



Faced with the evolution in recent days of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) epizootic in the Landes department, the disease control system has been reassessed and strengthened in this department and in parts of neighboring departments.

Furthermore, the situation seems stabilized in the other departments affected by the virus since its introduction in France in mid-November, since no new case, neither domestic nor wild, has been recorded for 15 days.

The H5N8 virus which is currently circulating in France and in several European countries exclusively affects birds. It is not transmissible to humans through the consumption of poultry meat, eggs, foie gras and more generally any food product.

This health event is the subject of reports (initial and follow-up) to the OIE in accordance with the provisions of Article 1.1.3 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. New outbreaks are notified only after confirmation from the national reference laboratory.

The total number of outbreaks notified by France, to date and since November 17, 2021, is 130 in breeding flocks and 9 in wildlife.

The situation is updated on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/influenza-aviaire-le-point-sur-la-situation-en-france>

1. Les Landes - Necessary evolution of the strategy

To date, there have been 119 outbreaks of infection in the Landes, concentrated in Chalosse, a region with a high density of fat ducks. More isolated outbreaks at this stage have also been identified in the neighboring departments of Hautes-Pyrénées (2 cases), the Atlantic Pyrenees (2 cases) and Gers (1 case). In this same geographical area, clinical or analytical suspicions are also registered. This could change the overall number of cases in the very short term.

Given the extreme contagiousness of the virus, it is necessary to sharply reduce the density of poultry in the most populated areas. To this end, it is necessary to step up the preventive culling in force since December 24, which have already made it possible to eliminate more than 350,000 ducks.

Based on an opinion from the national risk analysis agency (ANSES) and the experience gained in 2015-2017, the following additional measures are taken:

- **Depopulation:** The preventive culling carried out since December 24 on a radius of 3 km around the outbreaks will be carried out over 5 km. In the first kilometer, they will concern all farmed and backyard birds, and for the following 4 km all palmipeds and other poultry when they are not confined;
- **Buffer zone:** The 10 km surveillance zone around the outbreaks, established in accordance with Directive 2005/94 / EC, may be extended up to 20 km, with a ban on the exit and entry of poultry (including for restocking a farm that has completed its production cycle). These restrictions will be reassessed by the end of January, based on the epidemiological record. The management strategy is continuously reassessed and adapted to take into account the speed of the virus spreading

The final zoning of the buffer zone will be effective in the coming days.

2. 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.

- **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

No more cases have been observed since the last case notified to the OIE on December 30, 2020 (Black-headed Gull - *Larus ridibundus*), discovered dead on December 17, 2020.

Map of the regulated zones in France according to Directive EC 2005/94

Buffer zone not integrated at this stage

