



Since November 17, 2020, France has detected 61 outbreaks in domestic poultry of the same H5N8 Highly Pathogenic viral strain, not transmissible to humans, which currently circulates both in avifauna and in farms in Europe and in other regions of the world, especially through migratory birds.

This event was notified to the OIE in accordance with point 1 of Article 1.1.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Following a first episode in pet shops, which has been resolved to date, the outbreaks have concerned professional breeding farm since December 7, 2020, mainly palmiped farms in the South-West of France. This event is currently continuing in the Landes department and is reported on a weekly basis, and according of changes in the sanitary situation, in accordance with point 2 of article 1.1.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

1. Les LANDES - Department 40 - evolving but contained situation

The municipalities in which the outbreaks have been detected are located near wetlands favourable to the gathering of wild birds. The vast majority of affected farms are fattened duck farms.

All the outbreaks confirmed since the first affected farm are either epidemiologically linked farms but mainly local farms detected in regulated areas thanks to reinforced surveillance (clinical and analytical) and mobilization of all stakeholders and official staff in this area of high production of ducks.

The good preparation of the veterinary services, based on the experience of the 2015-2017 episodes, makes it possible in a short time to eliminate all the birds from the outbreaks, to carry out cleaning and disinfection measures, and to quickly identify secondary foci, with preventive elimination of ducks as soon as they are suspected. Protection and surveillance zones (3 and 10 kilometers from the breeding farms) are immediately set up in accordance with Directive 2005/94 / EC. All movement of live birds and poultry production into and from restricted areas are prohibited.

Since December 24, faced with the multiplication of cases in this area of high density of fattening duck farms, the French authorities have implemented an offensive strategy to limit the spread of the disease by carrying out preventive slaughter, targeted within a radius of 3 km around the outbreaks. The aim is to very quickly reduce the density of birds in the regulated area and the spread of the virus beyond this area.

To date, no extension outside the restriction zone has been reported.

2. Some episodes under control with zoning still maintained

- **Departments of Deux-Sèvres (79) and Vendée (85), on the Atlantic coast, West of France: 3 outbreaks in professional breeding**

Two outbreaks in duck breeding and one breeding of guinea fowl and chickens were confirmed on December 13, 14 and 23 in Saint-Maurice-des-Noues in Vendée and Saint-Sauveur-Bressuire in Deux-Sèvres. All animals were slaughtered and the sites cleaned and disinfected. At this stage, the hypothesis of contamination via wildlife is favored and no other suspicion has been identified in the framework of the surveillance in these restricted areas.

- **Department of Hautes-Pyrénées (65), South-West of France: 1 outbreak in professional breeding**

An outbreak with an epidemiological link with a farm in the Landes regulated zone was confirmed on December 23 in a duck force-feeding room in the town of Labatut Rivière. The animals were very quickly slaughtered, and a restricted area was set up in which no analytical or clinical suspicion has since been detected.

- **Departments of Yvelines and Corsica - Pet shops**

In total, 8 outbreaks were notified in Corsica (Haute-Corse and Corse du Sud departments) and in the Yvelines department in connection with this event (3 in animal facilities and 5 in backyards) and a total of 52 sites were analyzed as part of the investigations.. All the outbreaks were closed with the OIE on December 8, 2020. The zones will be closed during the month of January.

3. Wild avifauna

The reinforced surveillance implemented throughout France has made it possible to detect 9 cases of HPAI in wild avifauna since December 1. Three wild geese have tested positive, two in the department of Morbihan (56) the other in the department of Loire-Atlantique (44), three swans in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle (54), a palmipede of the species Tadorne de Belon (*Tadorna tadorna*) in the department of Calvados (14), a greylag goose in the Bouches du Rhône (13), a buzzard and a gull in the department of Haute-Corse (2B) and a case in the Landes (40). These findings are notified in accordance with point 8 of Article 10.4.1. of the OIE code.

NOTE: Two low pathogenic influenza H5 outbreaks were confirmed on December 30 and 31 as part of self-checks in ready-to-feed duck farms in Flaujagues in Gironde (33) and Lougratte in the Lot et-Garonne (47) department. They will, in addition to notification to the OIE, be subject to regulatory measures provided for by European Union regulations.

Map of the regulated zones in France

Regulated areas linked to wild cases / HPAI outbreaks detected in France

