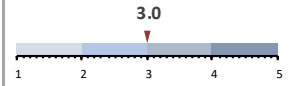


SUMMARY: RELEVANT SIGNALS (includes all signals rated ≥3.0)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

◆ In **Argentina**, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), almost 96% (~17,000) of elephant seal pups living at three breeding sites in **Patagonia**, where the H5N1 strain of HPAI was detected, have died in 2023; the WCS believes that the elephant seals had little to no interaction with infected bird populations (since newborn elephant seal pups feed solely by suckling their mothers), WCS suggests this provides evidence of mammal to mammal transmission

[Read More](#)



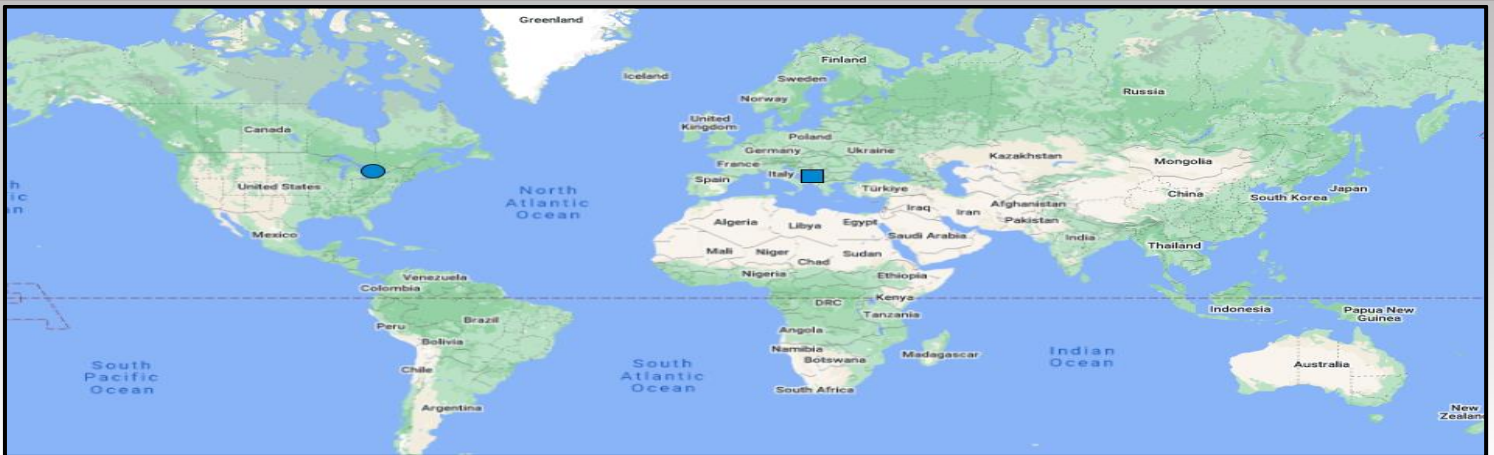
African Swine Fever

◆ ASF has been reported for the first time in **Montenegro**; the disease was confirmed in two dead wild boars, in the municipality of **Niksic**, near the border with **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

[Read More](#)



NEW EVENTS: (events rated > 2)



■ African swine fever in Montenegro

Pathogen: virus; **Transmission:** direct contact, fomite, vector; **Species affected in event:** swine

① ASF has been reported for the first time in Montenegro. The disease was confirmed in two wild boars found dead by local hunters in the municipality of Niksic, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. No cases of the disease have been found in local pig farms so far. [Read More](#)

Avg. Rating	3.0
No. of Signal	1
No. of Ratings	4

● Probable squirrelpox virus in Ontario, Canada

Pathogen: virus; **Transmission:** direct contact, vector, urine/feces; **Species affected in event:** squirrel

① After a five-year absence in cases, the Wildlife Haven Waterloo, an Ontario animal rehabilitation facility, has experienced a recent increase in calls about squirrels with probable squirrelpox infections. Squirrelpox typically causes hair loss around the face and limbs, and growth of small masses around the eyes, nose, and distal limbs of infected squirrels. The Haven is currently caring for a symptomatic juvenile squirrel that arrived in early December with siblings that have since died. Squirrelpox is highly contagious and believed to only affect squirrels (possibly woodchucks) in nature. It has previously been transmitted to rabbits in a laboratory setting. The virus does not affect humans. [Read More](#)

Avg. Rating	2.8
No. of Signal	1
No. of Ratings	4

CONTINUED EVENTS: (events rated ≥ 2.4)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in South America

No. of Signals: 01

No. of weeks in report: 59

Avg. Rating: 3.0

- In [Argentina](#), according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), almost 96% (~17,000) of elephant seal pups living at three breeding sites in Patagonia, where the H5N1 strain of HPAI was detected, have died in 2023; the WCS believes that the elephant seals had little to no interaction with infected bird populations (since newborn elephant seal pups feed solely by suckling their mothers), WCS suggests this provides evidence of mammal to mammal transmission

African Swine Fever in Europe

No. of Signals: 11

No. of weeks in report: 151

Avg. Rating: 2.0 - 2.8

- In [Italy](#), mislabelled vegan snacks from China were found to contain meat/pork that was positive for ASF
- [Greece](#) has reported ASF in domestic swine
- [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Italy](#), and [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) have reported ASF in wild boar
- [Sweden](#) is making progress in eliminating ASF via intensive searching and removal of dead wild boar
- The [UK](#) is facing an increased risk of ASF due to growing amounts of illegal pork imports

Influenza A(H5N6) in China

No. of Signals: 01

No. of weeks in report: 50

Avg. Rating: 2.6

- [China](#) has reported a human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) in a 59-year-old from Ziyang City, Sichuan Province, who visited a live poultry market prior to symptom onset; from 2014 to date, 89 human cases of avian influenza A(H5N6) have been reported by Mainland health authorities

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe

No. of Signals: 17

No. of weeks in report: 160

Avg. Rating: 2.0

- [Finland](#) has released new regulations in an effort to control HPAI on fur farms, requiring them to have netting installed, maintained vegetation, as well as closed storage and safe distribution of feed materials
- [Bulgaria](#), [Poland](#), [Moldova](#), [Austria](#), [Ukraine](#), [France](#), [Sweden](#), [Hungary](#), and [Ukraine](#) have reported HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry
- [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Italy](#), and [Hungary](#) have reported HPAI H5N1 in wild birds
- A summary of the overall HPAI situation in Europe is available [here](#)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Asia

No. of Signals: 04

No. of weeks in report: 125

Avg. Rating: 2.0

- [Taiwan](#) has reported HPAI H5N1 in a goose farm in Yunlin
- [South Korea](#) has reported another outbreak of HPAI H5N6 in domestic poultry
- [Cambodia](#) has reported HPAI H5N1 in backyard poultry in Kandal
- [Japan](#) has reported HPAI H5N1 in wild birds

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North America

No. of Signals: 03

No. of weeks in report: 99

Avg. Rating: 2.0

- Over the last week, [Canada](#) did not report any outbreaks of HPAI
- Over the last week, the [USA](#) has reported outbreaks of HPAI in commercial poultry in: South Dakota(1), California(1), Kansas(1); in WOAHP poultry in: Kansas(1); and in WOAHP non-poultry in: South Carolina(1), Massachusetts(1), Montana(1)

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS, REPORTS, AND GUIDANCE:

Coronavirus

- ◆ Pre-print: Lethal Infection of Human ACE2-Transgenic Mice Caused by SARS-CoV-2-related Pangolin Coronavirus GX_P2V(short_3UTR) [Read More](#)

Influenza

- ◆ Surveillance and characterization of avian-origin H3N2 canine influenza viruses in 2021 in China [Read More](#)
- ◆ Emergence of a triple reassortment avian influenza virus (A/H5N6) from wild birds [Read More](#)
- ◆ A case-control study of the infection risk of H5N8 highly pathogenic avian influenza in Japan during the winter of 2020–2021 [Read More](#)
- ◆ A case of swine influenza A(H1N2)v in England, November 2023 [Read More](#)
- ◆ Avian influenza virus cross-infections as test case for pandemic preparedness: From epidemiological hazard models to sequence-based early viral warning systems [Read More](#)

Vectors and Vector-borne Diseases

- ◆ Delayed *Plasmodium falciparum* Malaria in Pregnant Patient with Sickle Cell Trait 11 Years after Exposure, Oregon, USA [Read More](#)
- ◆ Seroprevalence of tick-borne encephalitis virus and vaccination coverage of tick-borne encephalitis, Sweden, 2018 to 2019 [Read More](#)
- ◆ Tick-borne microorganisms in *Amblyomma tigrinum* (Acari: Ixodidae) from the Patagonian region of Argentina [Read More](#)

Other

- ◆ Human Disease due to *Mycobacterium bovis* Linked to Free-Ranging Deer in Michigan [Read More](#)
- ◆ Global incidence and mortality of severe fungal disease [Read More](#)
- ◆ ECDC - Communicable disease threats report, 14-20 January 2024, week 3 [Read More](#)

Disclaimer

This intelligence report is intended to provide information to risk managers about emerging and zoonotic disease events that could pose a threat to Canada. It is based on information signals acquired and selected from twenty-one distinct disease surveillance sources via the Knowledge Integration using Web-based Intelligence (KIWI) tool hosted on the Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI) informatics platform. The report is based on the activities of the CEZD Community of Practice and subject to change based on evolving user needs.