



**4th Meeting of the GF-TADs Americas Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza (SGE-AI)
Thursday, 11 June 2026 | Virtual Meeting | 10:00–12:30 (UTC-5)**

Considering that:

1. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a transboundary disease of major animal health, economic, and social importance, with significant impacts on poultry production, food security, and livelihoods throughout the Americas region;
2. In recent years, the introduction, circulation, and spread of HPAI viruses have been observed in several countries across the continent, affecting both domestic and wild birds and demonstrating the persistence and adaptability of the virus;
3. Wild bird migratory routes have played a key role in the regional dissemination of the virus, increasing the risk of introduction and reintroduction into previously disease-free territories;
4. HPAI outbreaks have resulted in considerable economic losses to the poultry industry, as well as restrictions on international trade in poultry and poultry products;
5. The presence of the virus in wild and domestic birds increases the risk of exposure for other species, including mammals, and potentially poses risks to public health under the One Health approach;
6. The timely implementation of prevention, early detection, notification, control, and eradication measures is essential to mitigate the spread of the disease;
7. Available tools, including biosecurity, epidemiological surveillance, timely diagnosis, and, where appropriate, strategic vaccination using vaccines aligned with circulating viruses, contribute to the effective control of the disease;
8. Regional cooperation, information sharing, and the harmonization of strategies are essential to strengthen response capacities and reduce the impact of HPAI throughout the region;
9. National Veterinary Services play a central role in the implementation of animal health measures and require continuous strengthening of their technical, operational, and coordination capacities;
10. It is necessary to promote risk-based and science-based approaches to decision-making, adapted to the epidemiological conditions of each country and of the region as a whole.
11. Genetic Sequencing is a key tool for understanding the epidemiological dynamics, evolution, and risks of circulating viruses

Recommendations



For Countries

- Strengthen avian influenza epidemiological surveillance systems by maintaining continuous and seasonally adapted surveillance that includes domestic poultry, wildlife, susceptible livestock, and other mammals, as well as monitoring of shared environments and the incorporation of avian influenza as a differential diagnosis in mammals.
- Update and harmonize surveillance and response protocols, taking into account interactions among species and promoting standardized analytic methodologies for early detection, investigation, and follow-up of avian influenza events.
- Ensure timely and transparent reporting of animal health events, including the immediate notification of confirmed and suspected cases through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), in accordance with international standards.
- Reinforce biosecurity and prevention measures, particularly during periods of heightened risk, through the protection of water and feed sources for animals, the proper management of mortalities, and strengthened communication and awareness-raising efforts targeting producers.
- Strengthen human resource capacities and veterinary laboratory capabilities by prioritizing training in genomics, metagenomics, molecular biology, bioinformatics, validation and verification of diagnostic methods, as well as investments in infrastructure and equipment.
- Incorporate whole-genome sequencing as a complementary component of surveillance in order to facilitate the timely identification of new genotypes, reassortment events, and risk markers, while promoting the regular submission of samples to international reference laboratories and the use of harmonized protocols.
- Ensure appropriate biosafety and biosecurity conditions in laboratories, guaranteeing that the handling and analysis of samples suspected of containing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza are conducted under standards that protect personnel health and the environment.
- Strengthen intersectoral coordination under the One Health approach and reinforce immunization strategies by promoting sustained collaboration among the animal health, human health, environmental, and academic sectors for integrated surveillance, risk analysis, and coordinated response, while updating vaccination strategies based on available epidemiological and virological evidence.

For Organizations



- Strengthen regional surveillance, risk analysis, and early warning systems by integrating information from platforms such as WAHIS, EIOS, and other relevant sources to generate timely alerts, improve data quality, promote system interoperability, and develop regional dashboards to support decision-making.
- Develop and harmonize regional guidelines, protocols, and tools for epidemiological surveillance, genomic surveillance, outbreak investigation, risk assessment, and avian influenza response, promoting the application of common methodologies and standards among countries.
- Strengthen regional capacities for viral sequencing and characterization by expanding technical and financial support for advanced sequencing, bioinformatics analysis, phenotypic virus characterization, and the reinforcement of reference laboratory networks.
- Promote the timely exchange of epidemiological and genetic information by facilitating mechanisms for sharing viral sequences, phylogenetic analyses, risk assessments, and other relevant data in real time through regional platforms that support collaboration and evidence-based decision-making.
- Promote a harmonized regional framework incorporating tools such as GenoFlu and vSNP to standardize the collection and reporting of metadata and coordinate comparative regional genomic analyses to improve understanding of the evolution and spread of circulating viruses.
- Strengthening countries' technical capacities through training and scientific cooperation by developing capacity-building programs, research networks, technical exchange initiatives, and regional risk studies that contribute to improved preparedness and response to avian influenza.
- Promote the exchange of biological samples and reference materials by raising awareness among Veterinary Services of the importance of sharing samples with WOAH and FAO Reference Laboratories, as well as PAHO Influenza Collaborating Centers, while accelerating the distribution of reference panels and other essential materials for diagnosis and viral characterization.
- Facilitate resource mobilization and access to strategic supplies by supporting national and regional strategies for the timely procurement of reagents, materials, and other critical inputs, while directing resources toward countries with the greatest capacity gaps.
- Strengthening regional coordination and follow-up mechanisms by promoting regular technical meetings, specialized subregional teams, and the systematic incorporation of findings from initiatives such as Avian Influenza Matching (AIM) and molecular surveillance activities into regional strategies for the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Agreed on July 3rd, 2026.