



Virtual Meeting Update of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Situation in The Americas and the Caribbean Region

April 15th, 2026, 09:00-11:00 h (Panama Time)

Background

The GF-TADs of the Americas promote coordination and information exchange among countries, facilitating updates on animal health events and communication among veterinary services regarding their progress, challenges, and lessons learned, considering the different national contexts.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) currently constitutes an emergency in the Americas, with multiple outbreaks and recent records between late 2025 and April 2026, which have been officially reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in accordance with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

In this context, it is timely to promote a regional exchange of information through the presentation of national situations and the response actions implemented by the affected countries, with the participation of the Chief veterinary services (CVOs), epidemiology specialists, and other involved professionals.

The organization of this technical webinar fulfills the mandate of multilateral transparency and strengthens coordination among key stakeholders, contributing to the prevention and control of HPAI and safe trade.

Objectives

To strengthen coordination and information sharing among member countries and their representatives to the WOAH for the timely reporting of HPAI as well as facilitate coordination with neighboring countries and trading partners.

To provide an update on the animal health situation in countries affected by the current HPAI outbreak, sharing key data, major changes observed in the virus, and experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in outbreak management.

To facilitate technical exchange on diagnostics, reference centers, genetic sequencing platforms, and the most recent recommendations from WOAH and FAO.



Focus and expected outcomes

Present an updated regional overview of the epidemiological situation of HPAI and its implications for prevention and control.

Promote the exchange of national experiences and support the strengthening and updating of HPAI surveillance, response, and control strategies through a collaborative and risk-based approach.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Coordinator / Speaker
9:00-9:10 10 min	Welcome and objective of the meeting.	Dr. Conrad Estrada - GF TADs Chairperson Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas GF-TADs Secretariat/WOAH Dr. Larissa Zanette - One Health regional coordinator, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)
9:10 - 9:20 10 min	Update on the regional HPAI epidemiological situation in the Americas in 2026 – WAHIS Notifications	Dr. Paolo Tizzani, DID/WOAH
9:20 - 9:30 10 min	Avian influenza outbreaks in poultry: description, response, and current situation in Argentina	Dr. María Eugenia Ferrer
9:30 - 9:40 10 min	Avian influenza outbreaks in poultry: description, response, and current situation in Chile	Dr. Alvaro González
9:40 - 9:50 10 min	Avian influenza outbreaks in wild birds: description, response, and current situation	Dr. Tiffany Chisholm



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PROGRESIVO DE LAS ENFERMEDADES
ANIMALES TRANSFRONTERIZAS



Organización de las Naciones
Unidas para la Alimentación
y la Agricultura



Organización Mundial
de Sanidad Animal
Fundada como OIE

9:50 -10:00 15 min	Avian influenza outbreaks: description, response, and current situation in USA	Dr. María Celia Antognoli
10:00 -10:10	Avian influenza outbreaks: description, response, and current situation Canada	TBC
10:10 -10:25 15 min	Update on the IRL Animal Diagnostics Laboratory, Federal Laboratory for Agricultural Defense – LFDA/SP – CGAL, MAPA, Brazil	Dr. Dilmara Reischak
10:25 -10:45 20 min	Questions and Answers - Open discussion with Speakers.	All participants
10:45 -11:00 15 min	Closing	Dr. Conrad Estrada - GF TADs Chairperson Dr. Francisco D’Alessio - WOAHO Regional Representative for the Americas and GF-TADs Secretariat Dr. Larissa Zanette – One Health regional coordinator, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) Dr. Catya Martínez - WOAHO Sub-Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean