



Surveillance of zoonotic influenza in humans



Co-funded by
the European Union

Workshop One Health Surveillance
Brussels – 29/09/2023



Human zoonotic influenza: notification at regional level

Mandatory notifiable infections, but slightly different case definition according to region

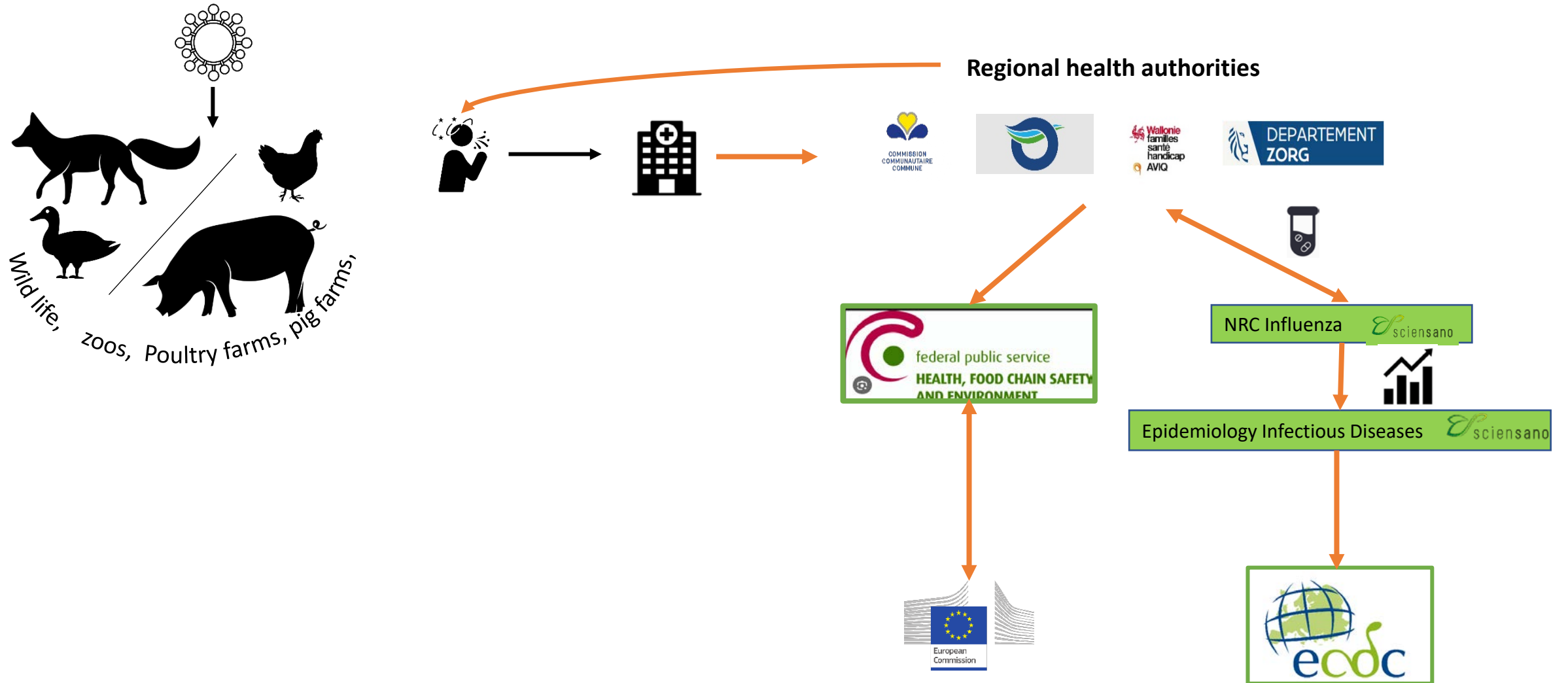
- Brussels (COCOM) :
 - possible case of respiratory syndrome with acute and severe presentation (clinical criteria and epidemiological context of virus emergence (including new type of influenza virus))
- Wallonia (AVIQ) :
 - possible case of respiratory syndrome with acute and severe presentation (clinical criteria and epidemiological context of virus emergence (including new type of influenza virus))
 - Lab confirmation of new subtype of influenza virus
- Flanders (Departement Zorg) :
 - possible case of avian influenza : (clinical AND epidemiological criteria)
 - possible case of new subtype of influenza virus: (clinical AND epidemiological criteria)

Human zoonotic influenza: objectives of notification

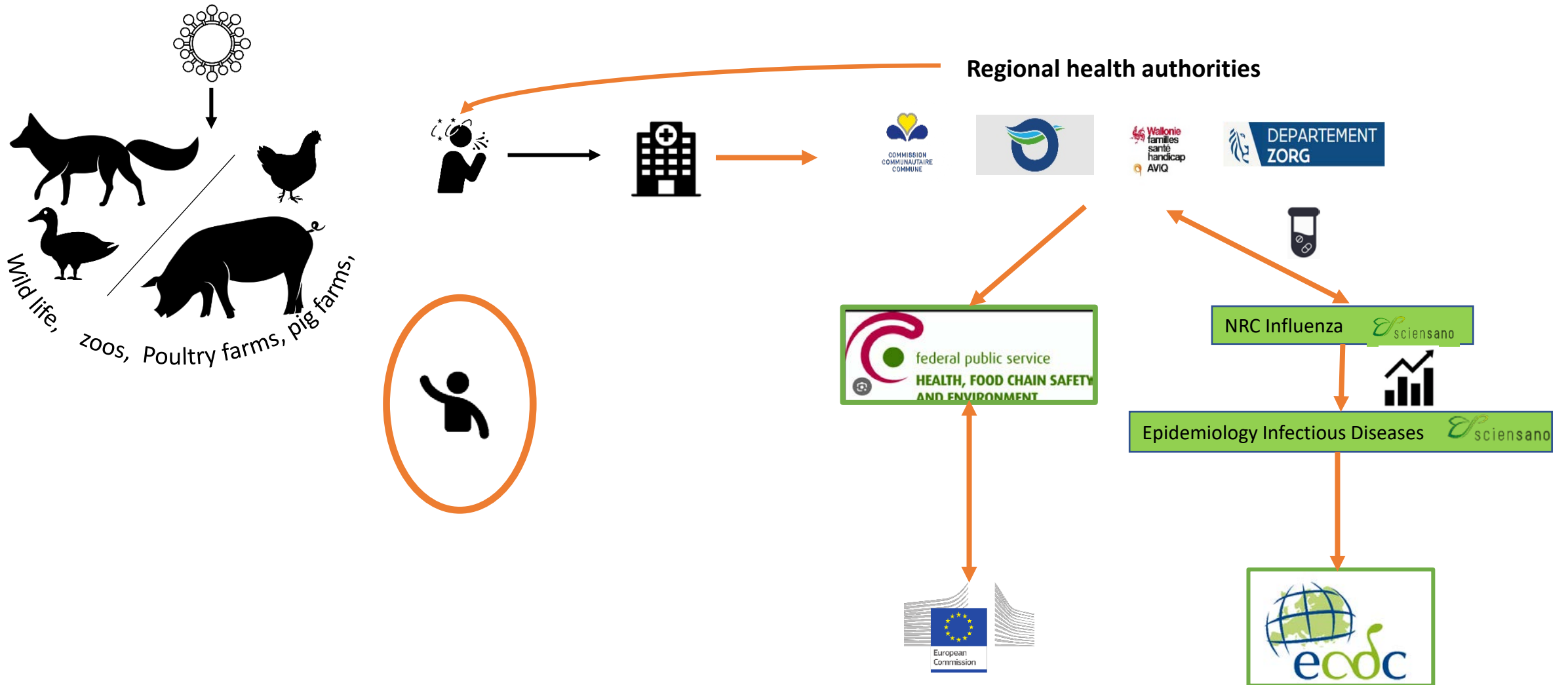
Objectives of the mandatory notification:

- Allow source and contact investigations by the regional authorities
- Notification at international level:
 - [Human infections with avian influenza viruses](#) are notifiable under EU legislation within 24 hours through the [Early Warning and Response System \(EWRS\)](#) according to the [regulation on serious cross-border threats to health \(2022/2371\)](#).
 - The [International Health Regulations \(IHR\) notification system](#) also requires notification, following the case definition for notification of [human influenza caused by a new subtype](#) under the [IHR \(2005\)](#).
- Surveillance at European level:
 - event-based surveillance through ECDC's [European surveillance portal for infectious diseases \(EpiPulse\)](#).
 - case-based surveillance about avian influenza through [European Surveillance System \(TESSy\)](#)

Human zoonotic influenza: detection of symptomatic cases



Human zoonotic influenza: detection of symptomatic cases



Human zoonotic influenza: risk assessment

2 Risk Assessment Groups at national level:

- **Risk Assessment Group - Veterinary – Emerging Zoonoses (RAG-V-EZ):** Belgian multidisciplinary reference group, supplemented as appropriate by external experts, in the field of **emerging zoonoses** where **animal health competences**, shared between the federal and regional authorities, play a role
- **Risk Assessment Group (RAG):** Belgian multidisciplinary reference group, supplemented as appropriate by external experts, evaluates the risk to the **human population** of **potential public health threats**

Human zoonotic influenza: risk assessment

2 Risk Assessment Groups at national level:

- Risk Assessment reference group, where animal health and human health are interconnected
- Risk Assessment appropriate by emerging threats

■ Aanbevelingen en documenten uitgebracht door de RAG-V-EZ

De volgende lijst bevat de aanbevelingen, adviezen, standpunten, mededelingen en opmerkingen van de RAG-V-EZ in verband met zijn werkzaamheden op het gebied van de diergezondheid als dit te maken heeft met de besmetting of het risico op besmetting met zoönotische ziekten bij dieren en de gevolgen daarvan voor de volksgezondheid.

- » [Aanbevelingen van de RAG-V-EZ : Zoönotische en omgekeerde zoönotische risico's van varkensinfluenzavirussen](#) (PDF) (20/07/2023 - V.8)
- [Engelse versie \(PDF\)](#) - [versie goedgekeurd door de RAG-V-EZ](#) (PDF)
- » [FAQ: Zoönotisch risico van aviaire influenza](#) (PDF) (24/07/2023 - V.10)
- [Engelse versie](#) (PDF)
- » [Zoönotische risico's van zoogdierinfecties met Aviaire Influenza A\(H5N1\) virus](#) (PDF) (12/09/2023 - V.1)
- [Engelse versie \(PDF\)](#) - [versie goedgekeurd door de RAG-V-EZ](#) (PDF)

gian multidisciplinary
of **emerging zoonoses**
priorities, play a role
o, supplemented as
potential public health

Human zoonotic influenza: risk assessment

2 Risk Assessment Groups at national level:

- Risk Assessment reference group where animal health and public health authorities play a role
- Risk Assessment appropriate by threats



(EZ): Belgian multidisciplinary reference group, supplemented as the field of emerging zoonoses national authorities, play a role in the assessment of potential public health threats

Risk Assessments at international level:

- European Food Safety Authority

in collaboration with

- the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- the European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza

Risk Assessments at international level

- European Food Safety Authority in collaboration with
 - the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
 - the European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza



APPROVED: 27 September 2023
doi: 10.2903/efsa.2023.8328

Avian influenza overview June–September 2023

European Food Safety Authority,
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control,
European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza,
Cornelia Adlhoch, Alice Fusaro, José L Gonzales, Thijs Kuiken, Gražina Mirinavičiūtė, Éric Niqueux, Christoph Staubach, Calogero Terregino,
Francesca Baldinelli, Alessia Rusinà and Lisa Kohnle

Abstract

Between 24 June and 1 September 2023, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) outbreaks were reported in domestic (25) and wild (482) birds across 21 countries in Europe. Most of these outbreaks appeared to be clustered along coastlines with only few HPAI virus detections inland. In poultry, all HPAI outbreaks were primary and sporadic with most of them occurring in the United Kingdom. In wild birds, colony-breeding seabirds continued to be most heavily affected, but an increasing number of HPAI virus detections in waterfowl is expected in the coming weeks. The current epidemic in wild birds has already surpassed the one of the previous epidemiological year in terms of total number of HPAI virus detections. As regards mammals, A(H5N1) virus was identified in 26 fur animal farms in Finland. Affected species included American mink, red and Arctic fox, and common raccoon dog. The most likely source of introduction was contact with gulls. Wild mammals continued to be affected worldwide, mostly red foxes and different seal species. Since the last report and as of 28 September 2023, two A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b virus detections in humans have been reported by the United Kingdom, and three human infections with A(H5N6) and two with A(H9N2) were reported from China, respectively. No human infection related to the avian influenza detections in animals on fur farms in Finland or in cats in Poland have been reported, and human infections with avian influenza remain a rare event. The risk of infection with currently circulating avian H5 influenza viruses of clade 2.3.4.4b in Europe remains low for the general population in the EU/EEA. The risk of infection remains low to moderate for occupationally or otherwise exposed people to infected birds or mammals (wild or domesticated); this assessment covers different situations that depend on the level of exposure.

Risk Assessments at international level

- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in collaboration with
 - the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
 - the European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza (EURL-FluA)

Avian influenza overview June–September 2023

European Food Safety Authority,
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control,
European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza,
Cornelia Adlhoçh, Alice Fusaro, José L Gonzales, Thijs Kuiken, Gražina Mirinavičiūtė, Éric Niqueux, Christoph Staubach, Calogero Terregino, Francesca Baldinelli, Alessia Rusinà and Lisa Kohnle

Abstract

Between 24 June and 1 September 2023, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) outbreaks were reported in domestic (25) and wild (482) birds across 21 countries in Europe. Most of these outbreaks appeared to be clustered along coastlines with only few HPAI virus detections inland. In poultry, all HPAI outbreaks were primary and sporadic with most of them occurring in the United Kingdom. In wild birds, colony-breeding seabirds continued to be most heavily affected, but an increasing number of HPAI virus detections in waterfowl is expected in the coming weeks. The current epidemic in wild birds has already surpassed the one of the previous epidemiological year in terms of total number of HPAI virus detections. As regards mammals, A(H5N1) virus was identified in 26 fur animal farms in Finland. Affected species included American mink, red and Arctic fox, and common raccoon dog. The most likely source of introduction was contact with gulls. Wild mammals continued to be affected worldwide, mostly red foxes and different seal species. Since the last report and as of 28 September 2023, two A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b virus detections in humans have been reported by the United Kingdom, and three human infections with A(H5N6) and two with A(H9N2) were reported from China, respectively. No human infection related to the avian influenza detections in animals on fur farms in Finland or in cats in Poland have been reported, and human infections with avian influenza remain a rare event. The risk of infection with currently circulating avian H5 influenza viruses of clade 2.3.4.4b in Europe remains low for the general population in the EU/EEA. The risk of infection remains low to moderate for occupationally or otherwise exposed people to infected birds or mammals (wild or domesticated); this assessment covers different situations that depend on the level of exposure.

Thank you for your attention!