



International Alliance for
Biological Standardization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Vaccination and Surveillance for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in poultry: Current Situation and Perspectives

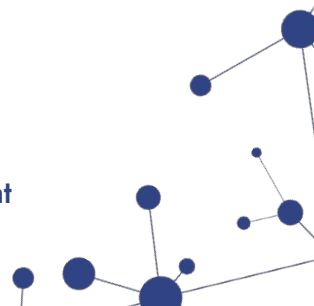
October 22-23, 2024
WOAH, Paris

Progress in support, dialog and implementation of vaccination

Vaccination against HPAI is an effective complementary control tool when stamping out policy alone is not sufficient. Vaccination does not affect HPAI status of a free country or zone if surveillance supports the absence of infection. At the 90th General Session (2023) of the World Assembly of Delegates of the WOAHA held in Paris, Members discussed the strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI and adopted a resolution which enlists various recommendations to combat the disease including implementation of vaccination.

Specific to avian influenza vaccination, the adopted Resolution recommends that:

1. Members, in consultation with the poultry sector may consider the implementation of vaccination as a complementary disease control tool that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors such as circulating virus strains, risk assessment and vaccination implementation conditions.
2. Members adopt vaccine best practices (stewardship) and reassess on an ongoing basis the use of appropriately field matched vaccine strains and the continuing need for update of vaccines.
3. Members respect and implement the adopted WOAHA standards and recognise compliant use of vaccination without negative consequences on trade, when the vaccination programme is supported by vaccination monitoring and disease surveillance systems that can demonstrate the effectiveness of and absence of infection.
4. WOAHA, with the support of its Reference Laboratories and OFFLU, provide up-to-date information to Members, the poultry sector and vaccine manufacturers on the genetic and antigenic characterisation of circulating virus strains, including comparison with existing vaccines, to infer levels of protection.
5. Members ensure the use of authorised vaccines manufactured according to WOAHA standards that are effective against circulating strains and regularly share information related to the effectiveness of the vaccination programme and their surveillance system to inform changes in vaccination strategies and policy.





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6. WOA, in partnership with other international organisations and the private sector, develop guidance considering different production systems, to support the implementation of standards, such as on biosecurity, surveillance including vaccinated populations, and on the implementation of vaccination, zoning and compartmentalisation.

The joint WOA-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) initiated Avian influenza Matching (AIM) project to provide information on the real time antigenic characteristics of avian influenza viruses. A technical report was released in July 2024 to support stakeholders and countries in their decisions regarding vaccine strain selection and vaccine match.

A revised ten year HPAI global strategy (2024 – 2033) was launched in May 2024 during the WOA General Session to Members and stakeholders. The updated global strategy adopts a systems approach, integrating HPAI with other broader global issues, and aims for long-term improvements in the poultry sector. The strategy emphasizes actions to protect poultry from HPAI infection through strengthening the use of effective tools such as biosecurity, proper vaccination, zoning and compartmentalization.

