



**AI situation in France
Updated on 19 November 2020**

I. INFLUENZA STATUS (EU/OIE)

On 16 November 2020, France confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza (HPAI) in Corsica, even though the country had been free of the disease for 3 years.

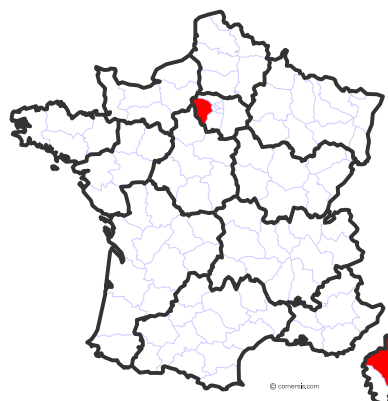
The 1st case was detected in the “pet shop” section of a garden shop near Bastia, in the Haute-Corse department. This business could not be considered, in any way, a professional poultry farm. This business provided supplies to farmyards in Corsica, where an investigation is being carried out. In accordance with national and EU regulations, all 300 birds (hens and peacocks, in particular) in the establishment were euthanised and the pet shop was cleaned and disinfected. The outbreak was notified in accordance with Article 1.1 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 17 November 2020.

The epidemiological investigation into this case is ongoing. The health status in France is currently being consolidated.

On 19 November 2020, the investigation led to the identification of a second outbreak of HPAI, also in a pet shop, this time located in the Yvelines department (78). All of the birds in the establishment were euthanised and the pet shop was cleaned and disinfected. An investigation is underway to identify the possible ties between the two outbreaks and the origin of the contamination.

To date, no professional poultry farm has been impacted by the disease. Both the outbreak detected in Corsica and the outbreak in the Yvelines are located several hundred kilometres from the nearest major poultry production area.

Figure 1: geographical location of the two HPAI outbreaks



II. ZONING MEASURES

The French authorities have set up a 3 km **protection zone** (ZP) and a **monitoring area** (ZS) with a radius of 10 km, in accordance with European regulations in the event of the detection of an outbreak of HPAI (Council Directive 2005/94/EC of 20 December 2005).

Table 1: Implementation of measures in the ZP and ZS:

Measures in the ZP and ZS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of all commercial farms.• Implementation of protective and biosecurity measures on farms• Implementation of measures for cleaning, disinfection and rest periods• Priority deployment of epidemiological investigations to detect potential new cases and to understand the spread and origin of the disease• A ban on the movement of poultry and bird gatherings
Additional measures in ZP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of farmyards and health visits to all commercial farms and non-commercial farmyards• Prohibition of placing on the market of any non-plucked poultry that is to be sold to the consumer in its unplucked state• Recommendation to confine all farmyard poultry.

III. OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. Risk level:

In light of this event, the risk of introduction of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus originating from wildlife has increased to a "high" level in metropolitan France since 16 November 2020 ([Ministerial decree of 16 November 2020](#)).

2. Biosecurity

Throughout the country, the following measures have been implemented:

- The confinement or enclosure of poultry farms by a net with a limit on outdoor spaces for the animals;
- The prohibition of bird gatherings (e.g. competitions, fairs or exhibitions); the prohibition of the transport and release of game birds;
- The prohibition of the use of decoys.

Each commercial farm is required to have a biosecurity plan. The French health authorities have published two decrees on biosecurity, one that applies to poultry farms (8 February 2016, amended in June 2019), and one that applies to the transport of live birds (14 March 2018). The implementation of these measures is subject to official inspections and is combined with specific training and awareness-raising measures.