



NDCC Avian Influenza Update 1 of 2026

1. HPAI situation in Ireland

- No outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) have been detected in Ireland in 2026 to date.
- Five outbreaks of HPAI were confirmed on poultry premises from Ireland during 2025.
 - Outbreaks were confirmed in turkey fattening flocks in Carlow (4th November 2025), Meath (5th November 2025), Monaghan (10th November 2025), Laois (20th November 2025) and Cavan (30th November 2025).
 - Following appropriate disease control measures and extensive surveillance within the restriction zones surrounding the affected premises, all restrictions have now been lifted (effective from 4th of January 2026).

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.
- During 2025, 68 wild birds tested positive to HPAI.
- In the last quarter of 2025, HPAI was confirmed in 27 wild birds including: greylag geese and mute swans from Co. Cork, pheasants and whooper swans from Co. Wicklow, a buzzard and mute swans from Co. Wexford, mute swans from Co. Mayo and Co. Monaghan, a buzzard from Dublin and two peregrine falcons from Co. Offaly and Co. Limerick.
- Figure 1 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](#).
- A map detailing the cases of Avian Influenza detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland following surveillance testing can be viewed [here](#).



Figure 1: Location of wild birds that have tested positive to H5N1 HPAI in Ireland in 2025. 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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. HPAI outbreaks reported in Northern Ireland

- No outbreaks of HPAI have been detected in Ireland in 2026 to date.
- Four outbreaks of HPAI in poultry from Northern Ireland were confirmed in 2025.
- Outbreaks were confirmed in Omagh Co. Tyrone (9th October 2025), Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone (7th November 2025), Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh (7th November 2025), and Bangor Co. Down (backyard flock) (21st November 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:

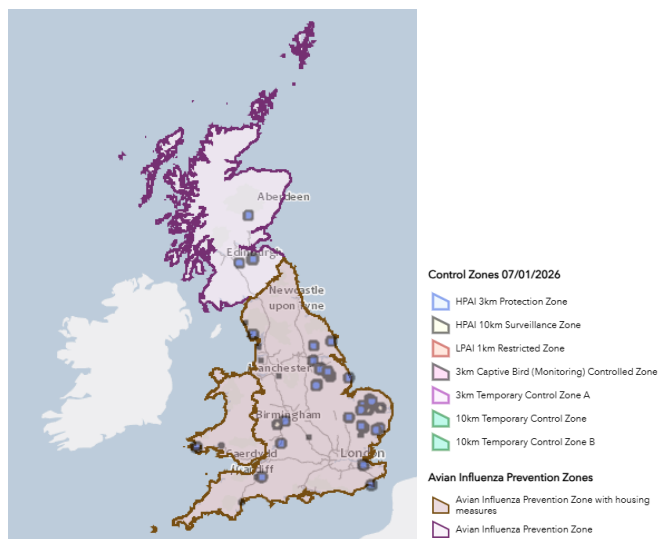


Figure 2: Current HPAI control zones and cases of HPAI in GB (as of 08/01/2026)

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 are under mandatory housing measures.
- ❖ 78 cases of HPAI have been reported across Great Britain during the 2025-2026 season.

→ Since the 1st of January, one outbreak has been confirmed in a commercial backyard flock from Scotland.

→ Figure 2 shows measures in place as of 08/01/2026

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

Situation update across Europe:

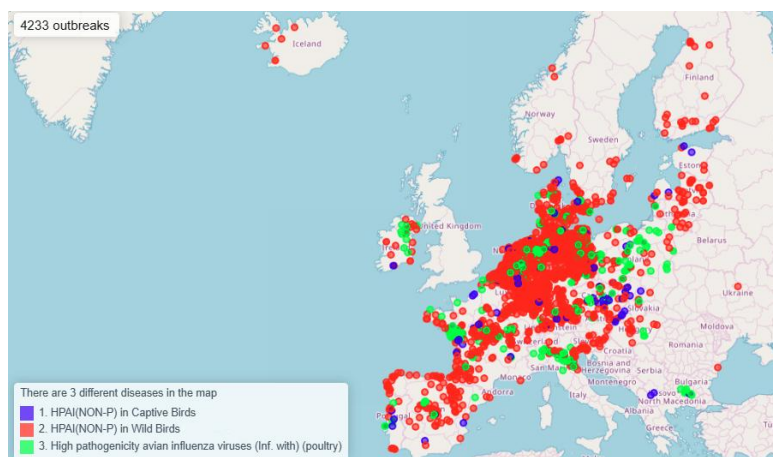


Figure 3: HPAI outbreaks in captive birds, wild birds and poultry flocks across Europe (01/10/2025-08/01/2026)



- ❖ Since the 1st of October 2025, there has been a significant number of HPAI outbreaks in Europe reaching a total of **4233** (01/10/2025-08/01/2026).

- 479 outbreaks in poultry
- 3,654 outbreaks in wild birds
- 100 outbreaks in captive birds



09th January 2026

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.

National Disease Control Centre
9th January 2026