

OFFICIAL VACCINATION PLAN HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

FACT SHEET 9 – OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF VACCINATION

The objective of the official HPAI vaccination plan in France is to prevent the epizootic from flaring up again. In effect, the vaccination strategy is aimed, in the event of the appearance of new outbreaks, at avoiding a rapid spread, thereby making it possible to roll out targeted and effective control measures.

Where an HPAI outbreak is confirmed, a restricted zone will be put in place in accordance with EU regulation 2020/687. There is a high risk of active circulation of the virus within that zone, justifying adjustment of post-vaccination surveillance and the imposition of particular restrictive measures for vaccinated birds.

SCENARIOS

Two scenarios have been identified according to the viral strain in circulation:

- Scenario 1: A confirmed outbreak involving a strain against which the vaccine has proven efficacy.
- Scenario 2: A confirmed outbreak involving a viral strain other than that covered by the vaccine used (H7 HPAI, for example).

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF PREVENTIVE VACCINATION

Measures within the outbreak

Confirmation of an outbreak of HPAI in an epidemiological unit holding vaccinated batches of poultry will entail application of conventional control measures in the outbreak as provided by EU regulation 2020/687, including the culling of vaccinated birds without delay.

Postponement of the slaughter of vaccinated birds may be considered in exceptional circumstances for farms rearing breeding stock in accordance with Article 13.2 of EU regulation 2020/687.

MANAGEMENT OF VACCINATED ESTABLISHMENTS IN RESTRICTED ZONES

Vaccination

In the event of the appearance of an outbreak of HPAI, preventive vaccination will continue for poultry batches located in the restricted area where these have not completed their initial vaccination protocol. Such vaccination will continue to be considered preventive in accordance with the definition in Article 7 of delegated regulation 2023/361 given that it will not have been undertaken in response to an outbreak but as the finalisation of the vaccination protocol for batches already in place prior to the occurrence of the outbreak.

At the point of vaccination of these batches, a clinical examination by the official veterinarian is to be carried out before proceeding to vaccinate. If signs evocative of the disease are observed, vaccination is to be suspended and a notification sent to the competent authorities, in addition to the application of restrictive and biosecurity measures.

Enhanced biosecurity measures will be made mandatory for vaccination teams.

In the case of poultry recently arrived on the farm and intended to be vaccinated without having actually started the vaccination protocol at the time of occurrence of the outbreak, no injections will be carried out. The measures to be applied to such birds will be those applied to unvaccinated poultry.

Surveillance in establishments holding vaccinated poultry

Given the risk of exposure to the HPAI virus in the restricted area, establishments holding vaccinated poultry will be subject to enhanced post-vaccination surveillance. Such surveillance will involve the taking of samples for virological testing (RT-PCR) from 60 vaccinated birds¹ in the form of tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs every two weeks.

Preventive depopulation

The effect of vaccination is to diminish the population vulnerable to the HPAI virus in circulation. Preventive depopulation, where appropriate, will therefore apply only to unvaccinated flocks or flocks that have not yet been fully vaccinated.

Movement of vaccinated birds

Movement of vaccinated poultry and captive birds and their products is prohibited inside and outside the restricted zone. Under derogations, authorisation is possible only for movements adhering to the general and specific conditions set out in Articles 28, 29 and 30, in Article 31, paragraph 1, and in Articles 33, 34 and 37 of delegated regulation (EU) 2020/687.

¹ In order to detect the appearance of an infection by a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza field virus. Surveillance is intended to enable detection of prevalence at or below 5%, with a 95% confidence level, of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza viral infections in an establishment subject to vaccination.

For more information:

- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687** of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0687&qid=1688680544757>
- **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>