

## **OFFICIAL VACCINATION PLAN HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)**

### **FACT SHEET 3 – DESCRIPTION OF THE CHOSEN STRATEGY**

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#### **A PREVENTIVE STRATEGY**

Preventive vaccination is France's preferred strategy at the present time since emergency vaccination has been judged to be difficult to put into practice given the required time to immunity when undertaking vaccination.

Definition of a vaccination strategy is based around three criteria: target species, geographical scope and period.

- Target species: given the particular role played by duck farms in the dynamic of the epizootic across France, these birds will be the vaccination strategy's core targets.
- Geographical scope: with a concern to provide total vaccination coverage of the country, the vaccination strategy has been extended to the whole of Metropolitan France except Corsica.
- Vaccination period: although high-risk periods have historically been linked to the winter season, there has since been a visible change in the dynamic of the disease and this has entailed a decision to vaccinate throughout the year.

The entirety of the preventive vaccination system – including its operational application, the surveillance deployed and vaccine authorisation and conditions for use are implemented in adherence to delegated regulation (EU) 2023/361 and WOH recommendations.

Vaccination is conducted without prejudice to the usual steps taken for biosecurity and sanitary controls in the event of HPAI outbreaks. No birds or products from birds will be exported from zones subject to sanitary restrictions.

Vaccination is simply a supplementary measure enabling preventive culling of healthy stock to be reduced and spread of the disease to be limited, in pursuance of the goal of eradicating it across the whole of the country.

## TARGET SPECIES

This vaccination programme will target ducks exclusively (Muscovy, Mulard, Pekin). No other species is vaccinated.

Preventive vaccination will be made mandatory for all commercial farms rearing ducks for production (foie gras duck sector and table duck sector).

To supplement this, a strategy of voluntary vaccination has been put in place to allow vaccination of production ducks whose hatching eggs and day-old chicks are intended exclusively for the French domestic market.

Breeding flocks whose production (hatching eggs and day-old chicks) is intended for export to third countries or other Member States are not included in the vaccination programme. This means that only hatching eggs and day-old chicks from unvaccinated breeding flocks can be exported to third countries or other Member States.

**The following table summarises the target birds for vaccination :**

Species	Production stage	Breeding stage
Ducks	Mandatory vaccination	Vaccination prohibited for flocks whose products (hatching eggs and day-old chicks) are to be exported to another Member State or any third country.
Gallus	Vaccination prohibited	Vaccination prohibited
Other species	Vaccination prohibited	Vaccination prohibited

## VACCINATION ZONE

This vaccination programme is conducted across the whole of Metropolitan France except Corsica.

## VACCINATION PERIOD

This vaccination program was implemented for the first time for one year through an initial vaccination campaign, running from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. It was renewed in the same form on October 1, 2024, and again on October 1, 2025.

The vaccination programme is the subject of an evaluation to measure its efficacy and impact as part of an ongoing improvement strategy. Depending on the results of that evaluation, the vaccination programme may be suspended or renewed.

## NUMBER OF BIRDS

The estimated number of birds to be vaccinated per campaign (12 months) is of the order of 60 million ducks.

## FINAL USE OF VACCINATED BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS

Vaccinated commercial ducks are slaughtered with a view to human consumption.

The products (hatching eggs and day-old chicks) of vaccinated breeding flocks are placed exclusively on the French domestic market. Vaccinated breeding stock due for culling are slaughtered with a view to human consumption.

### **For more information:**

- **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361** of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0361&qid=1681975761645&from=FR>