



**Fourth Standing Group of Experts in Avian Influenza Meeting (SGE-AI) (Virtual)
June 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (UTC-5)**

Background

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to represent one of the main transboundary threats to animal health, with significant impacts on poultry production, biodiversity, and public health. In recent years, the Americas region has faced successive outbreaks that have highlighted the epidemiological complexity of the virus, its capacity for spread through wild and domestic birds, and the need to strengthen surveillance, diagnostic, and response systems.

In this context, regional coordination mechanisms such as GF-TADs in the Americas and its Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza (SGE-AI) play a fundamental role in facilitating information exchange, reviewing technical recommendations, strengthening coordination among reference laboratories, and identifying regional priorities. Continuous updates on the epidemiological situation, analysis of diagnostic capacities, assessment of strategies such as vaccination, and improved understanding of the human–animal interface are essential elements to guide prevention and control actions in the region.

Objectives

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Review the global and regional epidemiological situation of HPAI, as well as progress and challenges identified by reference laboratories and technical partners.
- Analyze key aspects related to surveillance, diagnosis, the human–animal interface, and vaccination strategies in the region.
- Provide a technical exchange platform among countries and GF-TADs partners to identify immediate priorities and guide the next steps for regional collaborative work.

Approach and expected outcomes

The meeting will have a technical and regional focus, aimed at reviewing recent advances in HPAI surveillance and diagnosis, as well as updating the epidemiological situation and inputs from GF-TADs laboratories and partners. Through specialized presentations and an open discussion session, the meeting will seek to consolidate a shared understanding of the current situation in the Americas, identify operational gaps, and gather inputs to inform regional strategies, including vaccination. At the end of the meeting, practical recommendations and next steps are expected to be agreed upon to strengthen technical cooperation and coordination among countries in the region.



Agenda

Time	Topic	Coordinator / Speaker
10:00 – 10:05 5 min	Welcome and objectives of the meeting	Dr. Francisco D’Alessio – Regional Representative for the Americas, GF-TADs Secretariat / WOAH Dr. Nicolás Winter – Animal Health Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) Dr. Conrad Estrada – Chair, GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas
10:05 – 10:15 10 min	Review of previous recommendations and presentation about the SGE-AI composition	Dr. Catya Martínez- Subregional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean/WOAH
10:15 – 10:25 10 min	Update on the global and regional epidemiological situation of avian influenza	Dr. Paolo Tizzani – Senior Veterinary Epidemiologist, Data Integration and Analysis Department / WOAHP (recorded)
10:25 – 10:35 10 min	Update on IAAP in Canada and laboratory diagnosis	Dr. Anthony Signore - Centre for Foreign Animal Disease – CFIA
10:35 – 10:45 10 min	Update on IAAP in the United States	Dr. Mia Torchetti - National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA, APHIS, VS
10:45 – 10:55 10 min	RESUDIA support activities	Dr. Dilmara Reischak- Animal Diagnostics Laboratory, Federal Agricultural Defense Laboratory – MAPA
10:55 – 11:05 10 min	Current situation of avian influenza at the human–animal interface (CIPCIZA)	Dr. Lía Buzanovsky and Dr. Priscila Born/ PAHO-PANAFTOSA
11:05 – 11:20 15 min	Vaccination in the Americas	Dr. Lorcan Carnegie- Production and Health Division (NSAH-CJW)/OFFLU (recorded)
11 :20 – 11 :40 20 min	Questions and answers – Open discussion with speakers	All participants
11 :40 – 11 :50 10 min	Recommendations and next steps	WOAH/FAO
11:50 – 12:00 10 min	Closing remarks	Dr. Francisco D’Alessio – GF-TADs Secretariat / WOAHP Dr. Nicolás Winter – Animal Health Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) Dr. Conrad Estrada – Chair, GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas