AI\) | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)



8. HPAI situation in Great Britain and Europe

Situation update in Great Britain:

Figure 2 detailing the current HPAI control zones and cases of HPAI in GB (as of 19/11/2025)



Source: [APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map](#)

❖ All of Great Britain is under an Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) with mandatory biosecurity measures in place.

❖ Wales and England is under mandatory housing measures.

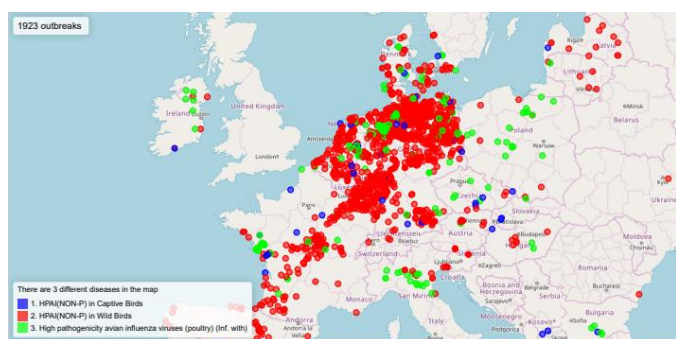
❖ 81 cases of HPAI were reported across Great Britain during the 2024-2025 season.

→ 46 cases have been reported to date since October 1st this year (2025-2026 season) (Figure 2).

Further information: [Bird flu \(avian influenza\): latest situation in England – GOV.UK](#)

Situation update across Europe:

Figure 3 HPAI outbreaks in captive birds, wild birds and poultry flocks across Europe (01/10/2025-19/11/2025)



❖ Since the 1st October 2025, there has been a significant number of HPAI outbreaks in Europe reaching a total of **1,923** between 01/10/2025-19/11/2025).

- 226 outbreaks in poultry (8 in last 48h)
- 1651 outbreaks in wild birds (39 in last 48h)
- 46 outbreaks in captive birds (1 in last 48h)

9. Further information

- Further information on Avian Influenza and biosecurity guidance [here](#)
- [Regional Veterinary Office](#) / National Disease Emergency Hotline on 01-492-802

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