



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

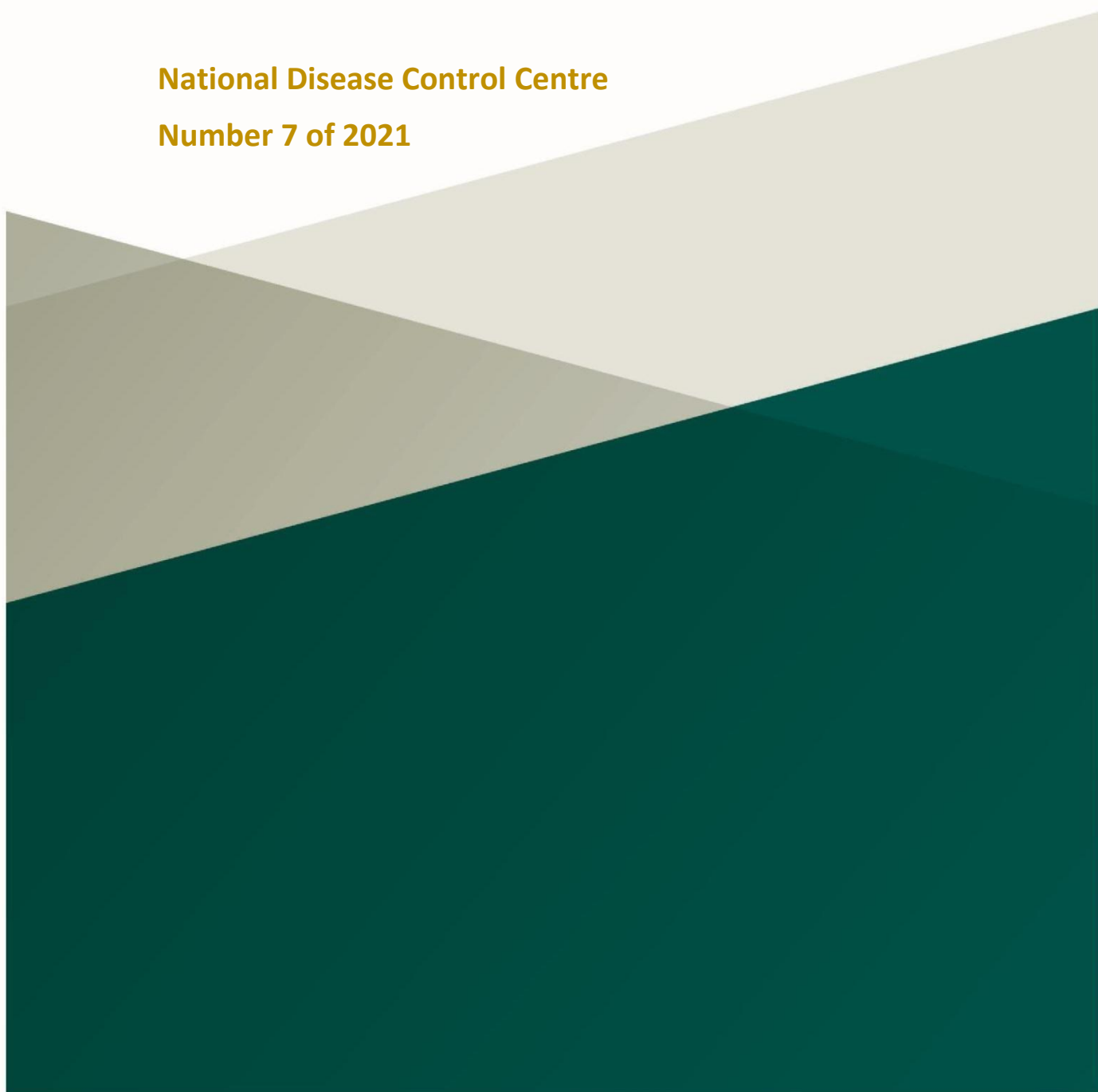
Published 19th November 2021

Avian Influenza Update

19th November 2021

National Disease Control Centre

Number 7 of 2021



Restriction on Assembly of Live Birds and Biosecurity Measures Regulation are now in force







- On 17th November 2021, regulations were introduced which contain compulsory measures that must be taken by anyone who owns poultry. The regulations and an accompanying guidance document can be found at www.gov.ie/birdflu

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza continues to be reported in wild birds in Ireland

- The first wild bird case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus subtype H5N1 was confirmed on November 3rd 2021 in a Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) found in Co. Galway
- Since then, further cases of avian influenza subtype H5N1 have been confirmed in wild birds in Ireland in additional locations, with a total of 49 individual wild birds across 8 counties to date. A map indicating confirmed locations, and the species of birds involved is illustrated below in Figure 1



Figure 1. Map of Ireland indicating locations and bird species involved in confirmed avian influenza subtype H5N1 cases from Oct 1st -Nov 19th 2021

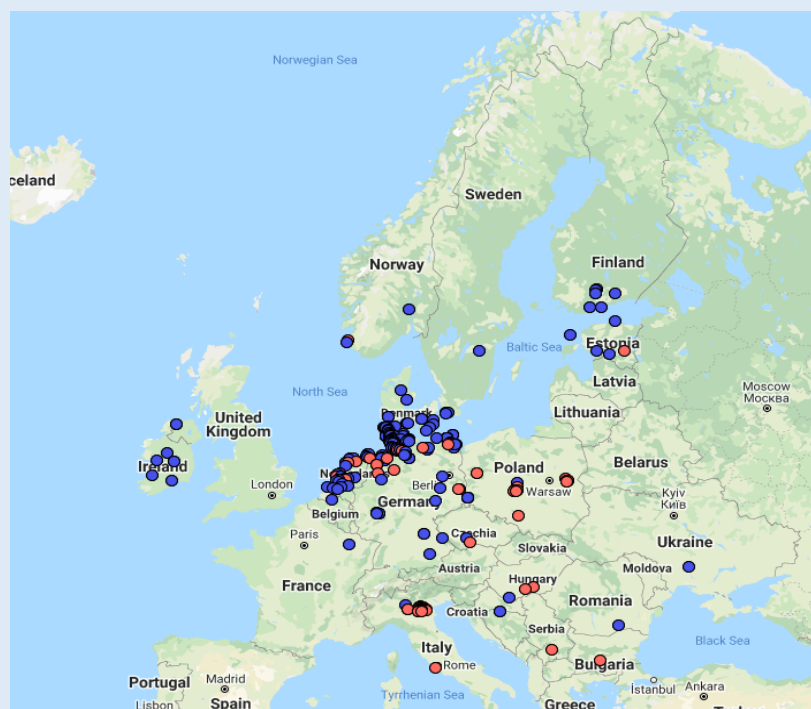
| | Wild Bird species | County | Date H5N1 first confirmed in the area |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
|  | Peregrine falcon | Galway | 03/11/2021 |
|  | White-tailed sea eagle | Kerry | 05/11/2021 |
|  | Whooper swan Greylag goose | Offaly | 11/11/2021 |
|  | Whooper swan Greylag goose | Donegal | 11/11/2021 |
|  | Peregrine falcon Greylag goose | Roscommon | 12/11/2021 |
|  | Whooper swan Magpie | Tipperary | 17/11/2021 |
|  | White-fronted goose Mute swan | Wexford | 19/11/2021 |
|  | Brent goose Merlin | Waterford | 19/11/2021 |

- To date, no outbreaks of HPAI have been reported in poultry or captive birds in Ireland
- Faeces (droppings) of wild birds infected with Avian Influenza can contaminate the environment with the infection, which can then spread infection to poultry and captive birds. Colder weather and decreasing daylight levels can extend the survival time of avian influenza viruses in the environment
- Any outbreaks of avian influenza in Irish poultry can have a serious impact on international trade in poultry and poultry products

Current Situation in Europe

- The predominant subtype of HPAI virus circulating in wild birds last year was HPAI H5N8. This year, there have been a small number of HPAI H5N8 cases confirmed with the vast majority found to be of the H5N1 subtype
- Since October 1st, 2021, highly pathogenic H5N1 outbreaks have been confirmed in poultry in Italy (59), Poland (15), Germany (14), Netherlands (7), Denmark (2), Hungary (2), Estonia (1), Czechia (1), Norway (1), Bulgaria (1) and Belgium (1)
- Wild bird species affected include Peregrine falcons, Anatidae (unidentified), Laridae (unidentified), Anserinae (unidentified), Barnacle goose, White tailed eagle, Common teal, Eurasian widgeon, Canada goose, Accipitridae (unidentified), Scolopacidae (unidentified), Common pheasant, Northern Goshawk, Eurasian eagle-owl, Common buzzard, Charadriidae (unidentified), Corvidae (unidentified), Greylag goose, Herring gull, Mute swan, Haematopodidae (unidentified), Grey heron, Eurasian buzzard, mallard and black-headed gulls

Figure 2- HPAI Outbreaks in Poultry (Red) and Cases in Captive and Wild Birds (Blue) from 1st October - 17th November 2021 (courtesy of ADIS)



| Country | Poultry | Captive Birds | Wild Birds* | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Germany | 14 | 2 | 143 | 159 |
| Italy | 59 | 0 | 2 | 61 |
| Netherlands | 7 | 3 | 15 | 25 |
| Poland | 15 | 0 | 1 | 16 |
| Denmark | 2 | 1 | 13 | 16 |
| Finland | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Ireland | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Estonia | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Sweden | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Hungary | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Czechia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Norway | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| France | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Romania | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Belgium | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Boznia and Hertzegovina | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| United Kingdom** | 6 | 3 | 34 | 43 |
| Total | 110 | 10 | 234 | 354 |

Table 1. No of HPAI positive events notified to European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) by country and poultry category from October 1st - 17th November 2021. Information courtesy of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease

*** UK no longer reports to ADIS so figures are sourced from [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu)*

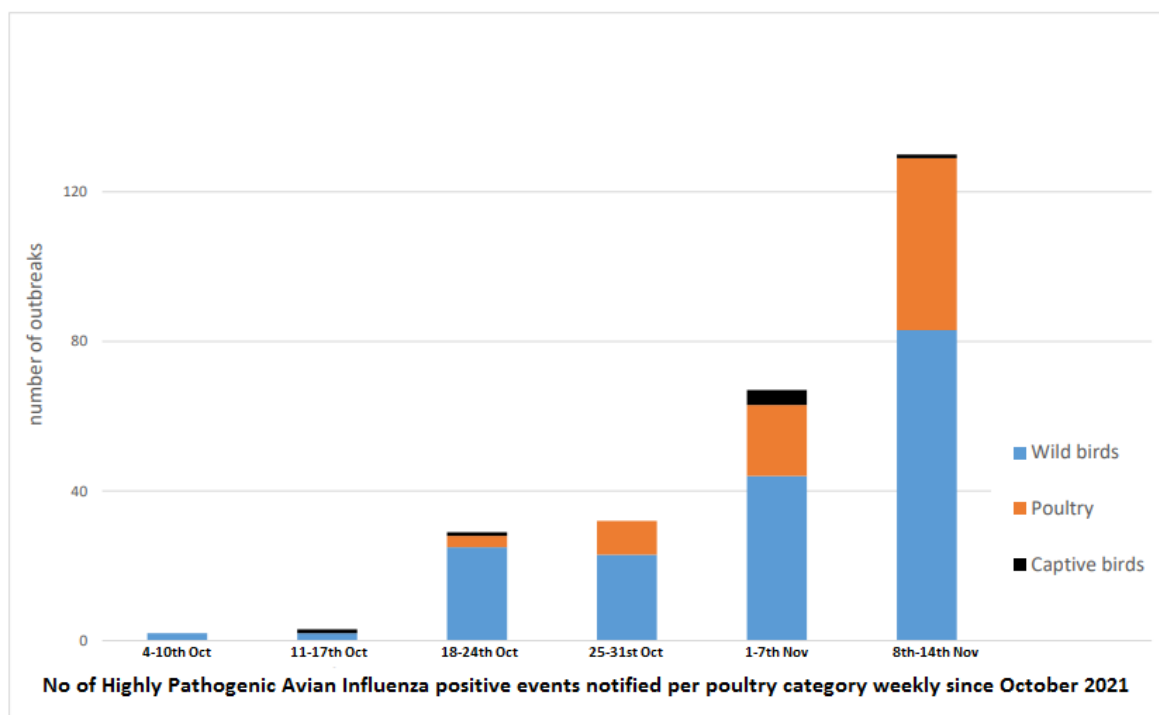


Figure 3. No.s of HPAI positive events notified to European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) by country and poultry category from October 1st- 14th November 2021

Risk to Ireland regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1

- **The disease poses no food safety risk for consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs are safe to eat**
- From October onwards each year we enter into the high risk period for Avian Influenza in Ireland. Colder weather and decreasing daylight can extend the survival time of Avian influenza viruses in the environment
- This is due to the fact that migratory wild birds, the natural hosts of many avian influenza viruses, start to arrive in large numbers to overwinter here
- Migratory wild birds are known to carry the H5N1 subtype of Avian influenza, and this can increase the level of risk for a potential outbreak of Avian influenza in Ireland
- HPAI H5N1 is a notifiable disease both in Ireland and to the European Commission and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- Any potential outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in Ireland would impact our international trade for poultry and poultry products
- The disease is highly contagious for birds, but risk of transmission to humans is considered very low

What can poultry owners do to reduce the risk of avian influenza?

- Flock owners should **remain vigilant for any unexplained signs of disease** in their flocks, and report any disease suspicion to their nearest [Regional Veterinary Office](#)

1. Be vigilant- Monitor your birds carefully for any clinical signs of disease. If in doubt, contact your veterinary practitioner for advice. Signs of avian influenza include:

- Death/high mortalities in a flock
- Depression/lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling
- Swelling and blue discolouration of combs, wattles, neck and throat
- Diarrhoea
- Reduced egg production or no egg production

2. Biosecurity

[Advice on biosecurity to prevent Avian Influenza](#) including clinical signs and leaflets can be found on the Gov.ie website

Personnel and Visitors

- Wear disposable or dedicated outer clothing when in contact with your birds
- Wear boots that can be disinfected, disposable gloves and wash hands after contact with poultry
- Only allow essential personnel access to your birds

Buildings and Equipment

- Regularly clean and disinfect hard surfaces such as paths and walkways
- Provide clean boot washing and disinfection facilities at all entrances/exits and ensure that people use them
- Clean and disinfect any vehicles or equipment that comes into contact with the birds after use
- Have suitable pest control in place

Wild Birds

- Feed and water birds inside or at least under cover
- Clean up any waste feed in outdoor areas frequently
- Use netting or wild bird decoys or deterrents to keep wild birds away from poultry areas

Management

- Keep ducks and geese separate to other poultry species
- The Department also reminds all poultry owners, including those who keep only 1 or 2 birds, of their legal obligation to register their premises with the Department.
- Use an [approved disinfectant](#) against Avian influenza in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

DAFM surveillance for avian influenza?

- DAFM implements avian influenza surveillance measures which take place right throughout the year in both wild birds and poultry and form part of our well established Early Warning System for the detection of avian influenza. The submission of dead wild birds which are on the target species list for avian influenza surveillance for testing at the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory forms part of this programme
- Members of the public are advised not to handle sick or dead wild birds. Please report sick or dead wild birds to the local Regional Veterinary Office or contact the DAFM disease hotline on 1850 200456
- **Sick or dead wild birds can also be reported to DAFM using the Avian Check - Wild Bird App** <https://aviancheck.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Further information:

DAFM has a wide variety of biosecurity resources for avian influenza- please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e230-poultry/>

To register a poultry flock:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/984df6-poultry-register/>

RVO contact details:

[Regional Veterinary Office](#)

List of target species of wild birds for avian influenza surveillance:

[List of Target Species for Avian Influenza Surveillance](#)

European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/avian-influenza_en

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