

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 16, 2021

**Report Number:** NO2021-0006

**Report Name:** Avian Influenza Detected Among Commercial Laying Hens in Western Norway

**Country:** Norway

**Post:** The Hague

**Report Category:** Poultry and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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**Report Highlights:**

An investigation conducted by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) has confirmed that the strain of avian influenza that was detected in a laying hen population in Klepp municipality in Rogaland (a county in Western Norway) on November 11, 2021, was a highly pathogenic variant, more specifically H5N1. This is the first time that highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in a commercial flock in Norway. This report summarizes the informational releases from the Norwegian national authorities on this detection.

## General Information

Following reports of several dead hens in a laying hen flock in Rogaland (a county in Western Norway), samples were taken to test for the presence of avian influenza. An investigation confirmed that the avian influenza virus that was detected was a highly pathogenic variant, more specifically H5N1. This marks the first time that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in a Norwegian commercial flock.<sup>1</sup>

As a national reference laboratory for influenza in animals, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) assists the Norwegian Food Safety Authority in their handling of the case. The NVI has sent material to the Norwegian National Institute of Public Health for whole genome sequencing of the virus. Those results are expected to be ready November 19, 2021, and will provide information about the virus' origin. Sample material will also be sent to the European Union reference laboratory.

A risk zone (3-kilometer zone) and an observation zone (10-kilometer zone) have also been established in the area where the infection was detected – see <https://mattilsynet.avinet.no/share/439624f6549b> for a map of the area.<sup>2</sup> In these zones there are now a number of restrictions and regulations for owners of poultry and other captive birds, including but not limited to:

- All poultry and other captive birds shall be kept isolated in their respective houses. If this is not possible or is unjustifiable for animal welfare, they must be kept elsewhere where they cannot come into contact with other poultry, other birds in captivity, or wild birds.
- Farmers are instructed to report to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority if their livestock is not registered with the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.
- Farmers must ensure that all movements in and out of their poultry farm are documented in writing (if there is a need for infection tracking).
- Farmers must ensure that people who come to or leave their farm carry out the necessary infection control measures to avoid the spread of avian influenza.
- Any dead poultry or other captive birds must be handled in accordance with the Norwegian Food Safety Authority's recommendations.
- Vehicles used to transport live poultry or other birds in captivity, carcasses, meat, feed, manure, litter, or other material that may have been in contact with poultry must be cleaned and disinfected.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.vetinst.no/nyheter/hoypatogen-fugleinfluensa-h5n1-pavist-i-verpehonsbesetningen-i-rogaland>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr\\_og\\_dyrehold/dyrehelse/dyresykdommer/fugleinfluensa/Utbrudd\\_av\\_fugleinfluensa\\_2020\\_2021/soneforskrift\\_i\\_forbindelse\\_med\\_paavisning\\_av\\_hoypatogen\\_fugleinfluensa\\_i\\_rogaland.44792](https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr_og_dyrehold/dyrehelse/dyresykdommer/fugleinfluensa/Utbrudd_av_fugleinfluensa_2020_2021/soneforskrift_i_forbindelse_med_paavisning_av_hoypatogen_fugleinfluensa_i_rogaland.44792)

- In the risk zone, animal owners with poultry or other captive birds must ensure that wheels and wheel arches on all vehicles are disinfected, for example with a low-pressure sprayer, when entering and exiting the farm.
- The transport of poultry, hatching eggs, table eggs, or poultry carcasses is prohibited (the ban does not apply to eggs bought in a store, etc.).
- The transport of livestock in or out with poultry or other captive birds is prohibited. The ban does not apply to domestic animals of the mammal class, which are kept only in residential houses, do not have contact with poultry or other birds in captivity, and do not have access to areas where these are kept.
- The movement or spreading of used litter or manure in or from areas with poultry or other captive birds is prohibited.
- It is also not permissible to arrange markets, exhibitions, competitions, or other gatherings of poultry or other captive birds.

For additional information on protective measures instituted by the Norwegian Government, see [https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr\\_og\\_dyrehold/dyrehelse/dyresykdommer/fugleinfluensa/Utbrudd\\_av\\_fugleinfluensa\\_2020\\_2021/soneforskrift\\_i\\_forbindelse\\_med\\_paavisning\\_av\\_hoypatogen\\_fugleinfluensa\\_i\\_rogaland.44792](https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr_og_dyrehold/dyrehelse/dyresykdommer/fugleinfluensa/Utbrudd_av_fugleinfluensa_2020_2021/soneforskrift_i_forbindelse_med_paavisning_av_hoypatogen_fugleinfluensa_i_rogaland.44792).

See also:

[Regulations on the control of avian influenza in poultry and other captive birds \(Regulations on the control of avian influenza\)](#) (in Norwegian)

[Regulations on preventive measures to prevent transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza from wild birds to poultry and other captive birds \(Regulations on highly pathogenic avian influenza\)](#) (in Norwegian)

[Regulations on the establishment of a risk and observation zone to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza \(AI Zone Regulations\)](#) (in Norwegian)

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.