



Ministero della Salute

HPAI outbreaks in Italy

Directorate General for Animal Health and veterinary medicinal products



HPAI H5N1 in Italy

✓ 3 HPAI outbreaks in poultry (22/11/2023)

- 3 Veneto

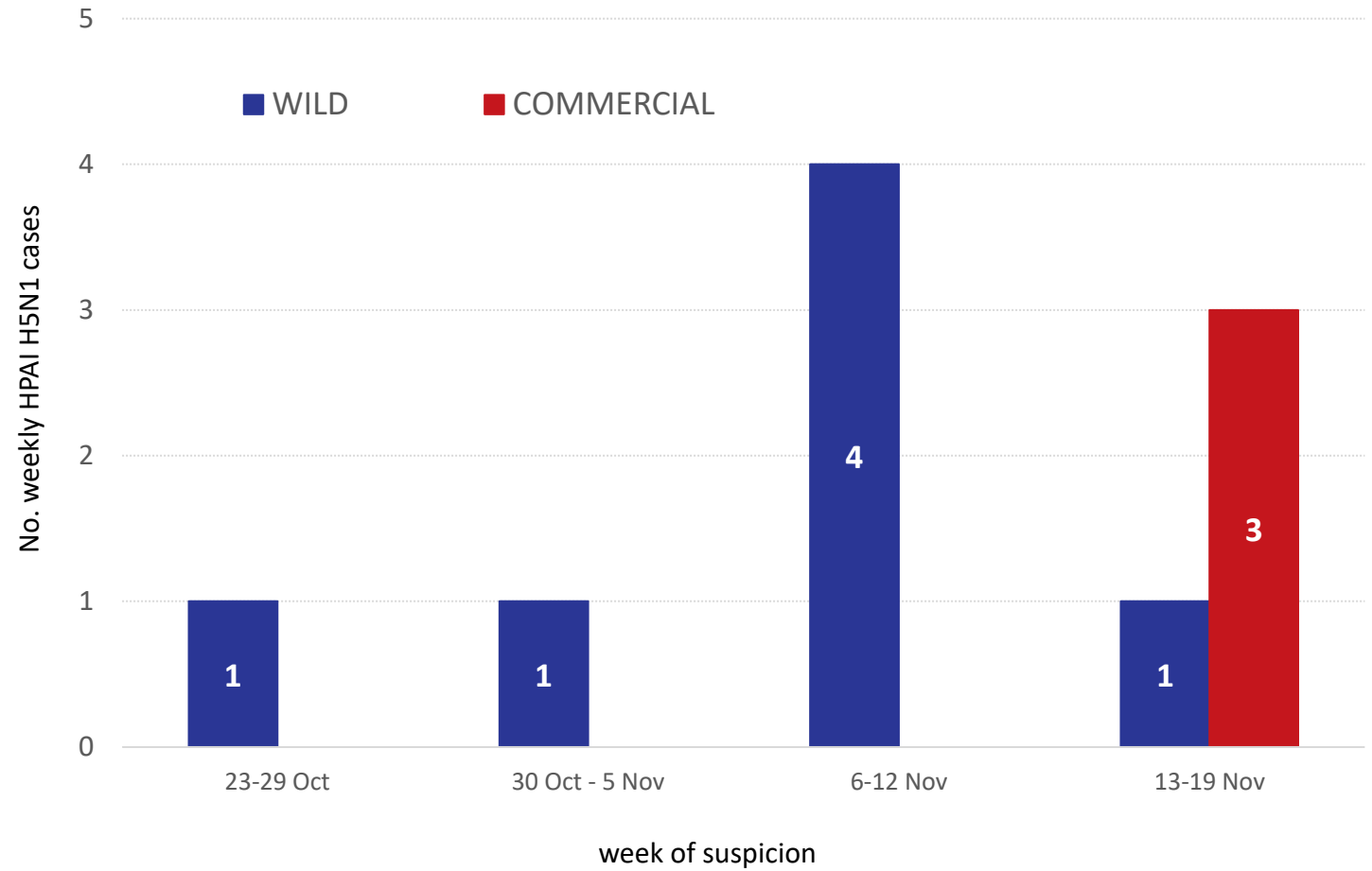
✓ 7 HPAI outbreaks in wild birds (22/11/2023)

- 3 Veneto
- 3 Emilia Romagna
- 1 Piemonte



Number of weekly HPAI H5N1 cases

The current epidemic season, compared to the one of 2022/23, started later in autumn (in week 43 vs week 38), with the first positive wild bird found positive at the end of October



HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry and wild birds

DOMESTIC

n	ADIS reference	Region	Province	Species	Virus Subtype	Confirmation date
1	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00012	VENETO	PADOVA	MEAT TURKEY	H5N1	2023-11-13
2	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00013	VENETO	PADOVA	GUINEA FOWL	H5N1	2023-11-16
3	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00014	VENETO	PADOVA	BROILER	H5N1	2023-11-16

WILD BIRDS

n	ADIS reference	Region	Province	No. animals	Species	Virus Subtype	Suspicion date	Confirmation date
1	IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2023-00208	VENETO	ROVIGO	1	EURASIAN WIGEON (<i>Mareca penelope</i>)	H5N1	2023-10-28	2023-11-03
2	IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2023-00209	VENETO	VERONA	1	MALLARD DUCK (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	H5N1	2023-11-09	2023-11-15
3	IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2023-00210	EMILIA ROMAGNA	RAVENNA	2	EURASIAN WIGEON (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) GADWALL (<i>Mareca strepera</i>)	H5N1	2023-11-09	2023-11-20
4	IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2023-00211	EMILIA ROMAGNA	MODENA	1	DUCK (<i>Anas spp.</i>)	H5N1	2023-11-05	2023-11-20
5		VENETO	VICENZA	1	COMMON CRANE (<i>Grus grus</i>)	H5N1	2023-11-15	2023-11-22
6		PIEMONTE	CUNEO	1	COMMON CRANE (<i>Grus grus</i>)	H5N1	2023-11-11	2023-11-22

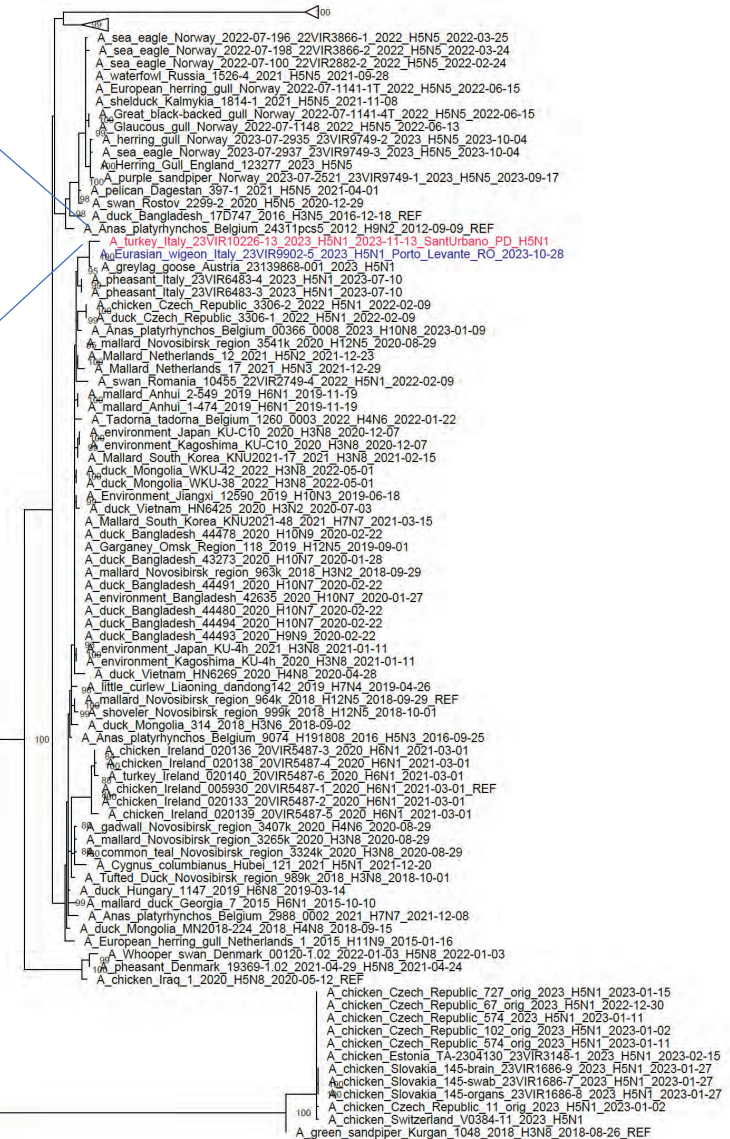
Outbreaks in poultry

- No at-risk contacts in the 21 days prior onset of symptoms
- Infected premises belongs to 3 different poultry companies
- First cases of HPAI in wild birds in Veneto region confirmed 10 days before the 1st outbreak
- 2nd and 3rd outbreaks within the protection zone (3km) of the first
- High mortality, nervous symptoms and reduced intake of water and feed observed only in meat turkeys (1st outbreak)
- Broiler outbreak (3rd) confirmed at pre-movement virological testing
- Infected premises: close to hunting areas or wetlands/presence of wild birds reported
- Sub-optimal biosecurity practices (managerial and structural)

Disease control measures as provided by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687

- Epidemiological investigation
- Culling, disposal of carcasses, cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Establishment of protection and surveillance zones (3 and 10 km)
- Restrictions on movements of poultry and poultry products (with derogations)
- Pre-emptive culling in 3 poultry holdings (laying hen, broiler and duck/geese) in proximity of infected premises

Phylogenetic analysis

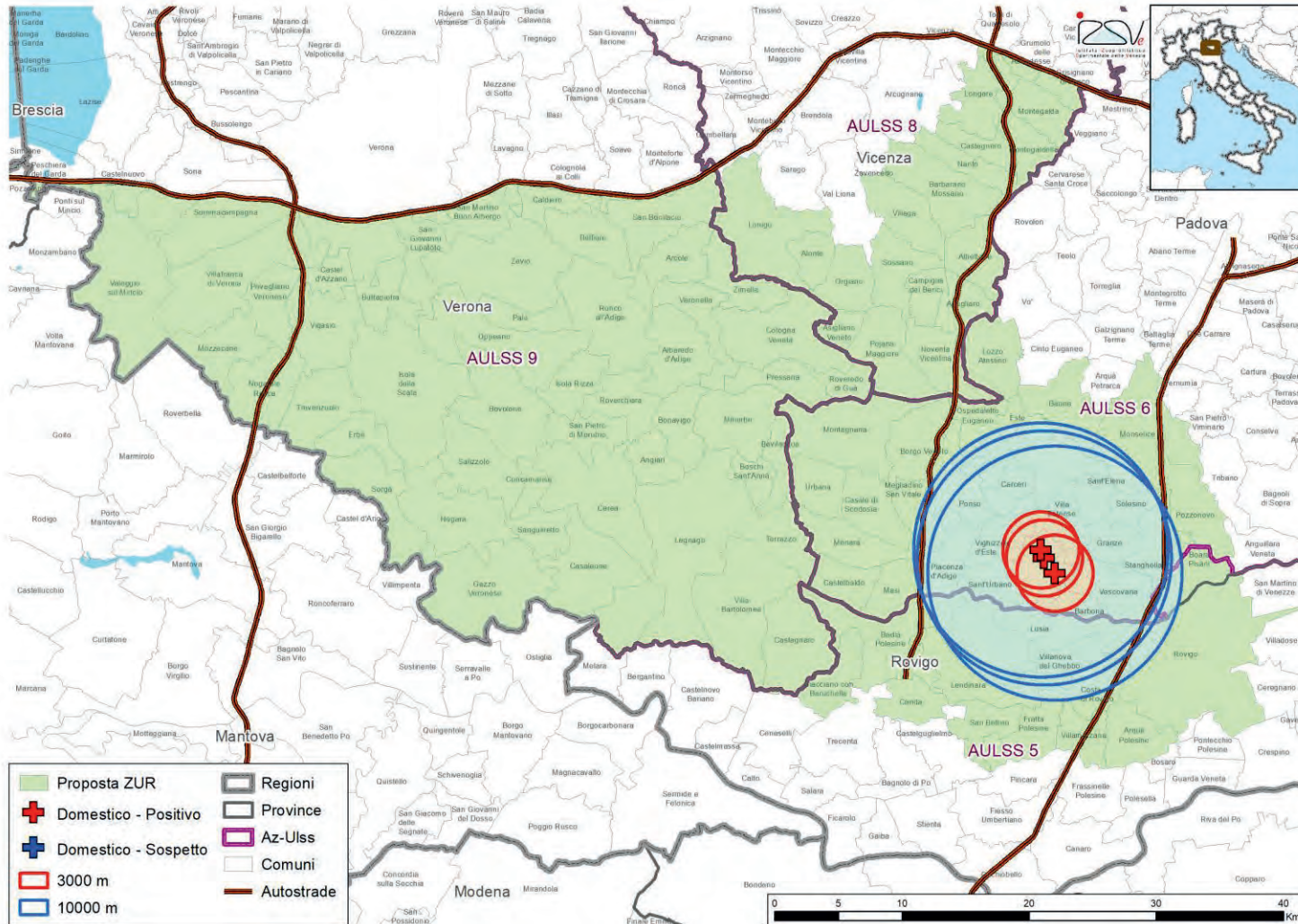


The virus identified in Italy from the first outbreak in **poultry** (13/11/2023) (**in red**) belongs to a new genotype and it is a reassortant virus generated through multiple reassortment events among the European HPAI viruses and LPAI viruses.

Worthy of note: the Italian virus shares a high identity with the HPAI H5N1 virus identified in the first case of HPAI in **wild birds** (Eurasian wigeon) in Italy (**in blue**).

Further Restriction Zone

A FRZ has been established by the Competent Authority of Veneto Region to prevent the further spread of the infection



Measures applied within the FRZ

- FRZ is in place until 7/12/2023
- Poultry companies should organize the programmed culling of meat turkeys (max 150 days for males and 110 days for females) according to a specific schedule
- Pre-movement clinical inspection and virological testing according to specific protocols
- Restocking of fattening turkeys is prohibited within the FRZ, with possible derogations following:
 - verification of compliance with biosecurity standards, and evaluation of geographical risk (according to the location of the farm within densely populated poultry areas)
- FRZ subject to revision based on evolving epidemiological situation

Other preventive and risk mitigation measures

Preventive and risk mitigation measures already in place since 4/10/2023 (Ministerial provision) such as:

- Reinforcement of high biosecurity measures
- Housing order
- Gathering of domestic birds for fairs, exhibitions and live-bird markets are banned
- Release of game for hunting is prohibited
- A strict monitoring plan in high risk areas of Veneto, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, on a weekly basis in broiler of age between 37 and 44 days, and fortnightly in fattening turkey older than 50 days and in pullets and laying hen older than 28 days (prevalence 3% - 95% CI)
- The use of live decoy birds belonging to the orders *Anseriformes* and *Charadriiformes* for hunting can be allowed by the local veterinary authority provided a favourable outcome of a risk assessment protocol; live decoy is prohibited in areas at high risk of introduction and spread
- Enhanced active surveillance for AI in wild birds



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Thanks for your kind attention