

Infrastructure and Environment

Natural Environment
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21st July 2023

Dear Poultry Keeper,

Confirmation of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a domestic poultry flock in St Martin

Poultry Keepers within 3km Protection Zone

Following a confirmed case of Avian Influenza H5N1 Virus in a flock of 5 chickens in the North-East of the island, a 3km Protection Zone has been declared around the premises placed under restrictions from **17:00 on Wednesday 19th July 2023** to help prevent the spread of disease, and the rest of the island is a Surveillance Zone.

According to our records, your premises are considered within the Protection Zone (map attached). You are now subject to the conditions and movement restrictions that apply within the Protection Zone, and you must take special measures now to heighten biosecurity and keep your birds safe from the disease and prevent further spread.

Sadly, this comes unexpectedly as we have been doing ongoing wild bird surveillance testing and bird flu has not been detected in Jersey this year until now.

Summary of biosecurity measures

- all birds, not just poultry, must be housed in an enclosure completely covered with an impermeable and leak-proof roof, and the sides must be wild bird and vermin proof;
- if this is not practical or would adversely affect the welfare of the birds to a significant degree, you must ensure that they have no contact with other birds;
- the risk of not housing your birds is that the virus will cause suffering and mass mortalities if they become infected;
- You must take all reasonable steps to minimise contact with wild birds in accordance with a veterinary inspector's instructions;
- gatherings of birds at any fair, market, show, exhibition or similar are prohibited.
- game birds must not be released;
- the movement of all birds on the island is now restricted and can only take place in exceptional circumstances under licence and you would have to apply to the Animal Health and Welfare Team. Examples of when a licence is given are mainly around the welfare of the birds;
- you must not move mammals to or from a premises in the zone where birds are kept. This does not apply to pet animals that have no contact with any birds, or areas on the premises where birds are kept; and mammals moved in accordance with the [Mammal general licence](#), or where a specific licence has been issued. Pigs, other than those going direct to slaughter, require a specific licence*;

- the movement and spreading of poultry litter, manure and slurry must be in accordance with the [Litter general licence](#) carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with the [General carcass licence](#);
- you must make records of any visitors, unless it is only to the part of the premises where people live and where no birds are kept;
- a person engaged in the transport or marketing of poultry eggs must keep records of the movement, except for supply direct to retail premises or subsequent movement, e.g., “Honesty Box” sale positioned at the boundary of the premises;
- the occupier and any person entering or leaving premises in the Zone where birds or eggs are kept, must take such biosecurity measures as he or she considers necessary to reduce the spread of disease to or from the premises;
- cleansing and disinfection of vehicles – a person who enters or leaves premises in the Zone by vehicle must, without delay, cleanse and disinfect any part of that vehicle that may have been contaminated, [using a DEFRA approved disinfectant](#);
- a person who moves any bird, meat, feed, manure or other thing that may be contaminated, must cleanse and disinfect the vehicle and any equipment used to transport that thing as soon as it is unloaded as specified in the relevant licence;
- Unless you are responsible for the care of another keeper’s stock, please do not visit other livestock premises containing species susceptible to the disease until you are advised it is safe to do so.

Please be reminded, you have a duty of care to keep your birds free from disease by abiding by these special measures and these measures apply until we are content that there is no longer a significant risk of infection to the surrounding Protection Zone and the declaration is withdrawn.

Please also refer to our [Poultry keeper biosecurity checklist](#)

The Control Zone and requirements, map, biosecurity self-assessment checklist, and general guidance notes are available on the link: www.gov.ie/birdflu or search “Avian flu” via the www.gov.ie website.

*To apply for a specific movement licence please contact the Animal Health and Welfare Team. Contact details are at the top of this letter.

If you are aware of a keeper of susceptible stock within the Protection Zone who has not yet been contacted by us, please tell us immediately.

Yours sincerely

The Animal Health and Welfare Team