

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN PORTUGAL – 2025/2026

The following information describes the epidemiological situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Portugal from October 1st 2025 to September 30th 2026.

1. DGAV organization and contingency plan chain of command

The contingency plan chain of command is shown on figure 1.

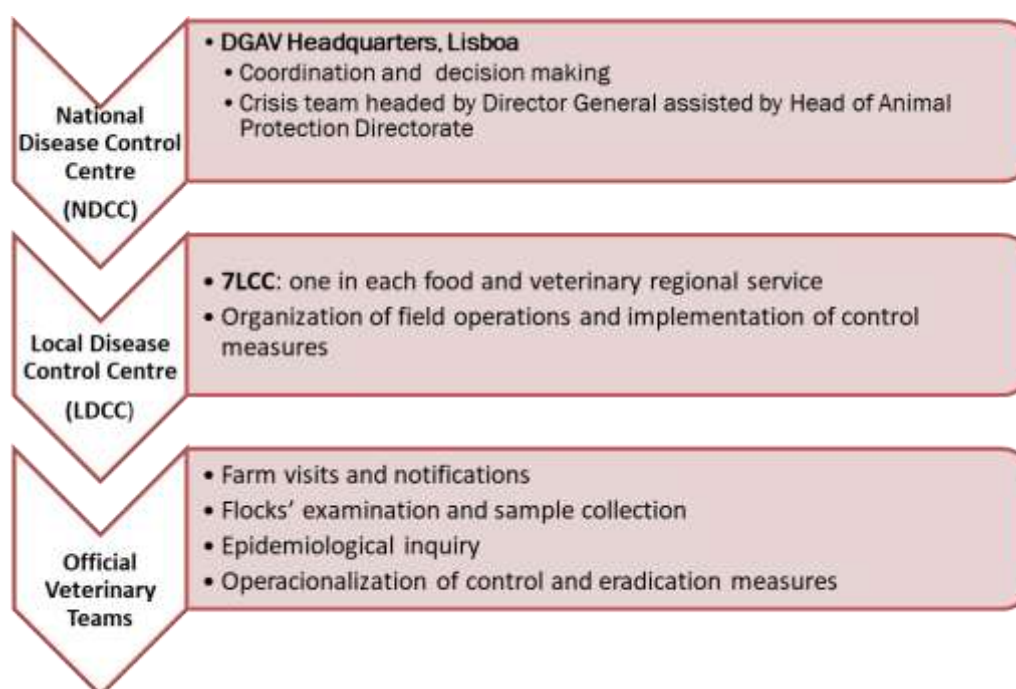


Figure 1 – Contingency plan's chain of command

2. Outbreaks confirmed in the 2025/2026 season

All outbreaks mentioned below were confirmed by the Portuguese National Reference Laboratory, INIAV, I.P., by real time reverse transcriptase PCR assays. Determination of virus subtype and level of pathogenicity was also carried out.

2.1 – POULTRY AND OTHER KEPT BIRDS

Since 1 October 2025, 16 outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in kept birds have been confirmed, of which 11 were detected in commercial poultry farms. Further details on these outbreaks are shown in Table 1.

Outbreak	District	County	Parish	Probable origin	Suspicion date	Confirmation date	Type of holding	Species/ category	Nº of birds
2025/30	Aveiro	Oliveira do Bairro	Oliveira do Bairro	Entry of infected birds	31/10/2025	01/11/2025	Captive birds exhibition	Several species of poultry, exotic and ornamental birds	1132
2025/31	Santarém	Chamusca	Parreira e Chouto	Possible direct/indirect contact with wild birds	01/11/2025	04/11/2025	Small holding with poultry and captive birds	Several species of poultry, exotic and ornamental birds	374
2025/32	Porto	Penafiel	Irivo	Possible direct/indirect contact with wild birds	07/11/2025	12/11/2025	Small holding with poultry and captive birds	Several species of poultry, exotic and ornamental birds	566
2025/33	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	Ramalhal	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	17/11/2025	17/11/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Chicken breeders	38209
2025/34	Santarém	Ferreira do Zêzere	Beco	Possible direct/indirect contact with wild birds	18/11/2025	21/11/2025	Backyard flock	Chickens and ducks	57
2025/38	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	Campelos e Outeiro da Cabeça	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	21/11/2025	21/11/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening turkeys	17186
2025/39	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	Ramalhal	Possible direct/indirect contact with wild birds	19/11/2025	21/11/2025	Backyard flock	Chickens, geese, ducks, quails and guineafowl	62
2025/40	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	A dos Cunhados e Maceira	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	28/11/2025	28/11/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening turkeys	12840
2025/41	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	A dos Cunhados e Maceira	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	01/12/2025	02/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening ducks	66366
2025/42	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	Campelos e Outeiro da Cabeça	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	02/12/2025	03/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening ducks	23400
2025/43	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	A dos Cunhados e Maceira	Epidemiologic a link to outbreak 2025/40	03/12/2025	03/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Free-range broilers	6512
2025/46	Lisboa	Torres Vedras	Campelos e Outeiro da Cabeça	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	06/12/2025	06/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening turkeys	14631
2025/47	Santarém	Tomar	Paialvo	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	10/12/2025	10/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Chicken breeders	62435

2025/49	Santarém	Tomar	Paialvo	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	12/12/2025	12/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Fattening turkeys	14640
2025/51	Santarém	Tomar	Paialvo	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	14/12/2025	15/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Laying hens	580224
2025/53	Santarém	Tomar	Paialvo	Possible indirect contact with wild birds	26/12/2025	26/12/2025	Commercial poultry holding	Laying hens	61672

Table 1 – Poultry and other kept birds outbreaks confirmed in 2025/26

2.1.1. Measures to control and eradicate the outbreaks – domestic birds

Upon confirmation of the outbreaks, control and eradication measures are immediately implemented according to Delegated Regulation (EU) n. ° 2020/687 of 17 of December 2019. Besides the measures enforced in outbreaks' restricted zones, depending on the epidemiological situation and level of risk, the Edict may include also an housing order for all kept birds and certain restrictions regarding live birds markets and other kept birds gatherings in areas not included within the restriction zones. Measures applicable to infected holdings and restricted zones are shown below:

- Quarantine and epidemiological enquiry;
- Stamping out (please see table 2 for details):

— Commercial poultry holdings and backyard flocks:

	Killing date	Date preliminary clean&desinf	Conclusion of final clean&desinf
2025/33	19-20/11/2025	20/11/2025	30/11/2025
2025/34	21/11/2025	21/11/2025	01/12/2025
2025/38	23-24/11/2025	24/11/2025	11/12/2025
2025/39	25/11/2025	25/11/2025	06/12/2025
2025/40	29-30/11/2025	30/11/2025	02/01/2026
2025/41	03/12/2025	03/12/2025	29/12/2025
2025/42	05-06/12/2025	06/12/2025	05/01/2026
2025/43	04/12/2025	04/12/2025	02/01/2026
2025/46	09-11/12/2025	11/12/2025	09/01/2026
2025/47	11-15/12/2025	15/12/2025	19/01/2026
2025/49	15-17/12/2025	17/12/2025	16/01/2026
2025/51	17-23/12/2025	26/12/2025	13/02/2026
2025/53	29-31/12/2025	31/12/2025	05/02/2026*

Table 2 – Stamping out and cleaning and disinfection details

— **Captive birds' exhibition and small holding with poultry and captive birds:**

In these outbreaks, following risk analysis and assessment of the conservation status of wild and exotic bird species kept in captivity, a derogation was applied from the mandatory culling of all birds present at the affected site, as provided for in Article 13(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2020/687. Birds eligible for this derogation were tested for the presence of HPAI virus and those that tested negative were kept in quarantine, including clinical surveillance and testing at the end of the quarantine period. Birds eligible for derogation that were infected and the remaining birds were culled.

- Disposal of carcasses, by-products (manure) and waste;
- Cleaning and disinfection;
- Traceability of poultry, poultry products and by-products;
- Implementation of restriction zones:
 - Protection zone – area within a circle of a 3 km radius centred on the infected premises;
 - Surveillance zone - area within a circle of a 10 km radius centred on the infected premises.

The map below (Figure 2) shows the location of the outbreaks in kept birds as well as the restriction zones implemented.

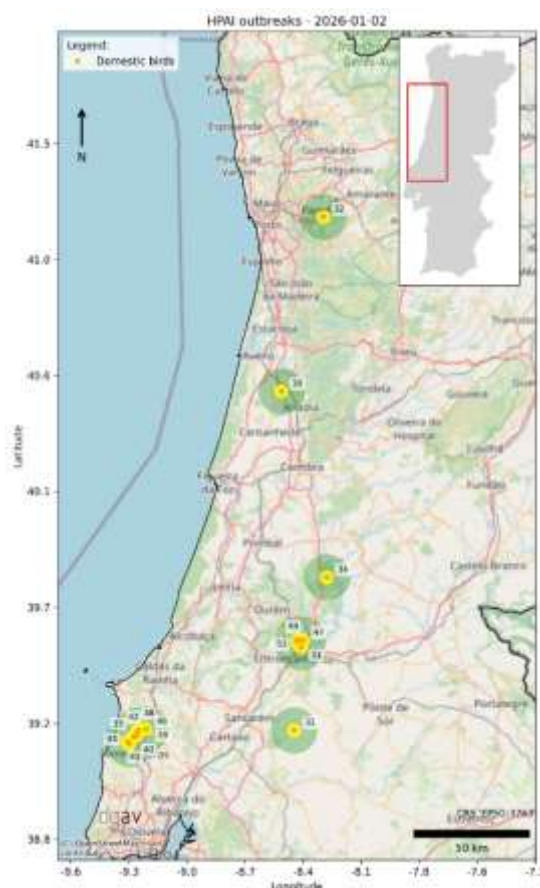


Figure 2 – Location of outbreaks in kept birds-Season 2025/2026

2.1.3. Measures implemented within the restriction zones:

2.1.3.1 – Protection zone

- Inventory of all poultry establishments;
- All poultry establishments are visited by official veterinarians for clinical examination of the poultry and other captive birds and sampling for laboratory testing for HPAI virus as foreseen in the contingency plan;
- Poultry keepers must immediately report any increased morbidity or mortality or significant drop in production to allow timely and appropriate investigations by DGAV;
- Movement restrictions and prohibitions:
 - no poultry or other captive birds as well as eggs, for incubation or consumption, may enter or leave poultry establishments except if authorised by DGAV;
 - removal or spreading of used litter, manure or slurry from holdings is prohibited. Removal of manure and used litter may be carried out when authorised by DGAV;
 - transport of poultry meat from slaughterhouses, cutting plants and cold stores is prohibited unless authorised by DGAV;
 - fairs, live birds market, shows or other gatherings of poultry and captive birds are prohibited.
 - Release of poultry for game birds restocking is prohibited.
- Reinforced biosecurity measures for poultry keepers:
 - Preventing contacts with wild birds;
 - Entrance in the establishments of staff and visitors only when strictly necessary;
 - Records of each visit must be kept by poultry operators;
 - All staff and visitors entering or leaving poultry establishments must strictly follow disinfection procedures;
 - All parts of vehicles entering or leaving poultry establishments must be cleaned and disinfected;
 - Dead birds (normal daily mortality) must be promptly disposed according to Regulation (EC) n.º 1069/2009;
 - All vehicles and equipment used for transporting live poultry or other captive birds, meat, feed, manure, slurry and bedding and any other material or substances likely to be contaminated are cleaned and disinfected after each transport and allowed to completely dry before any subsequent use.

Measures within the protection zone are lifted, at least, 21 days after the conclusion of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection of the infected holdings. At the end of this period, protection zone is then included in the surveillance zone for 9 days.

2.1.3.2 - Surveillance zone:

- Inventory of all poultry holdings;
- A sample of holdings are visited by official veterinarians for clinical examination of the poultry and other captive birds and, if necessary, sampling for laboratory testing for HPAI virus;
- Poultry keepers must immediately report any increased morbidity or mortality or significant drop in production to allow timely and appropriate investigations by DGAV;
- Movement restrictions and prohibitions:
 - no poultry or other captive birds as well as eggs, for incubation or consumption, may enter or leave a poultry establishment except if authorised by DGAV;
 - removal or spreading of used litter, manure or slurry from establishments is prohibited. Removal of manure and used litter may be carried out when authorised by DGAV;
 - transport of poultry meat from slaughterhouses, cutting plants and cold stores is prohibited unless authorised by DGAV;
 - fairs, live birds market, shows or other gatherings of poultry or other captive birds are prohibited.
 - Release of poultry for game birds restocking is prohibited.
- Reinforced biosecurity measures for poultry operators:
 - Preventing contacts with wild birds;
 - Entrance of staff and visitors only when strictly necessary;
 - Records of each visit must be kept by establishments;
 - All staff and visitors entering or leaving poultry establishments must strictly follow disinfection procedures;
 - All parts of vehicles entering or leaving poultry holdings must be cleaned and disinfected;
 - Dead birds (normal daily mortality) must be promptly disposed according to Regulation (EC) n.º 1069/2009;
 - All vehicles and equipment used for transporting live poultry or other captive birds, meat, feed, manure, slurry and bedding and any other material or substances likely to be contaminated are cleaned and disinfected after each transport and allowed to completely dry before any subsequent use.

These measures are enforced for at least 30 days after the date of completion of preliminary cleansing and disinfection on the infected holding. Please see table 4 for details regarding duration of control measures within restriction zones.

Outbreak	End of restriction zones
2025/30	12/12/2025
2025/31	21/12/2025
2025/32	26/12/2025
2025/33	21/12/2025
2025/34	22/12/2025
2025/38	26/12/2025
2025/39	26/12/2025
2025/40	01/01/2026
2025/41	03/01/2026
2025/42	06/01/2026
2025/43	04/01/2026
2025/46	11/01/2026
2025/47	19/01/2026
2025/49	17/01/2026
2025/51	13/02/2026
2025/53	13/02/2026

Table 4 – Restrictions' lifting dates

2.1.3.3 – Reinforced surveillance within the restriction zones

As part of the reinforced surveillance, official veterinarians teams carry out visits to poultry establishments, including backyard flocks, in the areas under restriction, for clinical inspection and, if needed, sampling.

The criteria recommended by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), in its scientific opinion on control measures for outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, available [here](#), are taken into account regarding the testing of birds kept in these establishments.

- Birds of the order Galliformes (chickens, turkeys, quails, etc.) - only flocks showing mortality and/or clinical signs compatible with avian influenza are sampled. In this case, 5 dead birds (or all dead birds if there are fewer) and/or 20 oropharyngeal swabs and 20 cloacal swabs shall be taken from sick birds.

- Birds of the order Anseriformes (geese, ducks) - In case of mortality and/or clinical signs compatible with avian influenza, 5 dead birds (or fewer if there are fewer) and/or 20 oropharyngeal swabs and 20 cloacal swabs must be taken from sick birds. In the absence

of mortality or clinical signs compatible with avian influenza, oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs shall be taken from 20 healthy birds.

The following tables show the available data regarding this surveillance until now.

Avian Influenza Contingency Plan/2025				
Surveillance type	Nº of tested establishments (including captive birds and backyard flocks)	Nº of tested birds	Nº of positive establishments (including captive birds and backyard flocks)	Nº of positive birds
Clinical suspicions	51	1385	16	124
Protection zone	110	1009	5	33
Surveillance zone	5	60	2	10
Epidemiologically linked estab.	66	2637	2	26
Total	232	5091	25	193

Table 5 – Avian Influenza Contingency Plan /2025 - Nº of tested establishments and birds

2.1.4. Avian Influenza Surveillance Programme – Active surveillance in poultry

Portugal implements an annual active surveillance plan in poultry, in accordance with Annex II of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2020/689. This surveillance is risk based, and all establishments located in areas at high risk for avian influenza are tested. In the remaining territory, testing is carried out through representative sampling, considering an expected prevalence of 5% and 95% confidence level, with a particular focus on areas of higher poultry density.

Within the scope of this programme, until now, 353 sampling events were carried out, and 3,980 birds were tested, as shown in the table below:

Active surveillance/2025	Nº of tested birds	Nº of sampling events	Nº of negative sampling events	Nº positive establishments
Laying hens	1190	119	119	0
Free range laying hens	720	72	72	0
Fattening turkeys	730	73	73	0
Ducks (breeders and fattening)	780	39	39	0
Game birds - gallinaceous	340	34	34	0
Game birds - ducks	120	6	6	0
Quails	100	10	10	0
Total	3980	353	353	0

Table 6 - Active surveillance in poultry

2.2 – WILD BIRDS

Since 01/10/2024, and until 31/12/2025, 10 outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI were detected in wild birds. Information regarding these outbreaks is shown on the following table:

Outbreak	District	Municipality	Parish	Confirmation date	Species
2025/29	Faro	Portimão	Portimão	17/10/2025	White stork
2025/35	Aveiro	Ílhavo	Gafanha da Nazaré	21/10/2025	Seagull (unspecified)
2025/36	Aveiro	Ílhavo	Gafanha da Nazaré	21/10/2025	Yellow-legged-gull
2025/37	Aveiro	Ílhavo	Gafanha da Nazaré	21/10/2025	Yellow-legged-gull
2025/44	Faro	Albufeira	Guia	03/12/2025	Eurasian collared dove
2025/45	Aveiro	Murtosa	Torreira	05/12/2025	Seagull
2025/48	Faro	Albufeira	Albufeira e Olhos de Água	12/12/2025	Sanderling
2025/50	Leiria	Pombal	Carriço	12/12/2025	Northern gannet
2025/52	Aveiro	Vagos	Gafanha da Boa Hora	19/12/2025	Sanderling
2025/54	Vila Real	Vila Real	N. Sra. da Conceição	26/12/2025	Yellow-legged-gull
2026/01	Aveiro	Ílhavo	Gafanha da Nazaré	29/05/2026	Yellow-legged-gull
2026/02	Lisboa	Lisboa	Belém	12/06/2026	Yellow-legged-gull
2026/03	Aveiro	Ílhavo	Gafanha da Nazaré	24/08/2026	Yellow-legged-gull

Table 7 – HPAI cases confirmed in wild birds during the 2025/2026 epidemiological season.

Whenever HPAI cases are confirmed in wild birds, an inventory of poultry establishments located within a radius of 1 kilometre of the place where the birds were collected is carried out, for the purposes of reinforced surveillance. As part of this surveillance, no outbreaks of infection have been recorded to date.

2.2.1 – Geographical distribution of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds

The geographical distribution of the above-mentioned outbreaks is shown in the following map:



Figure 3 – HPAI outbreaks in wild birds in the 2025/2026 epidemiological season
2.2.2 – AI passive surveillance in wild birds

The avian influenza surveillance plan implemented annually by the DGAV includes passive surveillance in wild birds, the aim of which is to monitor the circulation of viruses to assess the risk of disease dissemination.

In this context, during 2025, 179 birds were tested, of which 33 were HPAI positive, corresponding to 29 outbreaks, being 28 of subtype H5N1 and one H5N6. The following table summarises the data from this testing.

Common name	Scientific name	Nº birds tested	Nº HPAI positive birds
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	19	0
White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	5	1
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	4	0
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	5	1
Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	1	0
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	1	1
Seagull	<i>Larus spp.</i>	14	4
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	5	5
Audouin's gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	2	0
Yellow-legged-gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	43	13
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	4	3
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1	0
Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	0
Northern gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	10	1
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	4	1
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	0
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	0
Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	0
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	2	0
Duck	Not specified	1	0
Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	1	0
Common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1	0
Common scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	1	0
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	8	0
Red partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	3	0
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	1	0
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2	2
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	5	0
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	16	0
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	0
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	2	0
Dove	<i>Streptopelia sp.</i>	6	0
European turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	0
Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	4	1
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	0
Total Geral		179	33

Table 8 – AI surveillance programme in wild birds – from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

3. Information and communication

In addition to measures mentioned above, official information regarding the outbreaks was sent to the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment and Climate Action as well as to counties, law enforcement, and civil protection authorities.

Information concerning the outbreaks were also sent to all stakeholders, namely: poultry industry associations, racing pigeons associations, hunters associations, zoos, and wildlife rescue centres, including instructions regarding preventive measures and biosecurity.

Online seminars on the surveillance, prevention and control of avian influenza are also held regularly for official and municipal veterinarians, as well as for operators in the poultry industry and other relevant stakeholders.

Press notes about the outbreaks and public information and awareness leaflets including advice on biosecurity and HPAI preventive measures are available on DGAV webpage at:

- <https://www.dgav.pt/>
- <https://www.dgav.pt/animais/conteudo/animais-de-producao/aves-de-capoeira/saude-animal/doencas-das-aves/gripe-aviaria/>.
- Prevention and biosecurity video - <https://youtu.be/NqdEeNNAPPk>
- [#NoBirdFlu: clear communications for better biosecurity](#)

Lisboa, October 21st , 2026