



Ministero della Salute

HPAI outbreaks in Italy

Directorate General for Animal Health and veterinary medicinal products



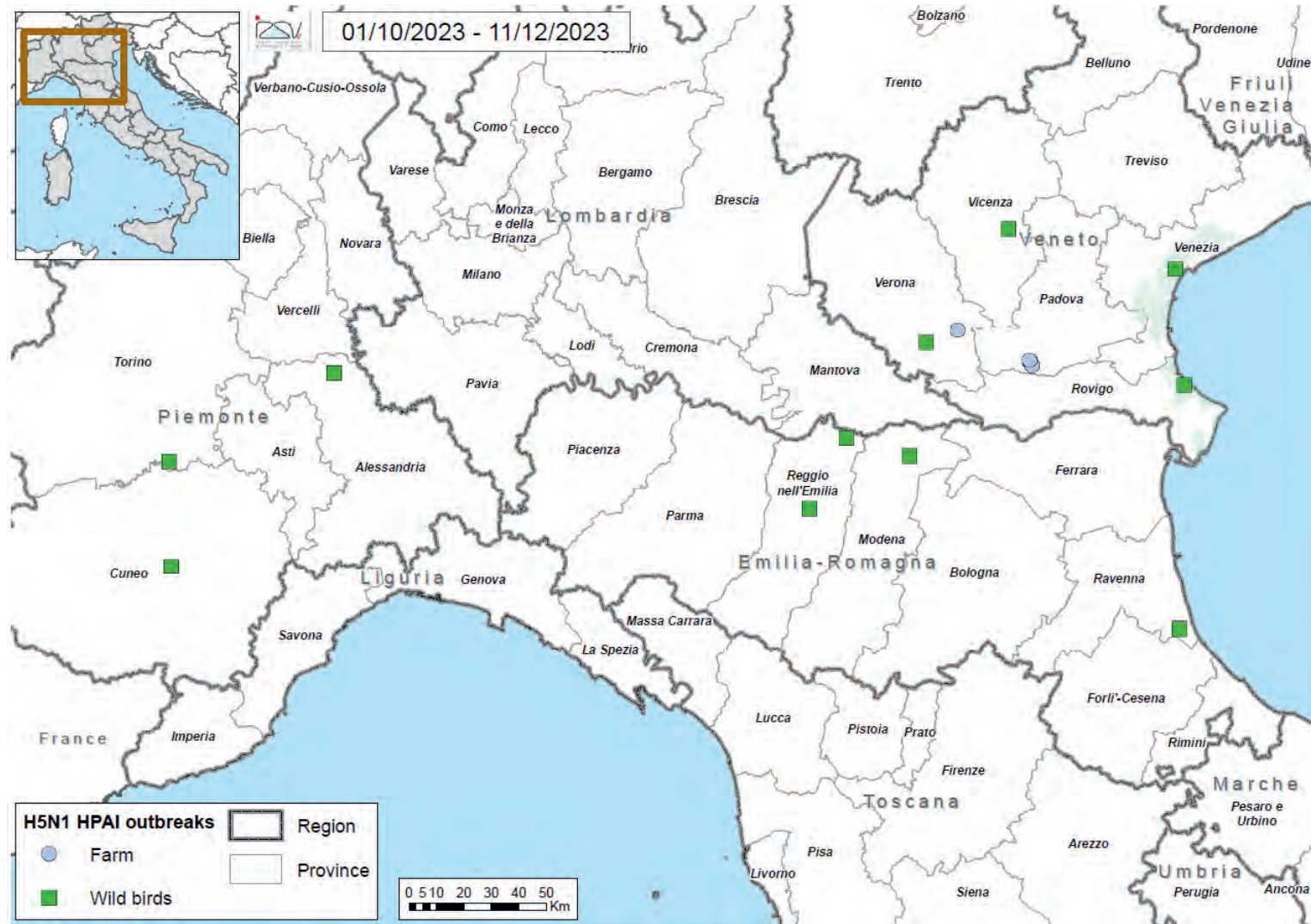
HPAI H5N1 in Italy

✓ 4 HPAI outbreaks in poultry (11/12/2023)

- 4 Veneto

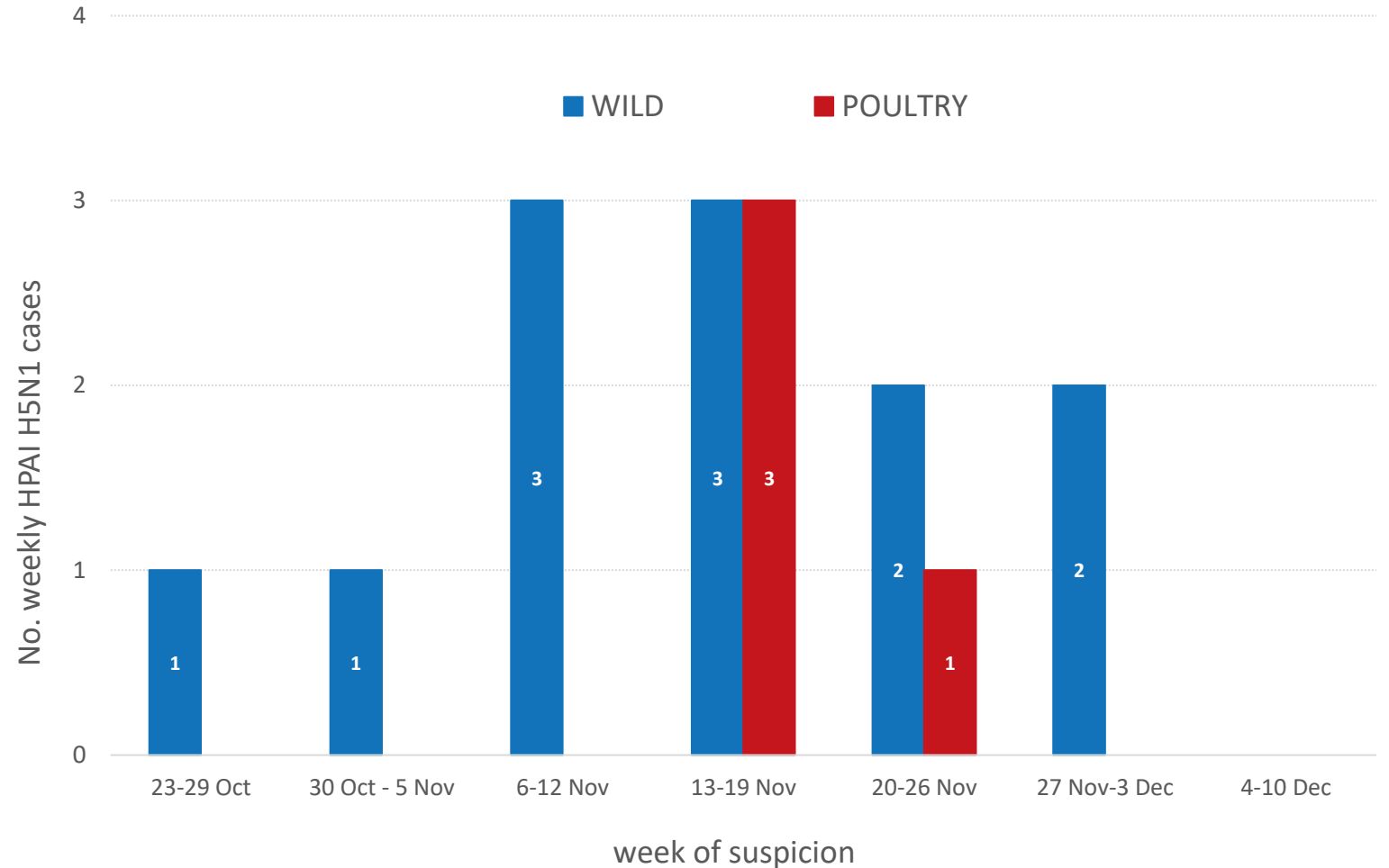
✓ 12 HPAI outbreaks in wild birds (11/12/2023)

- 5 Veneto
- 4 Emilia Romagna
- 3 Piemonte



Number of weekly HPAI H5N1 cases

The epidemic curve in autumn-winter 2023 shows the continuous and ongoing detection of HPAIv in wild birds but the sporadic introduction of the virus into poultry holdings



HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry and wild birds

DOMESTIC

n	ADIS Reference	Region	Province	Species	Subtype	Confirmation date	Extinction date	Measures Protection Zone in force until [§]	Measures Surveillance Zone in force until [§]
1	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00012	VENETO	PADOVA	MEAT TURKEY	H5N1	2023-11-13	2023-11-17	2023-12-08	2023-12-17
2	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00013	VENETO	PADOVA	GUINEA FOWL	H5N1	2023-11-16	2023-11-19	2023-12-10	2023-12-19
3	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00014	VENETO	PADOVA	BROILER	H5N1	2023-11-16	2023-11-22	2023-12-13	2023-12-22
4	IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00015	VENETO	VERONA	MEAT TURKEY	H5N1	2023-11-24	2023-11-27	2023-12-18	2023-12-27

WILD BIRDS

n	Species	Order	Subtype	Region	No. animals
1	EURASIAN WIGEON	Anseriformes	H5N1	EMILIA ROMAGNA, VENETO	2
2	MALLARD DUCK	Anseriformes	H5N1	VENETO	1
3	ANAS SPP	Anseriformes	H5N1	EMILIA ROMAGNA	1
4	GADWALL	Anseriformes	H5N1	EMILIA ROMAGNA	1
5	COMMON CRANE	Gruiformes	H5N1	PIEMONTE, EMILIA ROMAGNA, VENETO	7
6	CURLEW	Charadriiformes	H5N1	VENETO	1

Outbreaks in poultry

3 outbreaks within 3 days around mid-November in the province of **Padua**

- fattening turkey
- fattening guineafowl
- broiler

1 outbreak was detected last week of November in the province of **Verona**

- fattening turkey

Clinical signs

turkeys: increased mortality rate, nervous symptoms and reduced intake of water and feed

guineafowl: slight increase in mortality rate

broilers: none (positive at pre-movement to the slaughterhouse testing)

Environmental samples taken from the surface of feeders, drinkers and air fans in the broiler holding one day after the official confirmation, were negative to virological tests

NP phylogenetic tree

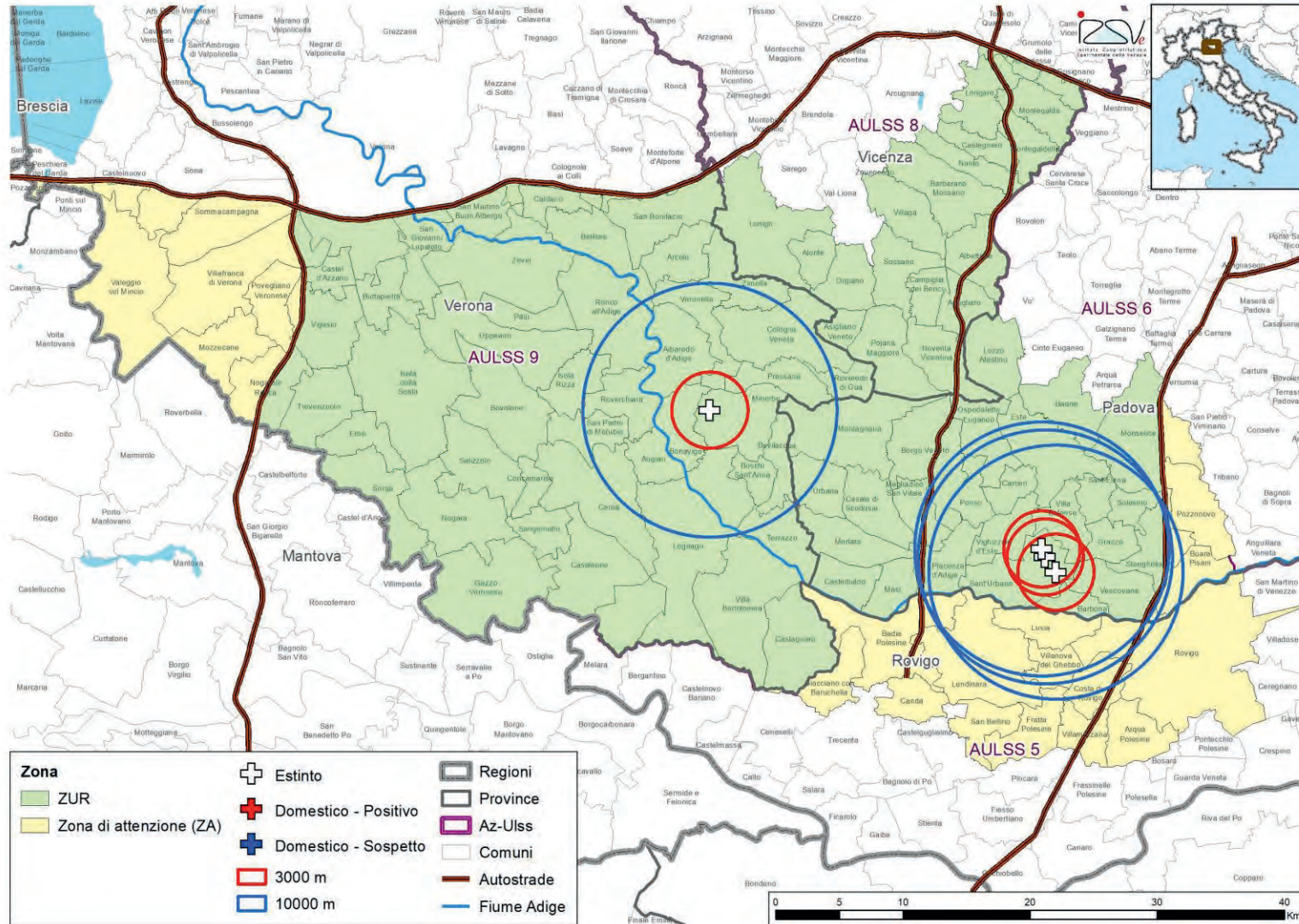
The viruses identified in Italy in poultry belongs to a new genotype (DA) and it is a reassortant virus generated through multiple reassortment events among the European HPAI viruses and LPAI viruses.

Worthy of note: the Italian viruses (in red) shares a high identity with the HPAI H5N1 virus identified in wild birds in Italy and other countries.



Further Restriction Zone

A FRZ has been established by the Competent Authority of Veneto Region on 20th November and amended according to the evolving epidemiological situation on the 7th December



Within the FRZ, two different areas have been defined (based on the poultry farms density, distance from HPAI cases, geographical elements such as highways and rivers)

Measures applied within the FRZ

- **Differences** are mainly related to re-stocking restrictions for fattening turkeys farms

- • in Verona province it is allowed according to territorial areas, defined as “homogeneous areas”, and the verification of compliance with biosecurity standards
- in Padua province it is allowed given a minimum distance of 1,100 mt from other poultry holding and the verification of compliance with biosecurity standards

- • it is allowed given the verification of compliance with biosecurity standards

- **Common** restriction measures

- Broiler farms should be emptied once for slaughtering purposes and within a maximum of 10 days after pre-movement clinical inspection and virological testing according to specific protocols

- FRZ will be in place until 28/12/2023

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
- Pre-movement clinical visit and testing of turkeys, laying hens and ducks from high risk area (beyond the FRZ)
- Gathering of domestic birds for fairs, exhibitions and live-bird markets are banned (in and from high risk area)
- Release of game for hunting is prohibited in high risk area
- 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)
- Active surveillance plans for AI in wild birds in high-risk regions



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Thanks for your kind attention