

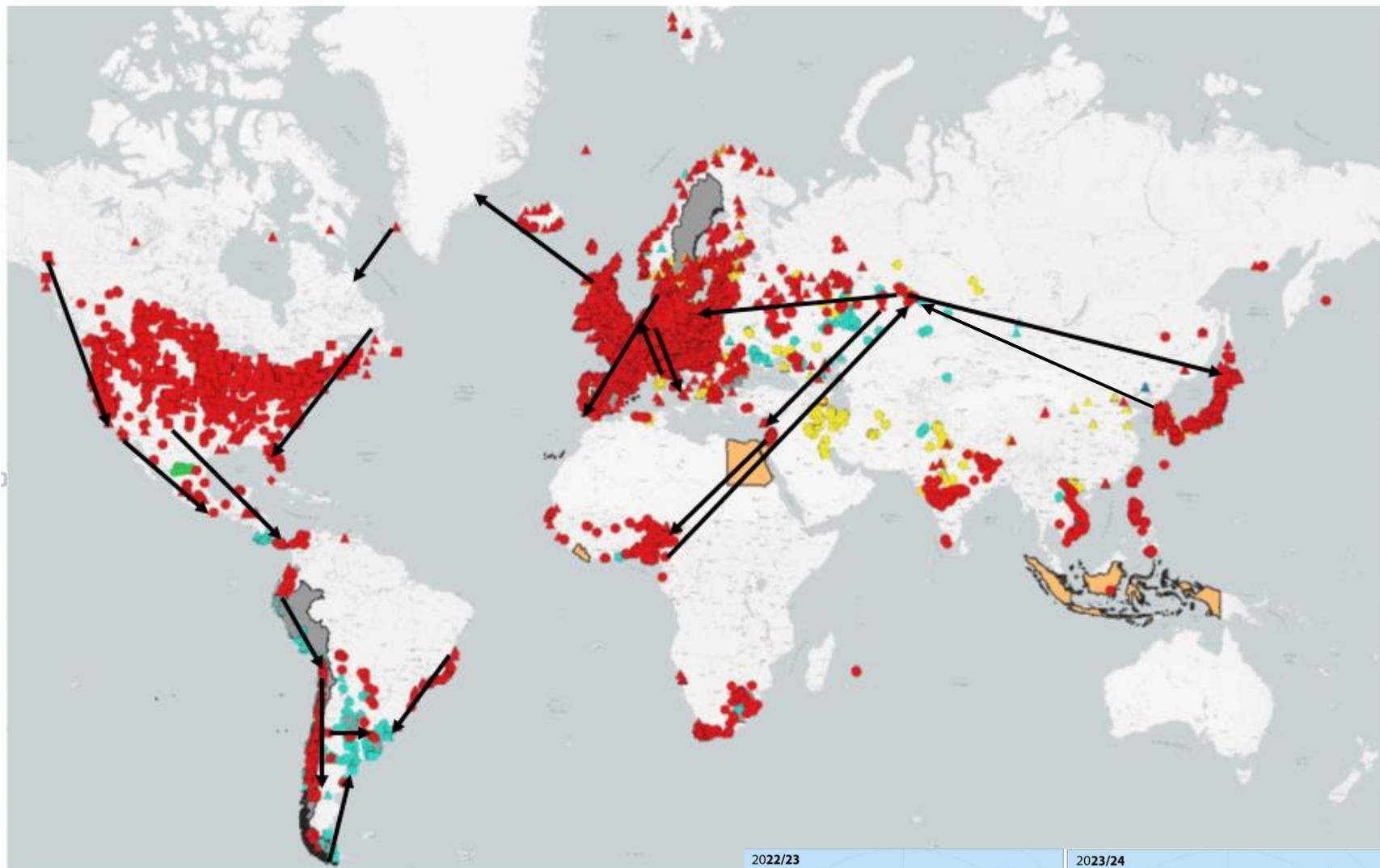
Epidemiologia e diagnosi dell'influenza aviaria negli uccelli domestici e selvatici, nei mammiferi e nell'uomo

Calogero Terregino

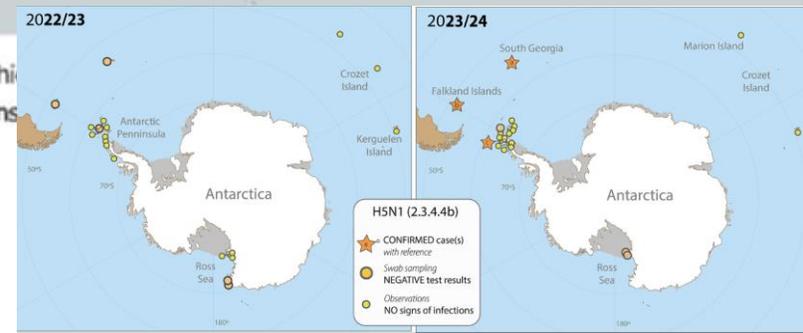
*Laboratorio di Referenza dell'Unione Europea/FAO/WOAH e Centro di Referenza nazionale per l'influenza aviaria e la malattia di Newcastle
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie*

Nel **1996** emerge il virus **H5N1 Gs/GD HPAI** nel pollame in **Cina**, si diffonde successivamente in Asia (2003) e in Europa e Africa (2006)

- Nel **2014** appare in Corea del Sud il **clade 2.3.4.4b** che si diffonde con gli uccelli migratori a livello intercontinentale: dall'Europa al Nord America (2021), Sud America (2022) fino all'Antartide (2024)
- Infezione in diverse specie aviarie (**oltre 530 specie, 51 famiglie e 20 ordini**)
- Continui spill-over nel pollame e negli uccelli domestici in moltissimi Paesi



Country which reported outbreaks in birds to WOAH mainly without geographical information
Country which reported outbreaks in mammals to WOAH through other means



Simeon Lisovski et al., 2024

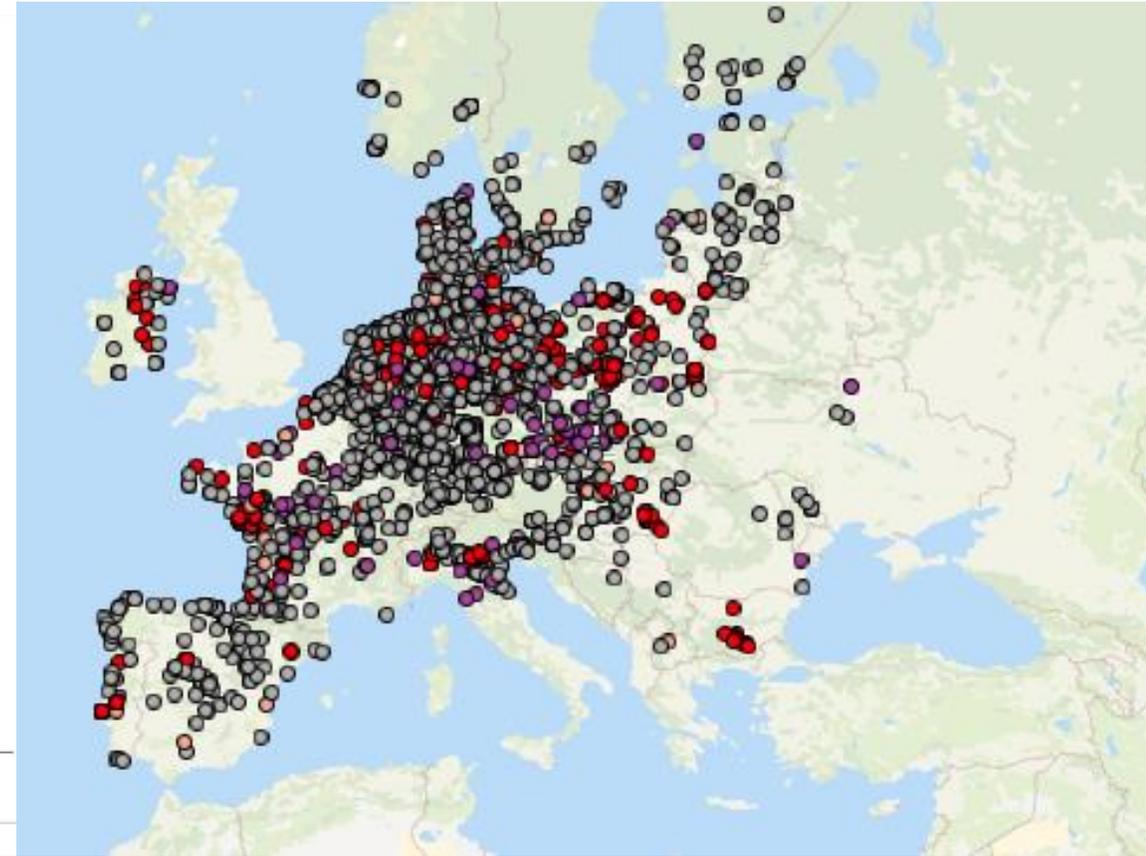
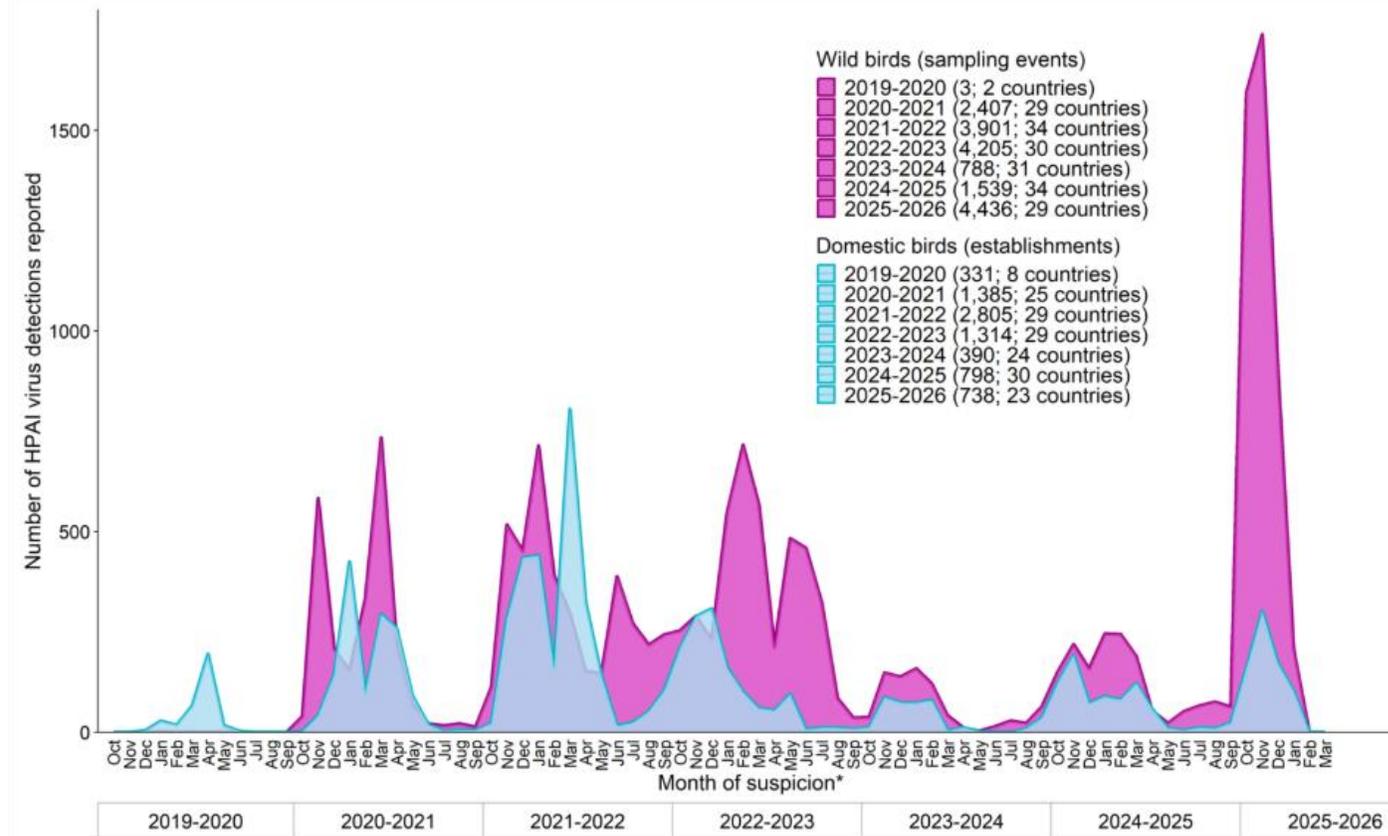
Unexpected Delayed Incursion of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (Clade 2.3.4.4b) Into the Antarctic Region

Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses



Casi di HPAI in Europa

Focolai di HPAIV nella stagione epidemica 2025-2026



Author: EFSA
 Data source: ADIS, WOAH
 Date updated: 20/11/2025

HPAI H5N1 in Italy

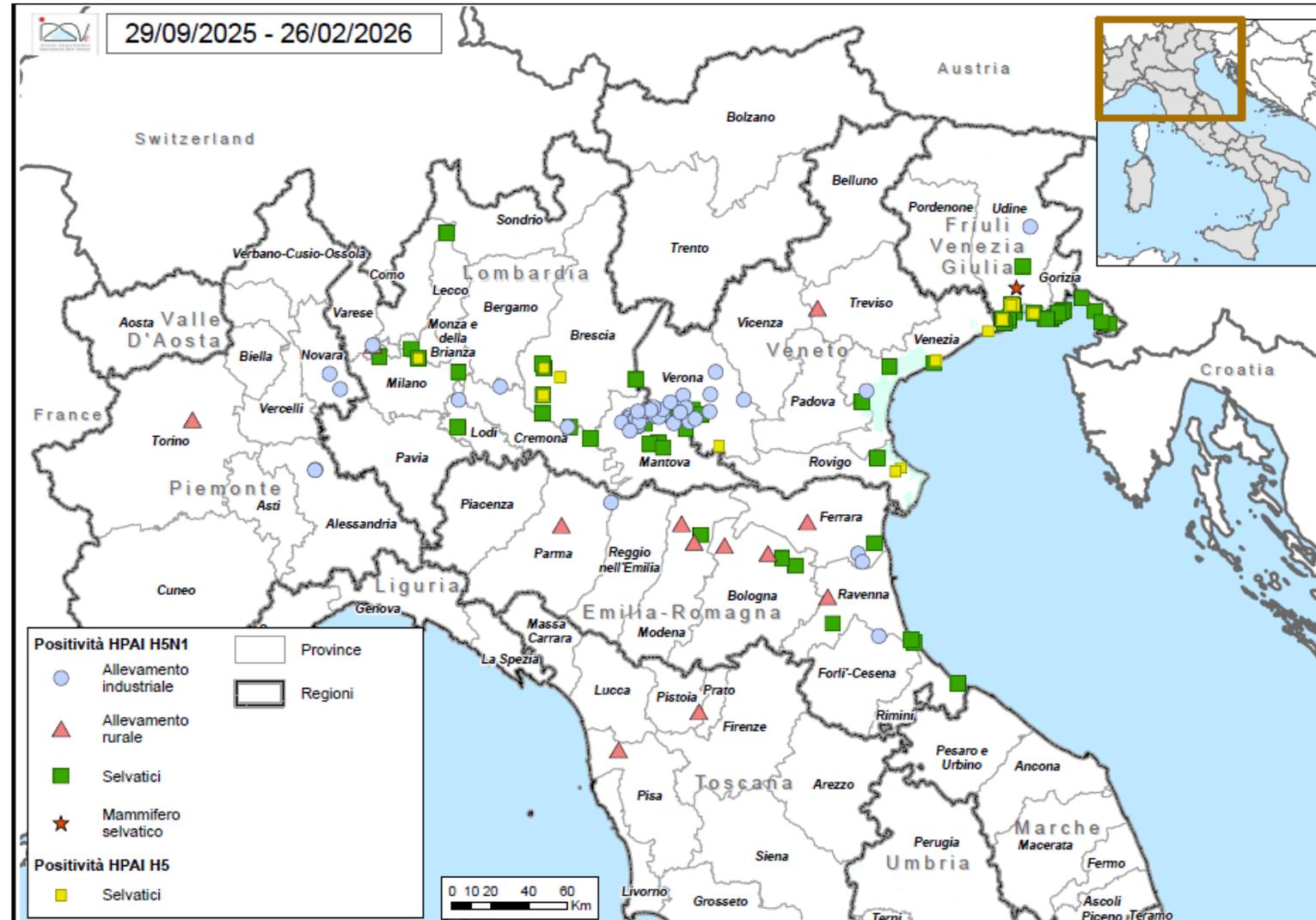
updated 26/02/2026 – last case of HPAI was confirmed on 7th February 2026

✓ **63** HPAI outbreaks in poultry (commercial and backyard)

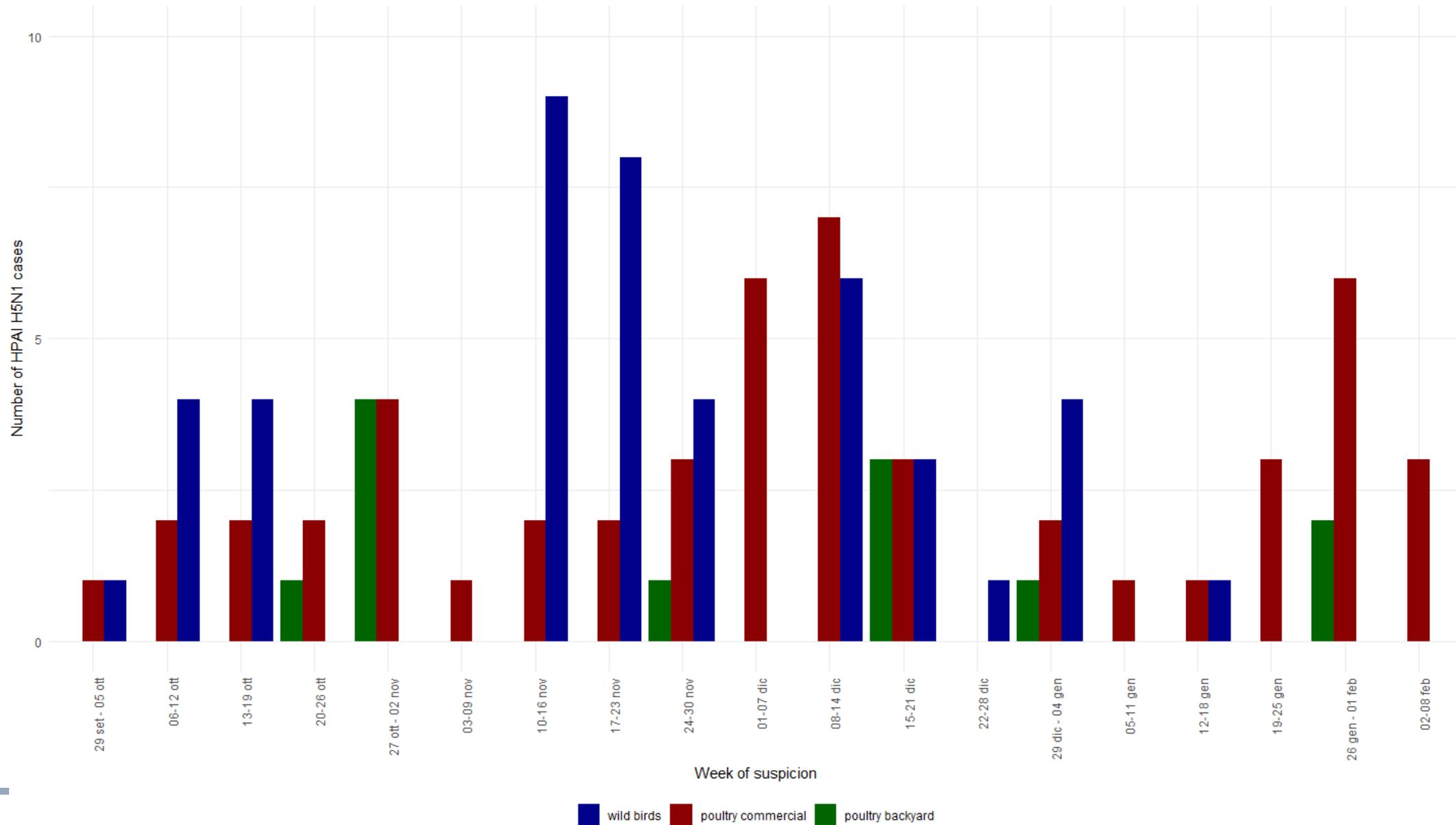
- 26 Lombardia
- 18 Veneto
- 11 Emilia – Romagna
- 5 Piemonte
- 2 Toscana
- 1 Friuli – Venezia Giulia

✓ **105** HPAI positive cases in wild birds (178 infected subjects)

- 47 Friuli – Venezia Giulia
- 27 Lombardia
- 18 Veneto
- 8 Emilia – Romagna



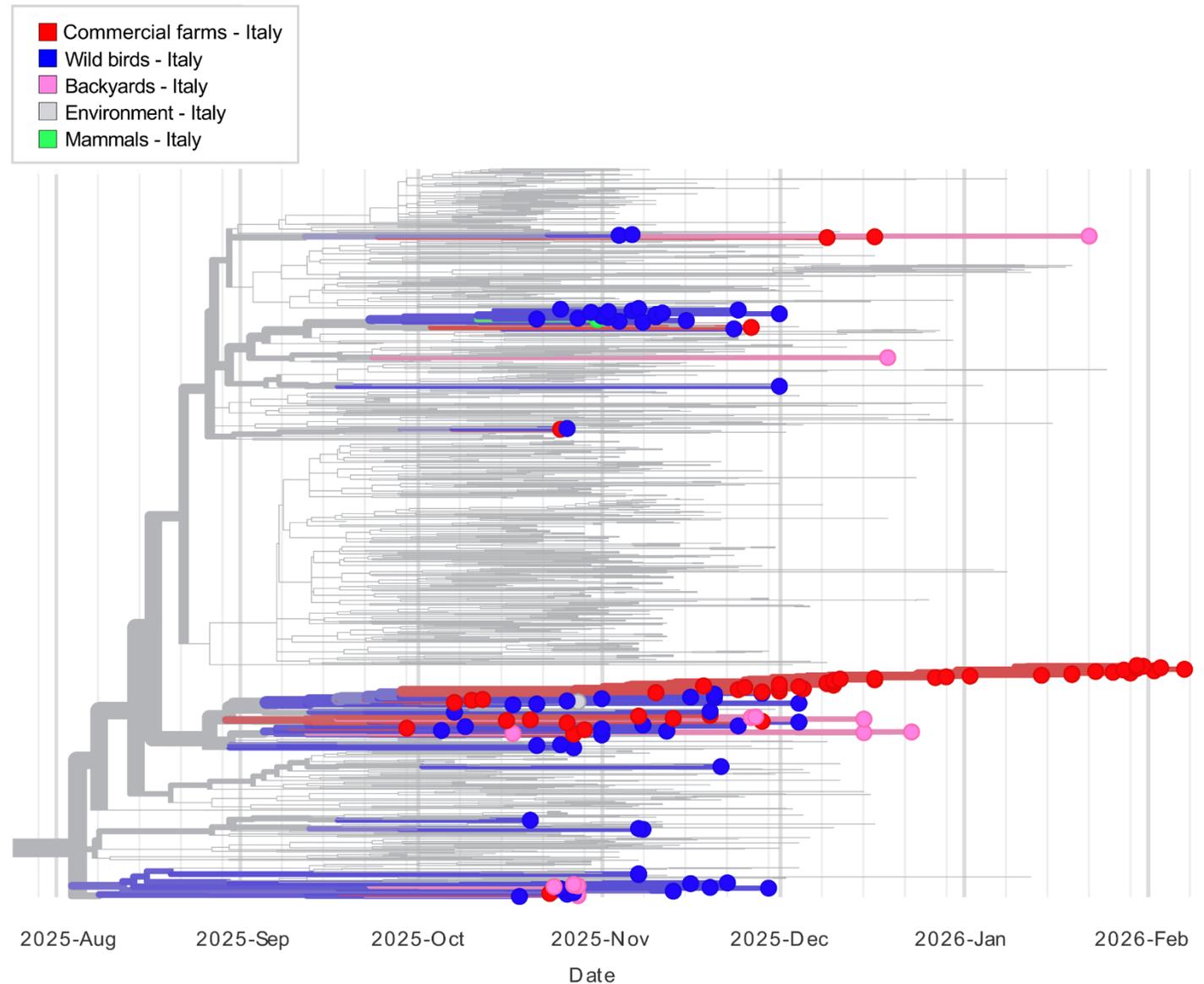
HPAI H5N1 epidemic curve



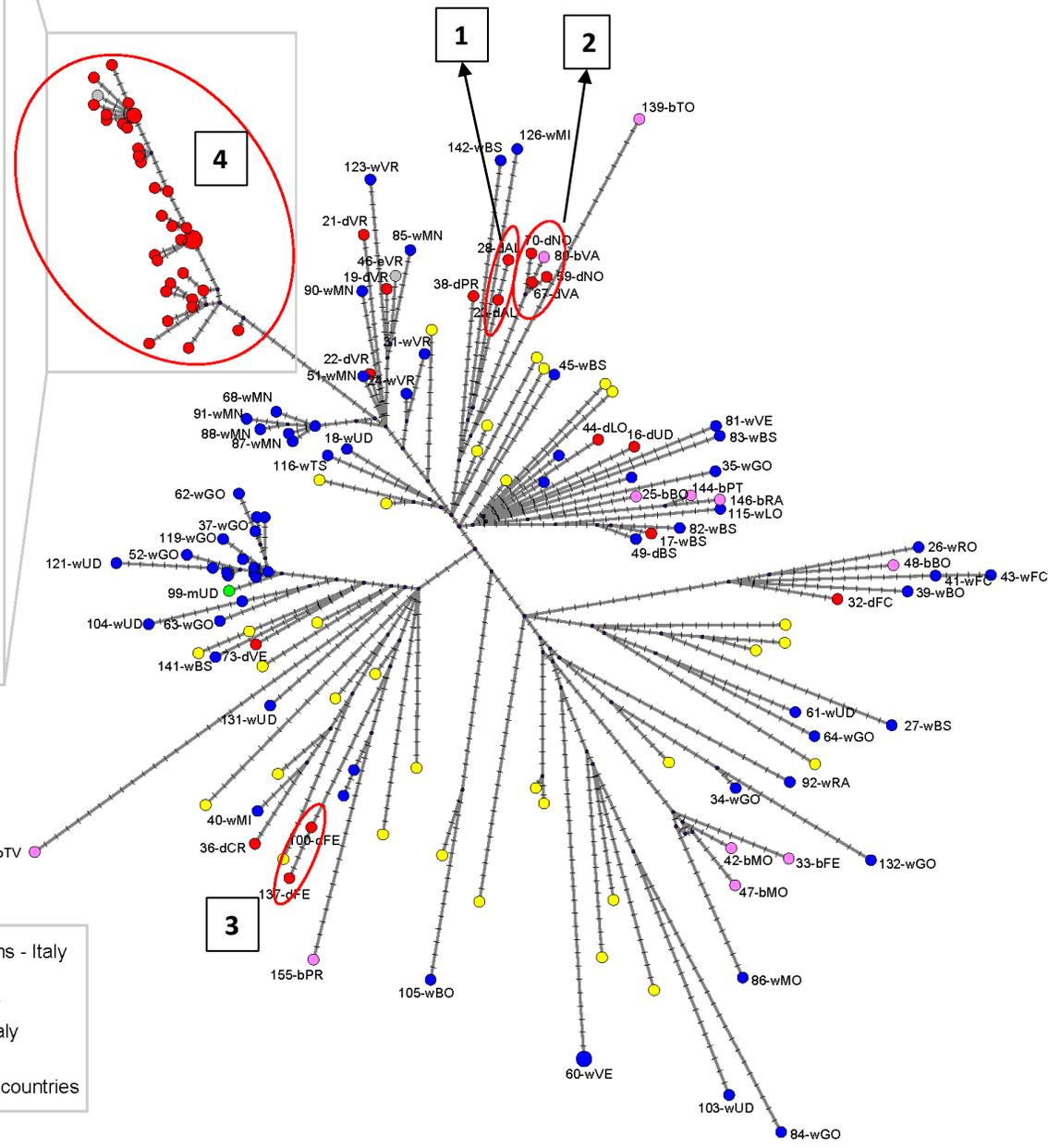
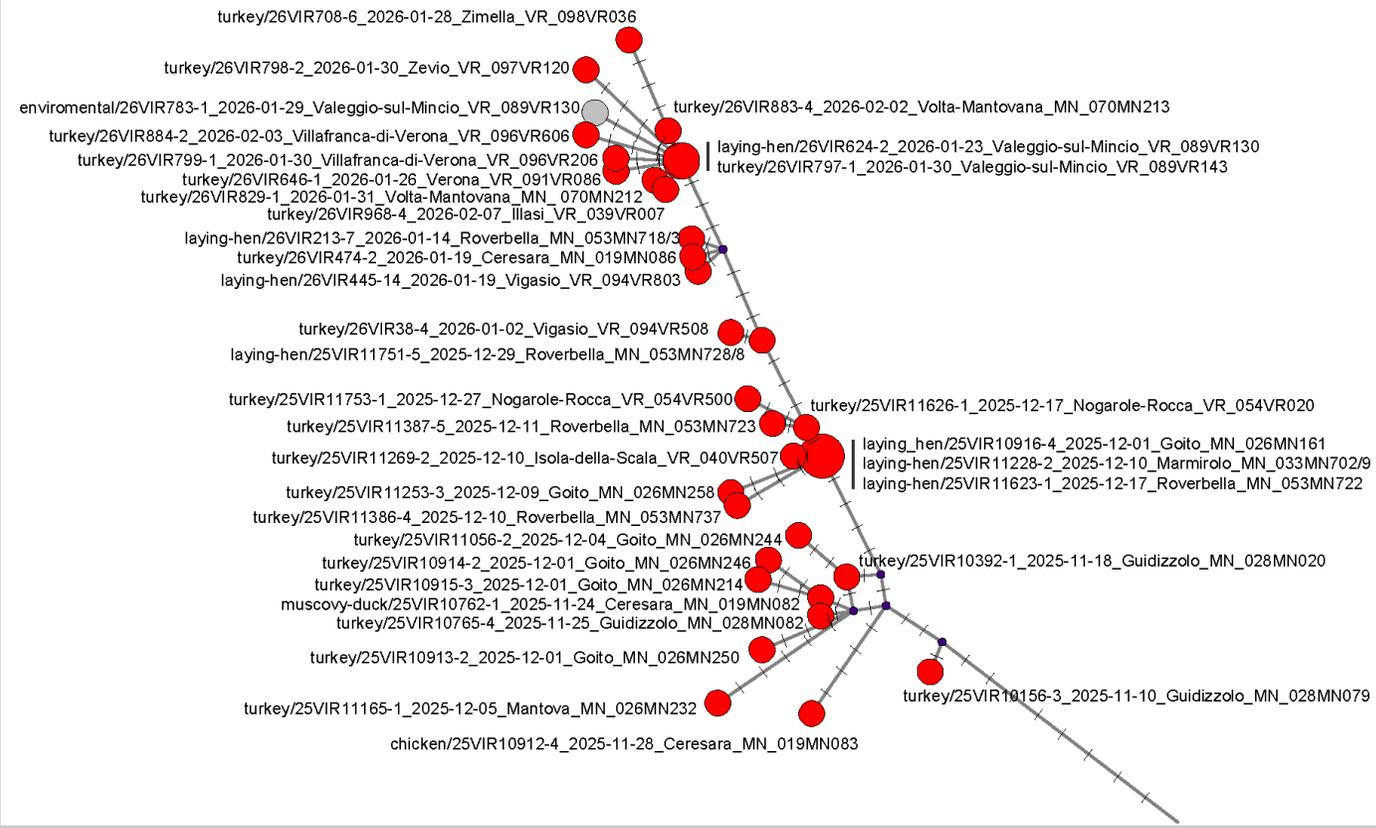
Overview of the genomic characteristics of the H5N1 viruses collected in Italy during the 2025-2026 wave

All HPAI H5N1 viruses identified and analyzed in Italy since September 29, 2025, belong to a new subcluster of the EA-2024-DI.2 genotype, designated **EA-2024-DI.2.1**.

Time scaled phylogenetic tree of the complete genome shows multiple introductions of HPAI H5N1 viruses in Italy.



Genetic Network with the H5N1 viruses collected in Italy during the 2025-2026 wave



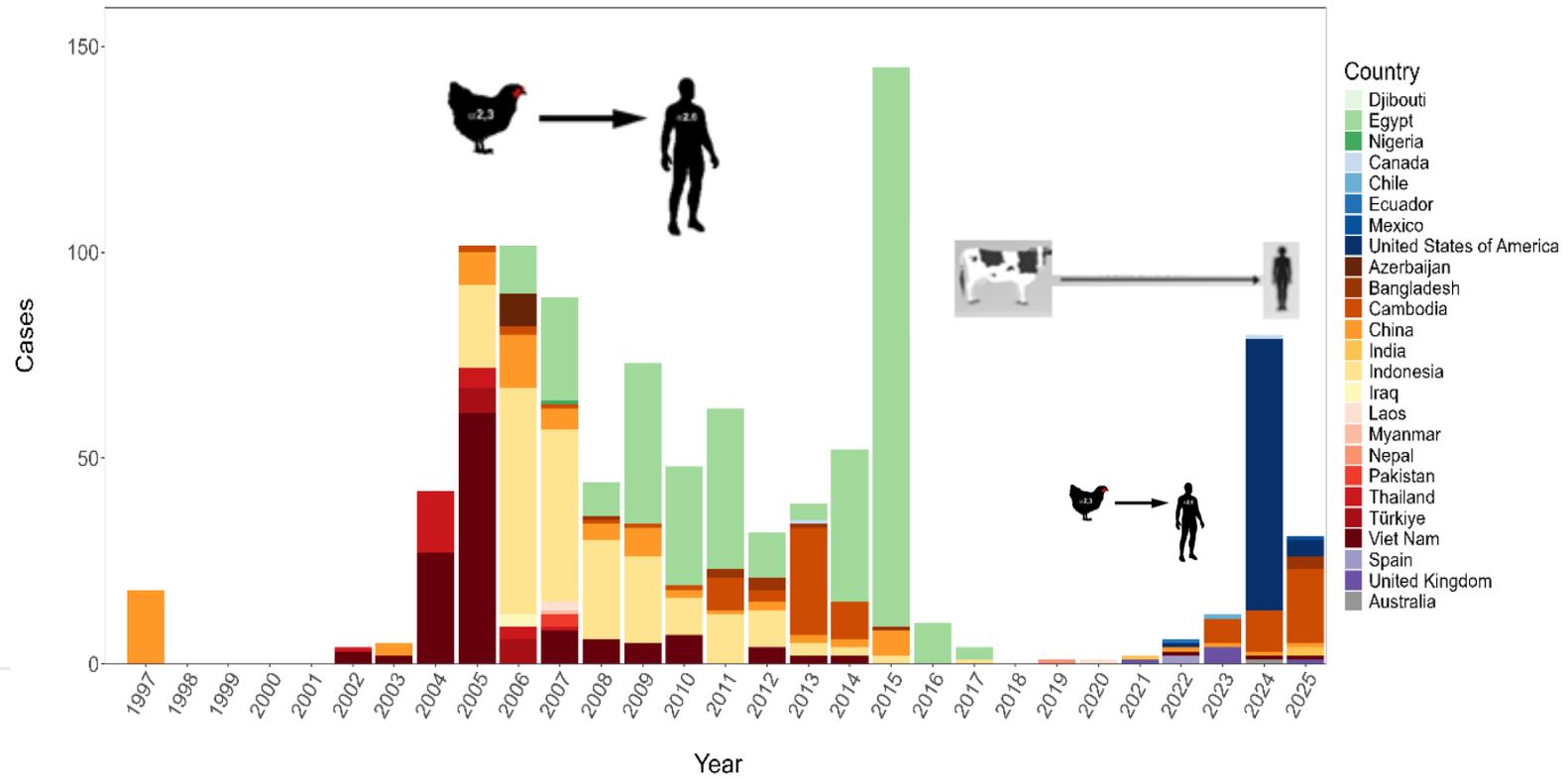
Genetic analysis indicates the occurrence of multiple primary introductions from wild into domestic birds.

Four genetically linked clusters, highlighted by red circles, have been identified in

1. Alessandria Province (16-20 Oct 2025)
2. Novara-Varese Provinces (7-19 Nov 2025)
3. Ferrara Province (9-17 Dec 2025)
4. Mantua-Verona Provinces (10 Nov 2025 – 07 Feb 2026)



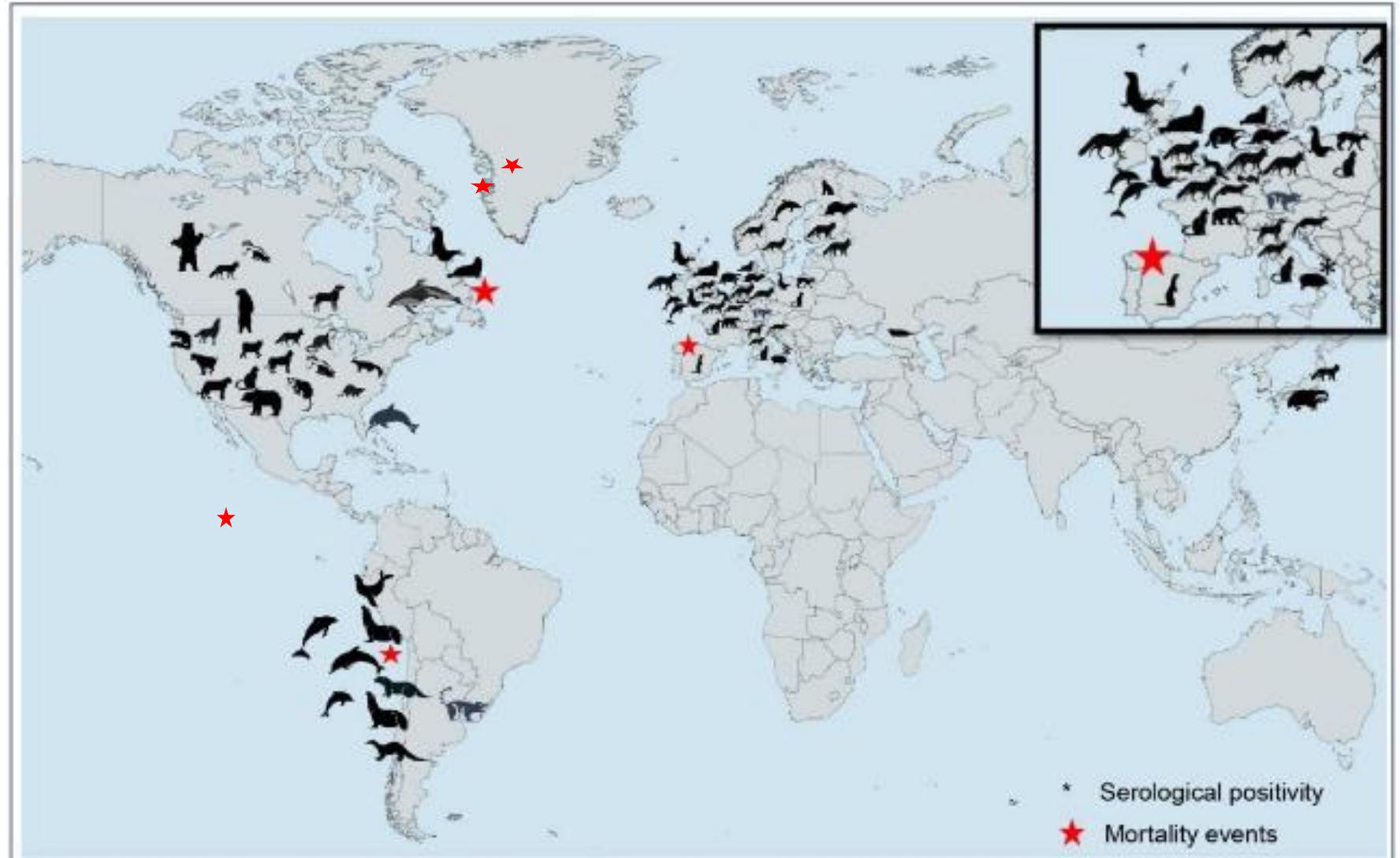
Casi nell'uomo



Subtype	Cases reported 2025-11-29–2026-02-20			Cases reported since first report			
	Cases reported	Deaths	Reporting countries	First report	Cases reported	Deaths	Reporting countries
A(H5N1)	1	0	1	1997	1,014	476	25
A(H5N2)	0	0	0	2024	2	1	1
A(H5N5)	0	0	0	2025	1	1	1
A(H9N2)	8	0	1	1998	195	2	10
A(H10N3)	1	0	1	2021	7	0	1

Clade 2.3.4.4b: Unprecedented impacts on mammals

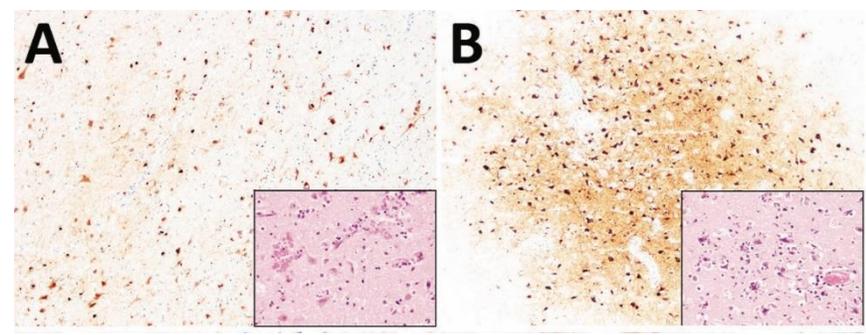
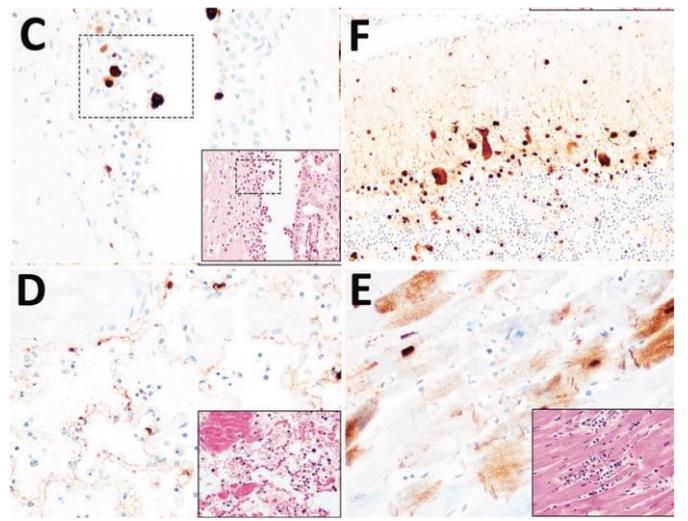
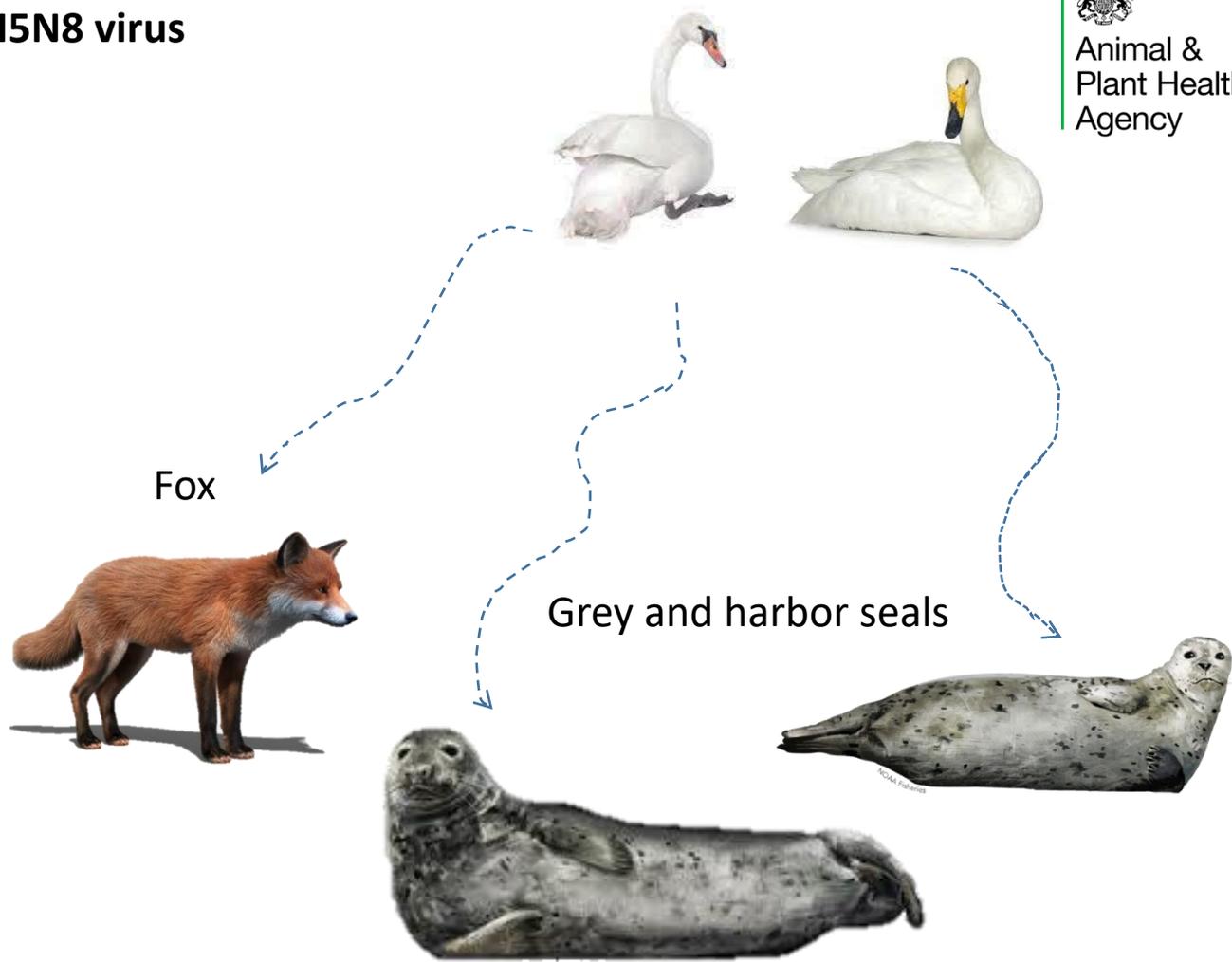
Coinvolgimento di **oltre 90 specie di mammiferi** (selvatici e domestici) a seguito di contatti con animali infetti o ingestione di materiale contaminato



**Encephalitis and Death in Wild Mammals at a Rehabilitation Center
after Infection with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N8)
Virus, United Kingdom**

[Tobias Floyd](#), [Ashley C. Banyard](#), [Fabian Z.X. Lean](#), [Alexander M.P. Byrne](#), [Edward Fullick](#),
[Elliot Whittard](#), [Benjamin C. Mollett](#), [Steve Bexton](#), [Vanessa Swinson](#), [Michele Macrelli](#),
[Nicola S. Lewis](#), [Scott M. Reid](#), [Alejandro Núñez](#), [J. Paul Duff](#), [Rowena Hansen](#), and [Ian H.
Brown](#)

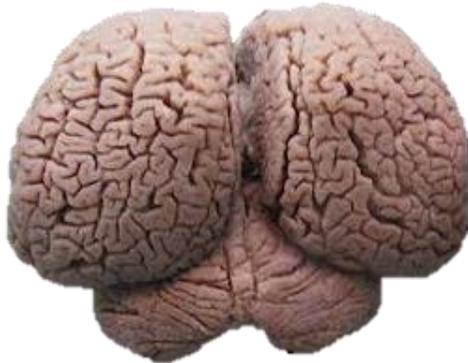
“One week after the death of the mute swans,
severe malaise, neurologic signs, and mortality
appeared in seals and in one fox.”



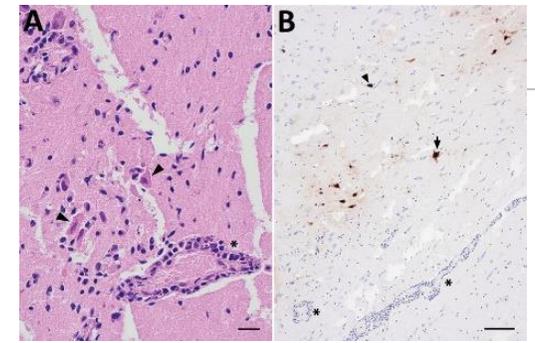
Porpoise



<https://www.sva.se/aktuellt/pressmeddelanden/forsta-fallet-av-fagelinfluensa-bekraftad-hos-tumlare/>



Meningoencephalitis



Brain tissue showing neuronal necrosis (arrowheads) and perivascular lymphoplasmacytic cuffing of vessels and vasculitis

Bottlenose dolphin



<https://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/2022/09/07/a-first-avian-influenza-detected-in-american-dolphin/>

● Come può il virus dell'IA raggiungere il cervello nei mammiferi?

Via olfattiva:

L'H5N1 può entrare nel cervello attraverso il nervo olfattivo, che si estende dalla cavità nasale al bulbo olfattivo nel cervello. Questa via è supportata dalla presenza del virus nel bulbo olfattivo e dal rilevamento dell'antigene nucleoproteico H5N1 nella via olfattiva dei furetti.

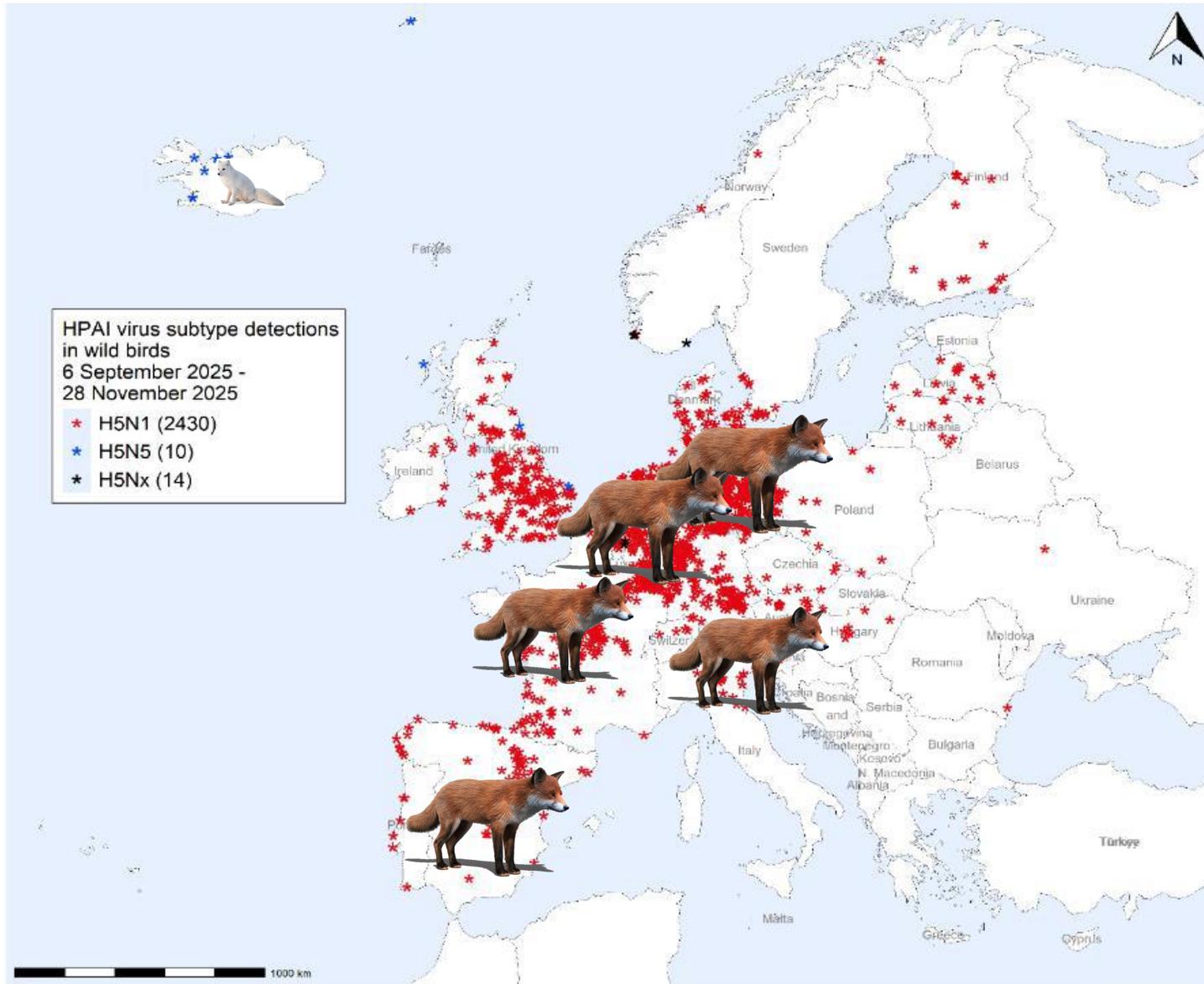
Coinvolgimento dei nervi cranici o del sistema nervoso enterico:

L'H5N1 può anche entrare nel sistema nervoso centrale (tronco encefalico) attraverso nervi cranici come il nervo trigemino, facciale o sistema nervoso enterico (nervo vago in primis, come emerso da studi nei gatti).

Infezione neuronale per via ematogena:

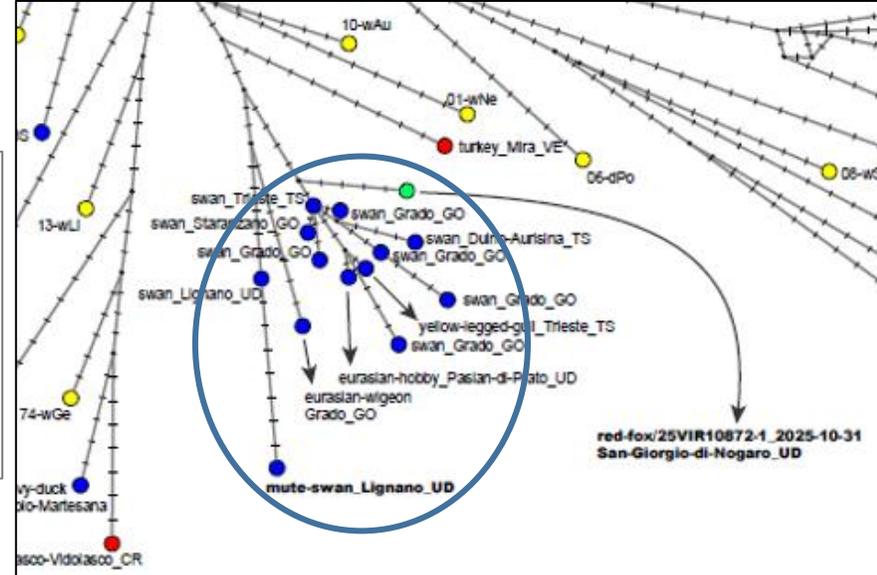
L'H5N1 può infettare direttamente le cellule cerebrali (neuroni e cellule ependimali attraverso la diffusione ematogena e invasione del liquor per danneggiamento della BEE (danno endoteliale).

Casi di HPAI in Europa nei mammiferi selvatici da settembre 2025



Virus H5N1 identificati nelle volpi in Italia

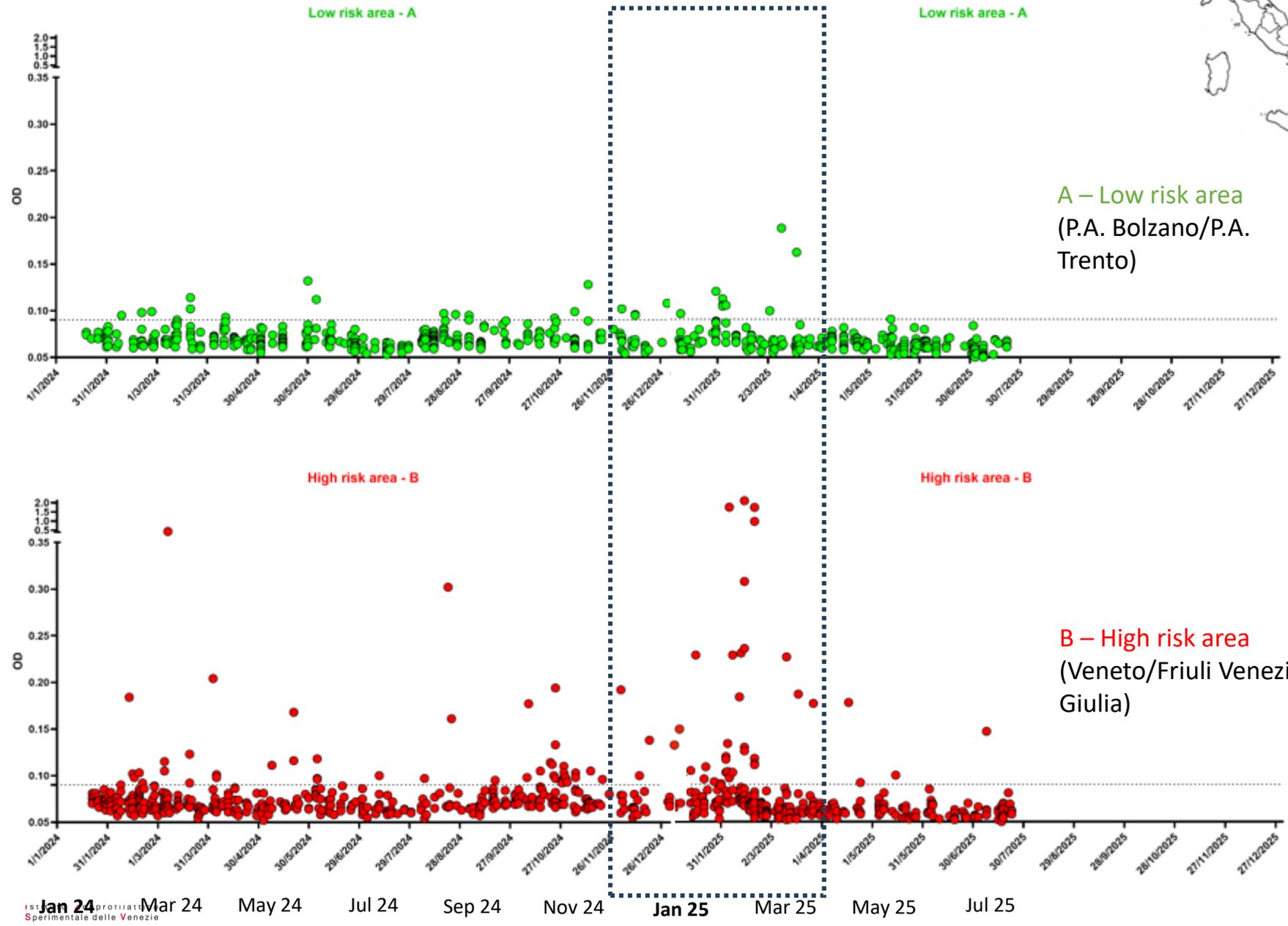
- Un virus H5N1 identificato in una volpe a Porcia (PN), ritrovata morta ad ottobre 2024 e uno identificato ad ottobre 2025 in un'altra volpe investita a San Giorgio di Nogaro (UD), formano cluster con ceppi riscontrati in volatili selvatici in Veneto o Friuli V.G. nello stesso periodo.
- Il virus di San Giorgio di Nogaro presentava la **mutazione 627K nel segmento PB2** marker di adattamento al mammifero



- Un virus H5N1 identificato il 14 dicembre 2024 in una volpe (cacciata) a Quinzano D'Oglio (BS), mostra un'elevata similarità con un virus identificato in un volatile selvatico nella stessa provincia
- Il virus presentava la **mutazione 627K nel segmento PB2**.

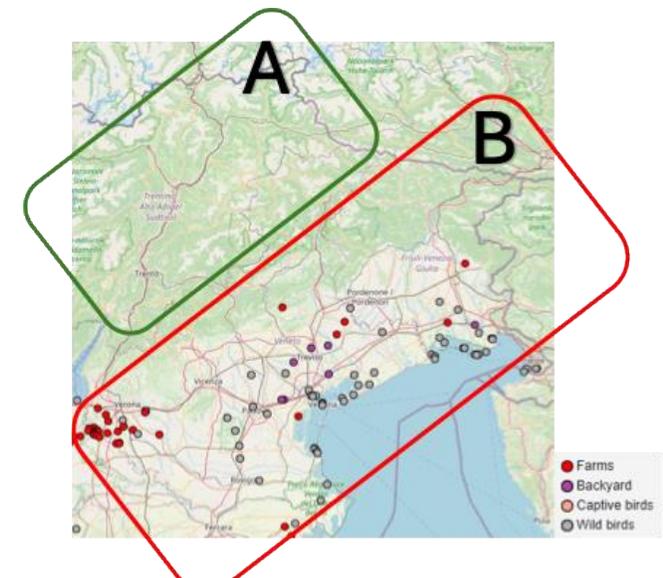


Lung fluids from foxes and other wild carnivores in the North East of Italy (indirect ELISA modified for carnivores) (Jan 24-Jul 25)



A – Low risk area
(P.A. Bolzano/P.A. Trento)

B – High risk area
(Veneto/Friuli Venezia Giulia)



L'H5N1 nei mustelidi

A domestic ferret was fed **chicken and duck meat** purchased from a shop!



Signs: listless, limping, trembling, lethargy, high fever 41°C

In 2 days...

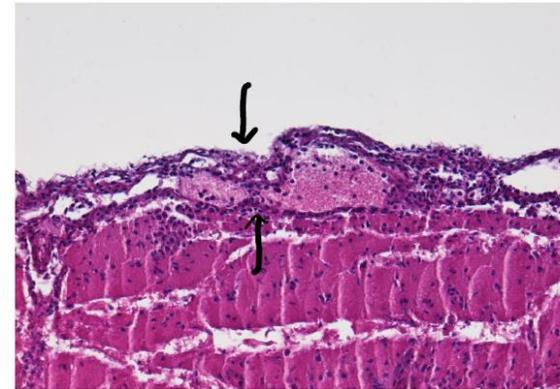
Admission to the clinic with antibiotic/anti-inflammatory treatment

In 4 days...

Suppression of the ferret

H5N1 virus

Organ	Ct value for AI matrix gene (Spackman et al., 2002)
brain	13.02
lungs	27.4
kidney	31.28
heart	29.45
spleen	29.19
pharynx	23.48
liver	23.23
gallbladder	19.52
stomach	26.96
small intestine	31.12
colon	32.0
rectum	36.0
urinary bladder	26.96

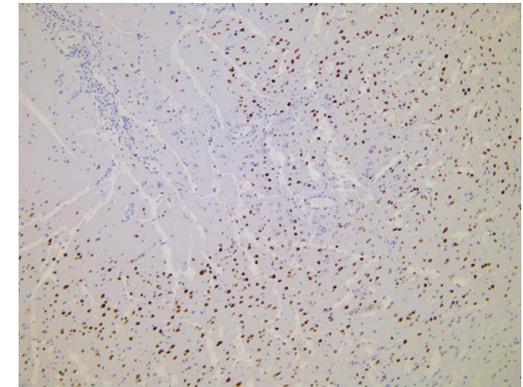


Multifocal lymphocytic infiltrates of varying sizes in the meninges.

The **brain** showed multifocal, mild to moderate, **necrosis of the neurons with chromatolysis**, **multifocal perivascular cuffing (IHC positive)**

Kidney showed multifocal tubular necrosis

Liver-multifocal areas of hepatocellular necrosis



Influenza aviaria nel gatto

Il gatto, come molti altri felini, è una specie particolarmente sensibile al virus H5N1 HPAI. Spesso l'infezione è sistemica e in molti casi con esito infausto.

Segnalati casi in molti paesi (es. Corea del Sud, Polonia, USA, Olanda, Germania), spesso funge da sentinella.

Infezione riconducibili al consumo di carne di pollame, uccelli selvatici, latte contaminato o frequentazione di ambienti ricchi di virus

La malattia può iniziare con perdita di appetito, letargia e febbre, per poi progredire rapidamente, con segni neurologici (ad esempio, atassia, movimenti in circolo, tremori, convulsioni o cecità), depressione grave, scolo nasale, lacrimazione, sintomi respiratori, tra cui respiro accelerato o difficoltoso, e talvolta starnuti o tosse



www.lesimpressionsnouvelles.com

Constricted pupils of a cat unresponsive to light (by Ł. Adaszek).



<https://www.thebullvine.com/news/milk-from-h5n1-bird-flu-infected-cows-linked-to-fatal-illness-in-north-texas-cats/>

Bird Flu (H5N1) & Cats

*Experts' understanding of H5N1 avian influenza is continually evolving and **recommendations may change** as we learn more.



CATS

are very susceptible to H5N1 infection, but at this time the overall risk for exposure and infection is believed to be low.



Cats Most at Risk:

- Those who consume unpasteurized dairy products or raw or undercooked poultry
- Those with exposure to sick or deceased wild birds, particularly waterfowl like geese and ducks
- Those who come in contact with poultry or dairy cows on farms or in backyard flocks and those in contact with infected people or animals

Your veterinarian is your best resource. Contact them if you have questions or if you suspect illness.

Signs of Infection:

- Respiratory signs (coughing, trouble breathing, nasal discharge, sneezing)
- Lethargy
- Neurological disorders (trouble walking, disorientation, etc.)
- Sudden onset of disease or death without prior signs of illness or injury



How to Limit Cat Risk:

- Keep cats indoors or in enclosed "catios"
- Prevent contact with dairy cows or poultry, including backyard flocks
- Avoid feeding unpasteurized dairy products or raw or undercooked poultry
- Prevent exposure to sick or deceased wild birds, particularly waterfowl (geese and ducks)



** DOGS

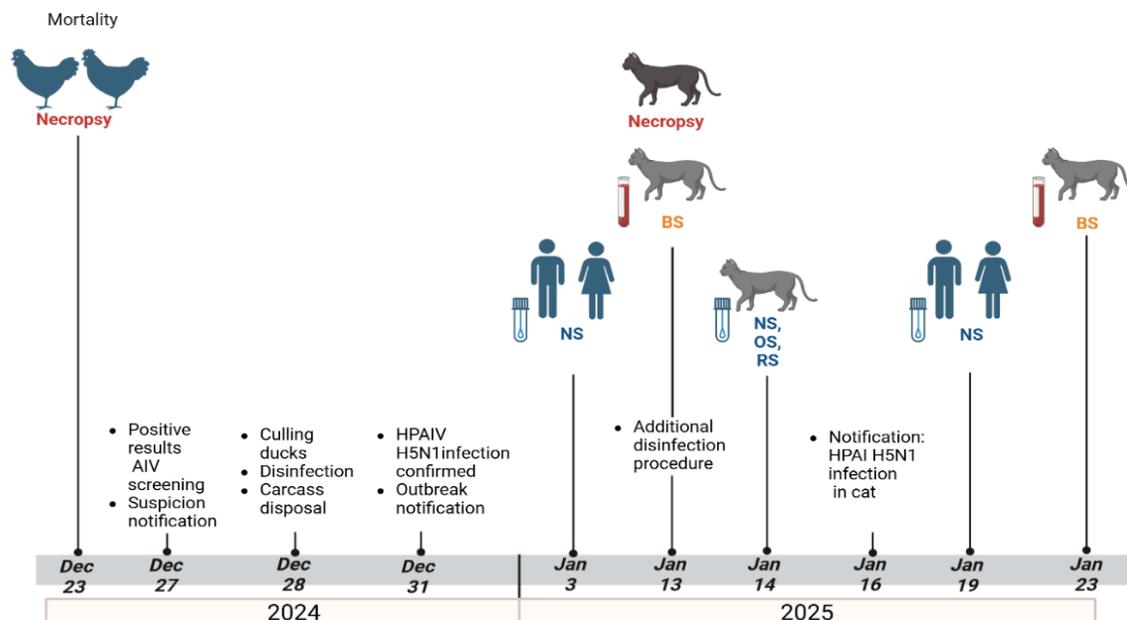
appear less susceptible to the current H5N1 strain though this could evolve.



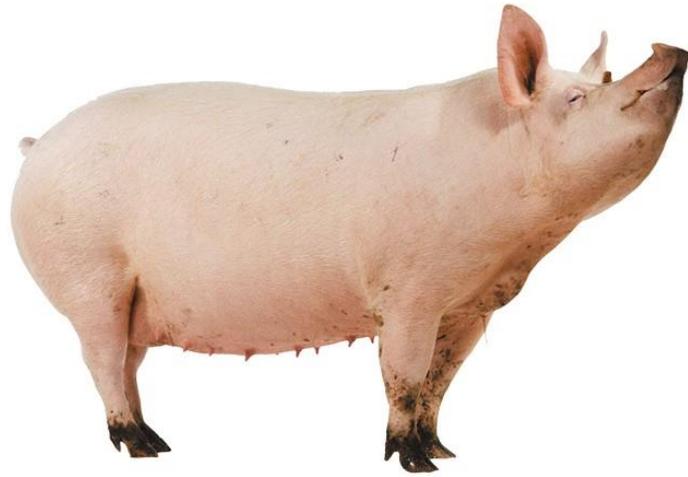
Virus H5N1 identificato in un gatto deceduto nel comune di Valsamoggia (BO)



- Il genoma del virus H5N1 identificato nel gatto domestico trovato morto il 13 gennaio 2025 presso il focolaio di Valsamoggia (BO) del 31.12.2024 mostra la massima somiglianza con il virus H5N1 identificato in polli di questo allevamento.
- Nell'intero genoma sono state osservate solo tre differenze nucleotidiche tra il virus del gatto e quello del pollame. Da segnalare la **comparsa della mutazione 627K** nel segmento PB2. Questa mutazione migliora l'adattamento del virus ai mammiferi, in quanto determina un aumento dell'attività della polimerasi e della replicazione in cellule di mammifero.

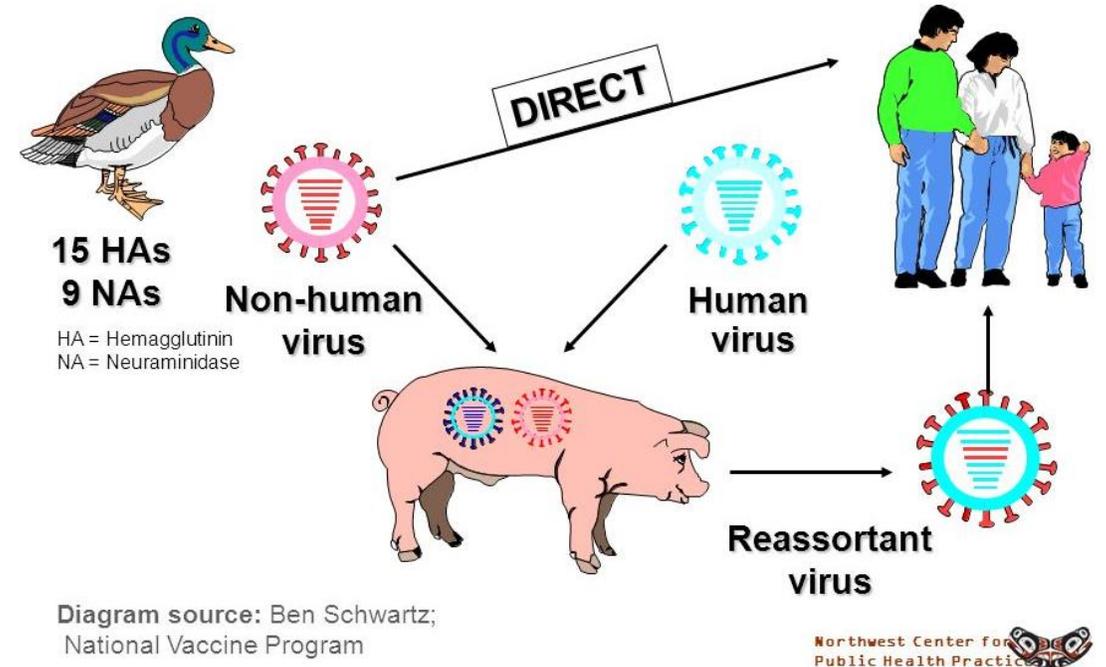


E il suino?



● Evoluzione dei virus influenzali: il ruolo del suino

- Nascita di un nuovo virus con caratteristiche anche molto diverse dal precedente dovuta a riassortimento genetico. Scarsa protezione dovuta ad eventuale immunità precedente e malattia diffusiva e severa





Tropismo - recettori

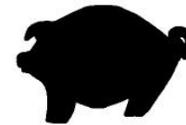
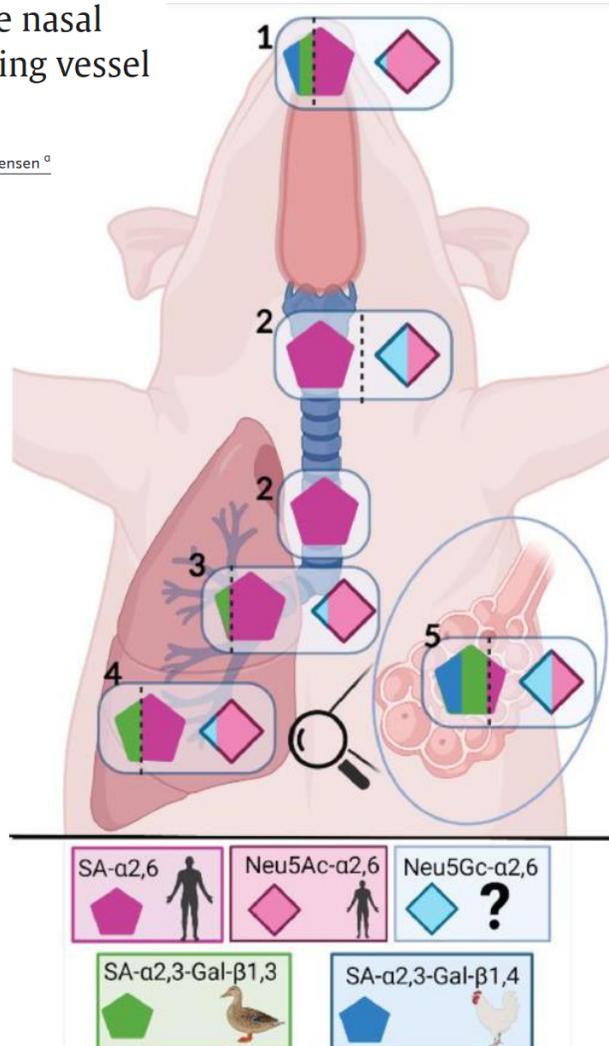


Virus Research
Volume 340, February 2024, 199304



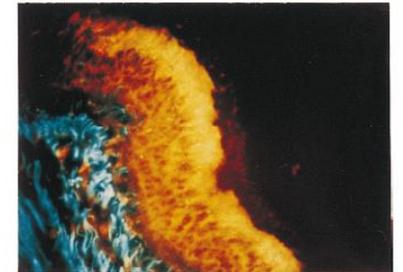
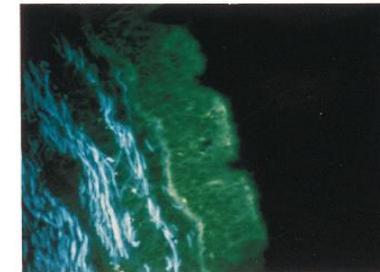
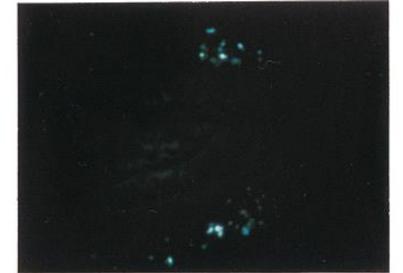
The avian influenza A virus receptor SA- α 2,3-Gal is expressed in the porcine nasal mucosa sustaining the pig as a mixing vessel for new influenza viruses

Charlotte Kristensen ^a, Lars E. Larsen ^a, Ramona Trebbien ^b, Henrik E. Jensen ^a



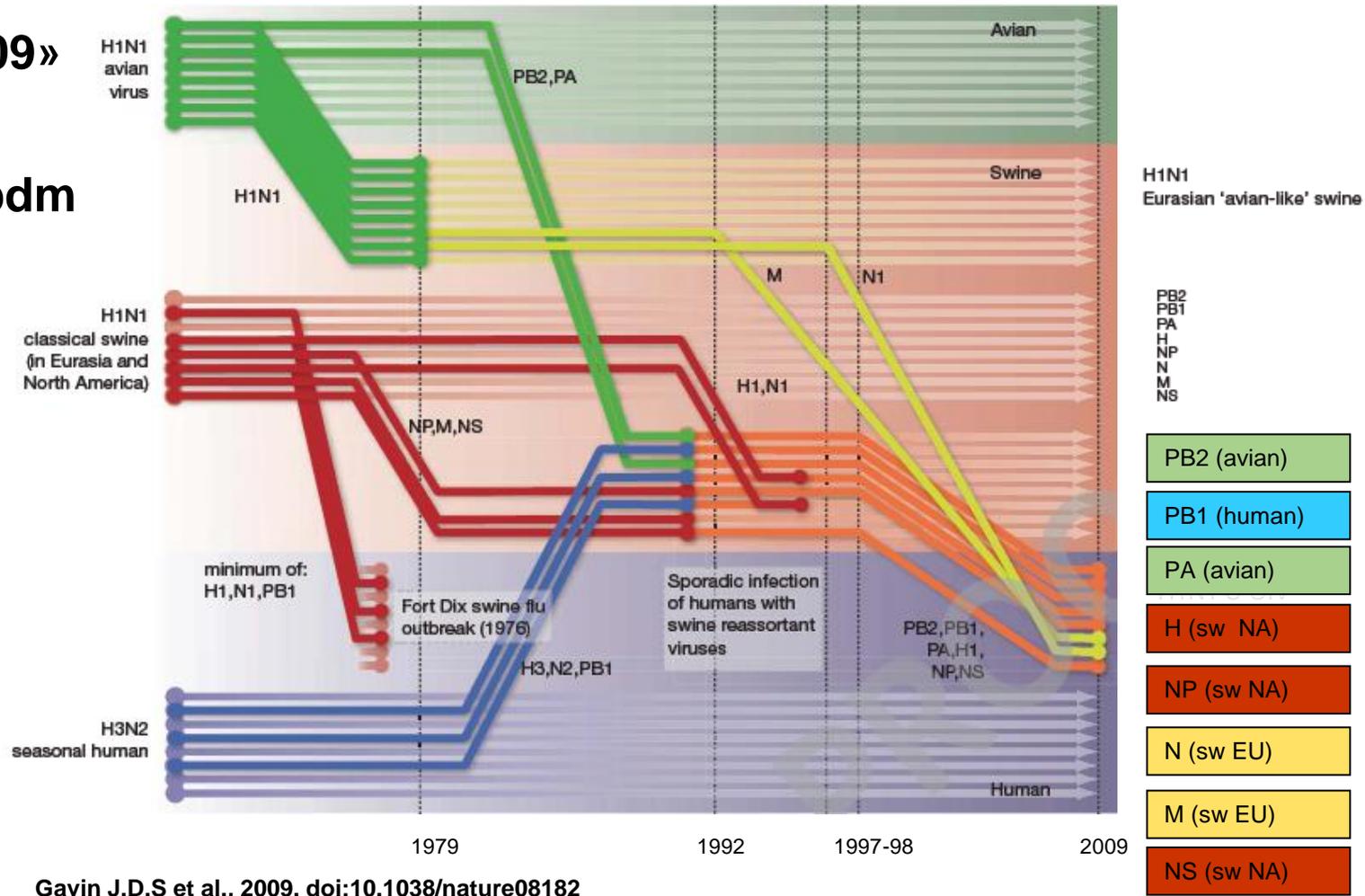
α 2-3

α 2-6



- Ceppi aviari richiedono recettori tipo α 2-3
- Ceppi umani richiedono recettori tipo α 2-6

«Suina 2009» Origine dell'H1N1 pdm



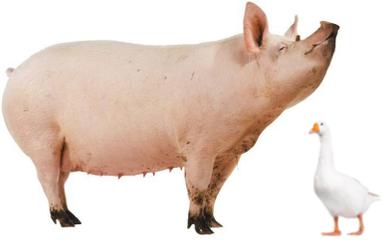
Gavin J.D.S et al., 2009. doi:10.1038/nature08182

Si ipotizza che i progenitori dell'H1N1 pdm abbiano circolato tra i 9 ed i 17 anni prima del 2009. In particolare 6 geni originano da H1N2 americani circolati nei suini tra il 1999 e 2000 e 2 geni da H1N1 suini circolati in Europa tra il 1985 ed 1998

AIV nei suini

Emerging threats of HPAI H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in swine: knowledge gaps and the imperative for a One Health approach

Juan Mena-Vasquez^{1*}, Ana Marco-Fuertes², Marie Culhane¹ and Montserrat Torremorell¹

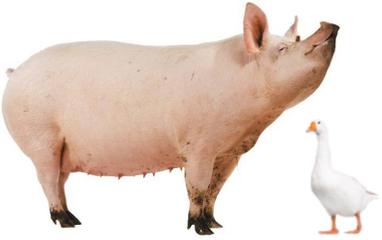


Continent	Country	Subtype	Clade*	Year	Clinical signs	Observations	
Asia	China	H9N2		1998–2000	No		
				2002	Influenza-like		
				2003	Influenza-like		
				2004	Influenza-like		
				2013	No	Pig farm workers sampled: 6/287 (2.09%) positive	
			H4N1		2009	Influenza-like	The virus is fully of avian origin
			H6N6		2010	Influenza-like	H1N1, H1N2, H9N2 and H3N2 strains were additionally detected
				2010–2012	No	Seroprevalence of H3N2 and H4N8 was also detected	
			H5N1		2008–2009	No	H9N2 and H6N6 were also detected
			H10N5		2008	No	Closely homologous to the Eurasian lineage avian influenza
		H3N2		2011	Influenza-like	M gene was phylogenetically close to those in H5N1 HPAI	
		H4N8		2011	Influenza-like	The NP gene was phylogenetically close to those in H5N1 HPAI	
		H1N1	1C.2.3	2001–2018	No	275/293 EA H1N1 and 18/293 were EA H1N2	
		South Korea	H7N2		2001	No	Genetic analysis indicates reassortment between avian H7N2 and H5N3
	H3N1			2006	Influenza-like	H3 human-like and other genes from swine influenza	
H5N2			2008	Influenza-like			
	Vietnam	H5N1		2004	No	8/3125 (0.25%) tested positive	
	Indonesia	H5N1	2.1.1, IDN/6/05 and 2.1.3	2005–2009	No	52/702 (7.4%) nasal swabs and 3/300 (1%) serum samples tested positive	
2006				No	10/1772 (0.56%) positive nasal swabs and 11/1786 (0.62%) positive serum samples		
Europe	Belgium	H1N1		1979	Influenza-like	First supportive evidence that an influenza A virus in an avian species might have been transmitted to mammals	
	England	H1N7		1992	Influenza-like	Previous H1N1 outbreak at the farm. It seems this was an equine and swine virus	
	France	H5N8	2.3.4.4b	2016	No	They were all pig-poultry mixed farms	
	Rome	H5N1	2.3.4.4b	2023	No	Free-ranging pigs, reared with infected poultry. Negative nasal swabs but positive seroconversion	
America	Canada	H4N6		1999	Influenza-like	Phylogenetically related to waterfowl viruses. The outbreak was traced to water pumped from a lake	
		H3N3		2001	Influenza-like	Phylogenetically related to waterfowl viruses. Reported on the same farm as above, so the source could be the same	
		H1N1		2002	Influenza-like	Phylogenetically related to waterfowl viruses, antigenically distinct from swine influenza	
	USA	N2N3		2006	Influenza-like	Isolation and characterization of H2N3 from pigs with respiratory disease from two farms in the United States and investigation of the pathogenicity and different mammalian hosts. Transmissibility of the H2N3 isolates in	
		H4N6		2015	Influenza-like	Serological analysis indicated that the virus did not efficiently transmit from pig to pig	
		H5N1	Genotype D1.2	2024	Influenza-like	Shared drinking water in a mixed livestock-poultry farm in Oregon was suspected to be the source of the infection.	
Mexico	H5N2		2014–2015	Influenza-like	H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2 subtypes were also reported		
Africa	Nigeria	H5N1	2.3.2.1c	2018	No	222 (44.4%) and 42 (8.4%) sera were positive for influenza A virus NP and H5 antibodies, respectively	

Infezione da virus HPAI nei suini

Emerging threats of HPAI H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in swine: knowledge gaps and the imperative for a One Health approach

Juan Mena-Vasquez^{1*}, Ana Marco-Fuertes², Marie Culhane¹ and Montserrat Torremorell¹



H5NX HPAI

China	H5N1		2008–2009	No	H9N2 and H6N6 were also detected
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Vietnam	H5N1		2004	No	8/3125 (0.25%) tested positive
Indonesia	H5N1	2.1.1, IDN/6/05 and 2.1.3	2005–2009	No	52/702 (7.4%) nasal swabs and 3/300 (1%) serum samples tested positive
			2006	No	10/1772 (0.56%) positive nasal swabs and 11/1786 (0.62%) positive serum samples

France	H5N8	2.3.4.4b	2016	No	They were all pig–poultry mixed farms
Italy	H5N1	2.3.4.4b	2023	No	Free-ranging pigs, reared with infected poultry. Negative nasal swabs but positive seroconversion

USA	H5N1	Genotype D1.2	2024	Influenza-like	Shared drinking water in a mixed livestock-poultry farm in Oregon
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Nigeria	H5N1	2.3.2.1c	2018	No	222 (44.4%) and 42 (8.4%) sera were positive for influenza A virus NP and H5 antibodies, respectively
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H5N1 HPAI nei suini: alcuni casi



microorganisms



Recentemente, due studi sperimentali hanno indagato la patogenesi e la trasmissione del genotipo americano **B3.13** del clade 2.3.4.4b dell'HPAI H5N1 di origine bovina nei suini:

- Il virus ha causato un'infezione autolimitante, con trasmissione virale limitata
- Infezione subclinica con replicazione virale durante la prima settimana con lesioni anatomo-patologiche da molto lievi a media gravità (polmonite interstiziale multifocale e limitata bronchiolite necrotizzante) localizzate principalmente nel tratto respiratorio inferiore

Nel loro insieme, questi studi suggeriscono che i suini sono sensibili al virus HPAI H5N1 B3.13, ma che questo virus non replica in questa specie come in altri mammiferi (visone, gatto, volpe) e molto meno rispetto ai virus influenzali adattati ai suini.

Article

Seroconversion of a Swine Herd in a Free-Range Rural Multi-Species Farm against HPAI H5N1 2.3.4.4b Clade Virus

Francesca Rosone ^{1,*†}, Francesco Bonfante ^{2,†}, Marcello Giovanni Sala ^{1,†}, Silvia Maniero ², Antonella Cersini ¹, Ida Ricci ¹, Luisa Garofalo ¹, Daniela Caciolo ¹, Antonella Denisi ¹, Alessandra Napolitan ², Monja Parente ³, Bianca Zecchin ², Calogero Terregino ^{2,*} and Maria Teresa Scicluna ¹

Fattoria didattica in Italia con 250 maiali e pollame

98% mortalità nei volatili

Assenza di sintomatologia nei suini

Sieroconversione per H5N1 nel 61% (30/49)

Attenzione, se introdotto in allevamenti già endemici per SIV, la coinfezione con l'H5 HPAI potrebbe portare a un riassortimento genetico, e l'emergere di nuovi virus con una patogenicità e una trasmissibilità modificate

Clade 2.3.4.4b: Unprecedented impacts on ruminants



Goat in Minnesota tests positive for HPAI



In early March, the farm owner notified the MDAH of unusual deaths of newly kidded goats on the property where a backyard poultry flock had been depopulated due to HPAI in February. The goats and poultry had access to the same space, including a shared water source.

The USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) later confirmed the H5N1 strain of the HPAI virus, the same strain that has been circulating in wild birds, poultry, and other mammals nationwide for the past two years. HPAI has been detected in every state except Louisiana and Hawaii, [according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#). Animals with weakened or immature immune systems—like the goat kid in this case—are at higher risk of contracting disease.

World's first case of bird flu in sheep detected in England

H5N1 virus found in single animal in Yorkshire but risk to general public is very low, say experts



📷 The H5N1 virus was detected in a sheep on a site where avian influenza had previously been found in birds. Photograph: Phil Noble/Reuters

Norway Veterinary Institute: First discovery of H5N1 in sheep in Norway



These sheep grazed among dead and sick crutches during the outbreak of bird flu in Finnmark in the summer of 2023. Photo: Grim Rymo, Veterinary Institute

Clade 2.3.4.4b: Unprecedented impacts on ruminants

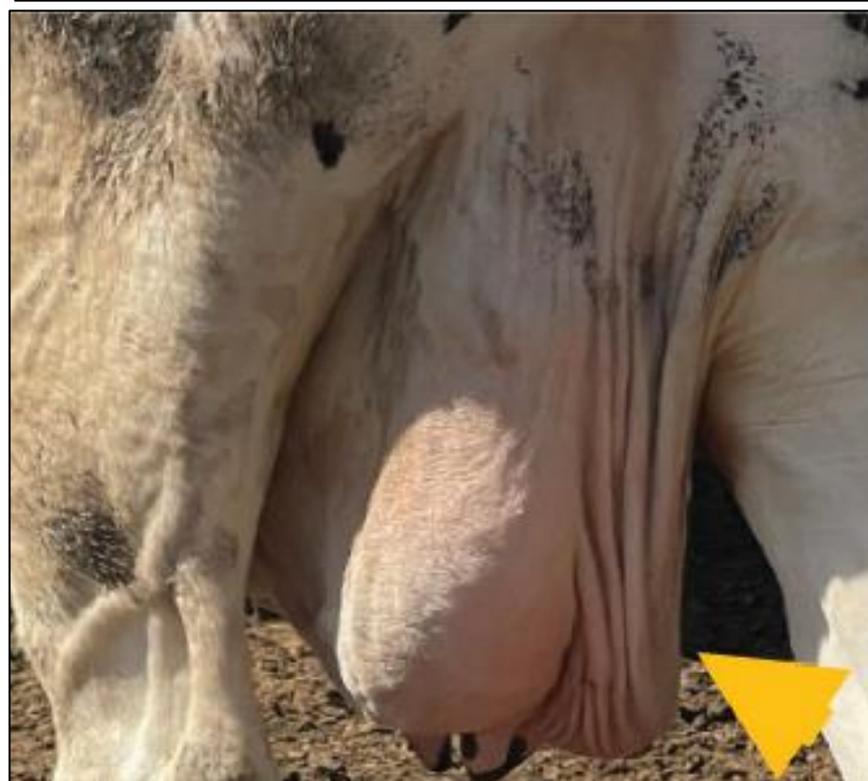


First case of avian influenza antibodies in cow in Europe

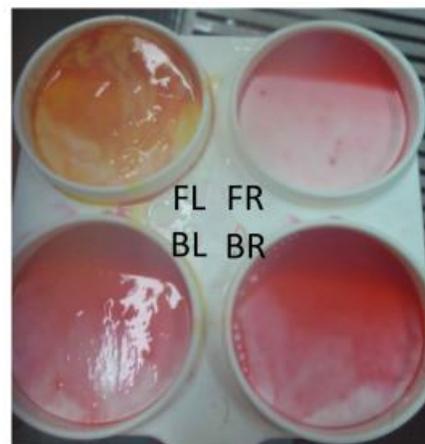


J (Jacqueline) Wijbenga

COMMUNICATION ADVISOR / PRESS LIAISON



- **Sintomi:** diminuzione della produzione di latte a livello di mandria; latte più denso, concentrato, simile al colostro; diminuzione della motilità del ruminale, mastite, feci anomale appiccicose o molli, letargia, sintomi respiratori, disidratazione e febbre.
- Aumento della mortalità
- Frequente l'infezione asintomatica (alta sieroprevalenza)



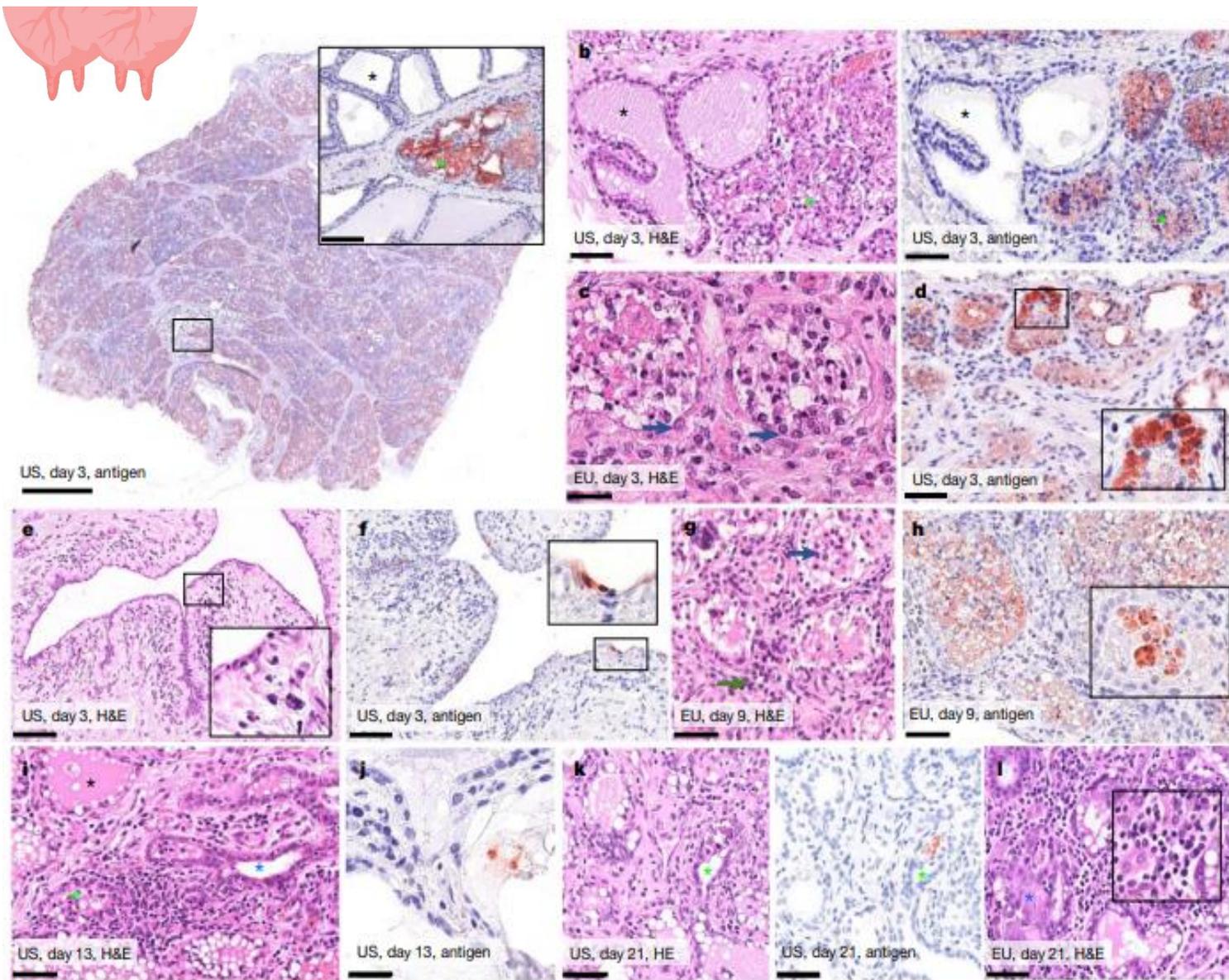
Article

Spillover of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus to dairy cattle

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-07849-4>
 Received: 22 May 2024
 Accepted: 18 July 2024
 Published online: 25 July 2024
 Open access

Leonardo C. Caserta^{1*}, Elisha A. Frye^{1*}, Salman L. Butt^{1*}, Melissa Laverack¹, Mohammed Nooruzzaman¹, Lina M. Covaleda¹, Alexis C. Thompson¹, Melanie Prarat Koscielny¹, Brittany Cronk¹, Ashley Johnson¹, Kacie Kleinhenz¹, Erin E. Edwards¹, Gabriel Gomez¹, Gavin Hitchener¹, Mathias Martins¹, Darrell R. Kapczynski¹, David L. Suarez², Ellen Ruth Alexander-Morris¹, Terry Henstley¹, John S. Beeby¹, Manigandan Lejeune¹, Amy K. Swinford¹, François Elvinger¹, Kiril M. Dimitrov^{1,3} & Diego G. Diez^{1,3}

Lesioni nella mammella di vacche in lattazione



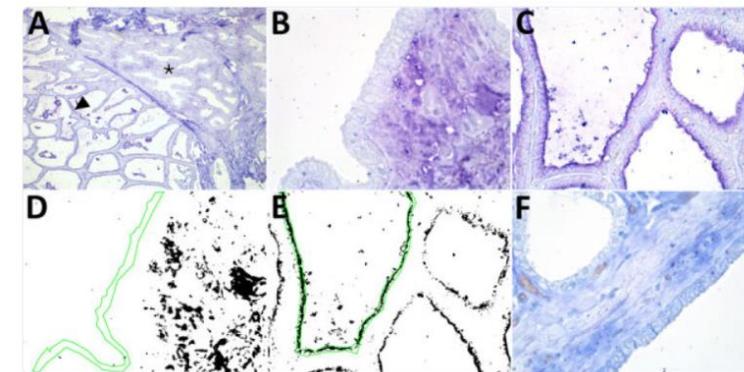
Antigene virale presente nelle cellule epiteliali alveolari secernenti latte e negli spazi interacinari. Presenti contemporaneamente alveoli mammari normali pieni di globuli di latte e globuli di grasso. Necrosi dell'epitelio alveolare, detriti cellulari nel lume, edema sub-epiteliale e infiltrati neutrofili.



Emerg Infect Dis. 2024 Sep;30(9):1907-1911. doi: [10.3201/eid3009.240696](https://doi.org/10.3201/eid3009.240696)

Avian and Human Influenza A Virus Receptors in Bovine Mammary Gland

Charlotte Kristensen^{1,2,3,✉}, Henrik E Jensen^{1,2,3}, Ramona Trebbien^{1,2,3}, Richard J Webby^{1,2,3}, Lars E Larsen^{1,2,3}



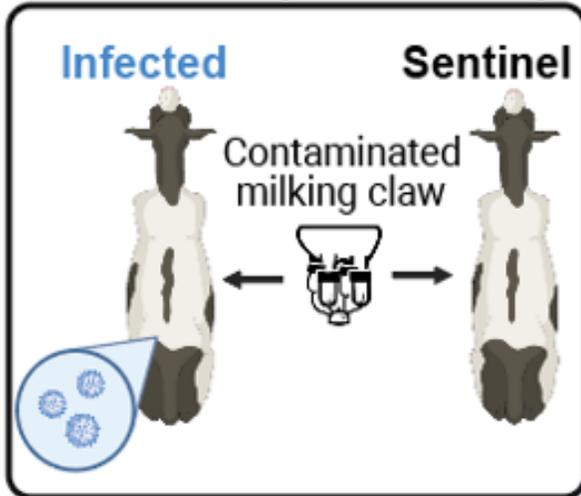
Notevole presenza di recettori di tipo aviare negli alveoli attivi (freccia).

Dose infettante e via di infezione



Dairy cows infected with influenza A(H5N1) reveals low infectious dose and transmission barriers

Two rooms (n = 2 cows per room)



«Un'esposizione intramammaria a soli 10 TCID50 è sufficiente a provocare un'infezione grave, titoli virali elevati nel latte e mastiti cliniche.

L'esposizione intramammaria a virus dell'influenza A (H5N1) provoca gravi esiti clinici nelle vacche da latte in allevamento, mentre l'esposizione respiratoria e orale è meno probabile che provochi un'infezione grave e la presenza del virus nel latte»

H5N1 virus invades the mammary glands of dairy cattle through “mouth-to-teat” transmission

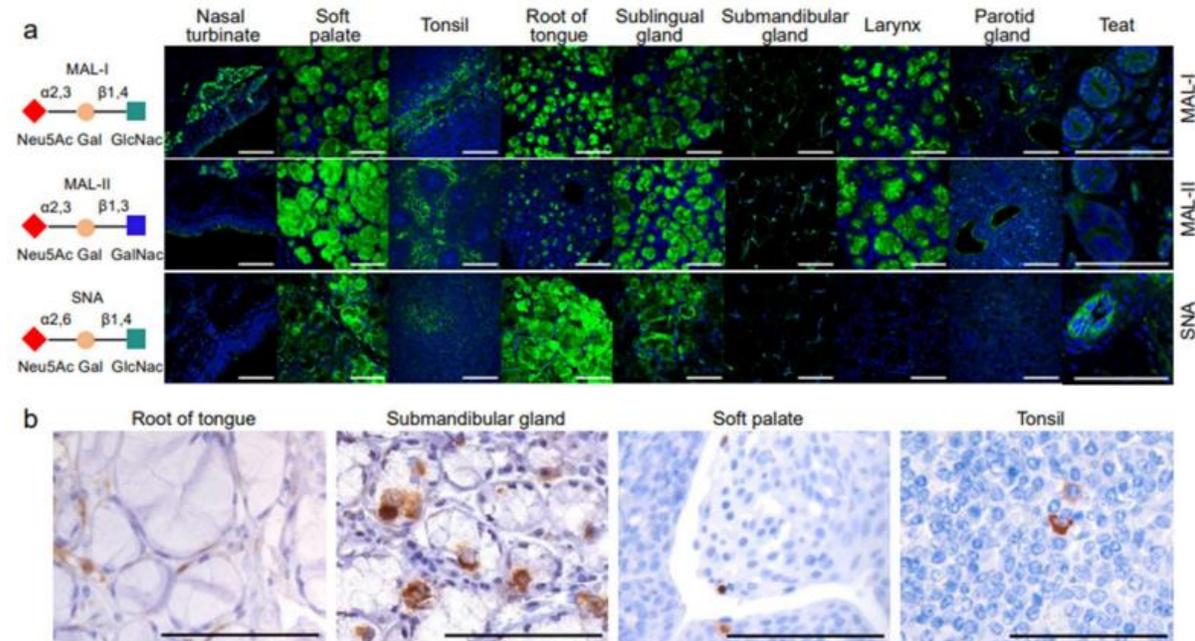
Jianzhong Shi , Huihui Kong , Pengfei Cui , Guohua Deng , Xianying Zeng ,
Yongping Jiang , Xijun He , Xianfeng Zhang , Lei Chen , Yichao Zhuang ... [Show more](#)
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National Science Review, nwaf262, <https://doi.org/10.1093/nsr/nwaf262>

Published: 01 July 2025

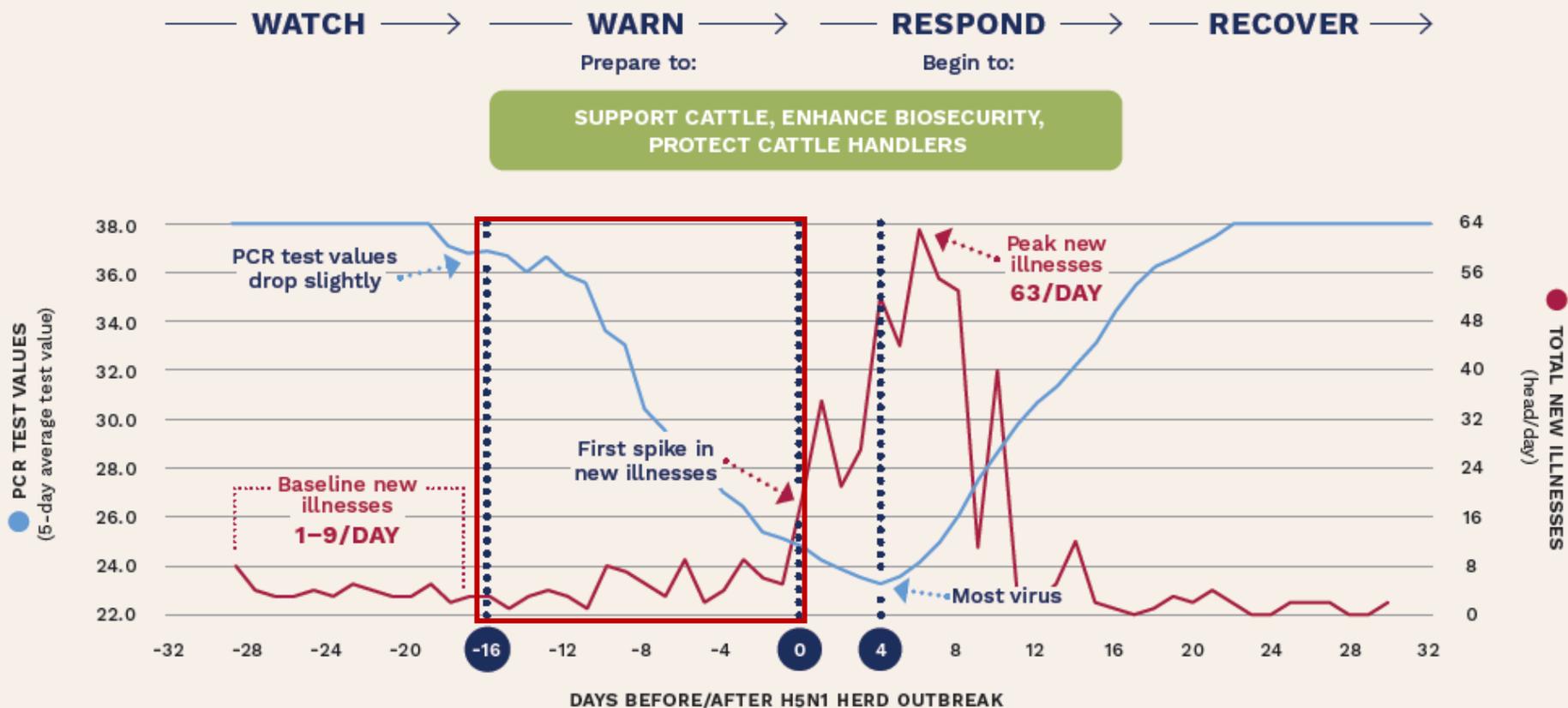
Abstract

H5N1 influenza outbreaks have been reported on more than 1,070 dairy farms across 17 states in the US. Damage to the mammary gland and high levels of virus in milk were common features of the infected cattle, but it is unclear how the virus initially invades the mammary glands, and no control strategy is currently available. Here, we found that cattle oral tissues support H5N1 virus binding and replication, and virus replicating in the mouth of cattle transmitted to the mammary glands of dairy cattle during sucking. We also found that an H5 inactivated vaccine or a hemagglutinin-based DNA vaccine induced sterilizing immunity in cows against challenges with different H5N1 viruses. Our study provides insights into H5N1 virus transmission and control in cattle.



● Andamento della malattia in allevamento

Early detection of a H5N1 virus outbreak in a 2,500-cow dairy found using PCR testing



DAY -16 PCR test value drops slightly which means one or more infected cows in this 2,500-cow dairy were shedding virus in their milk; new illnesses were staying at baseline.

DAY 0 Outbreak in the herd noticed when the first spike in new illnesses over baseline happened.

DAY 4 The most virus was found in this herd (millions of viral particles were found in a few drops of milk).

Source: Drew Magstadt, DVM, MS. Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Confirmed Novel Influenza A H5N1 Virus Infections in humans



National Total Cases: 71

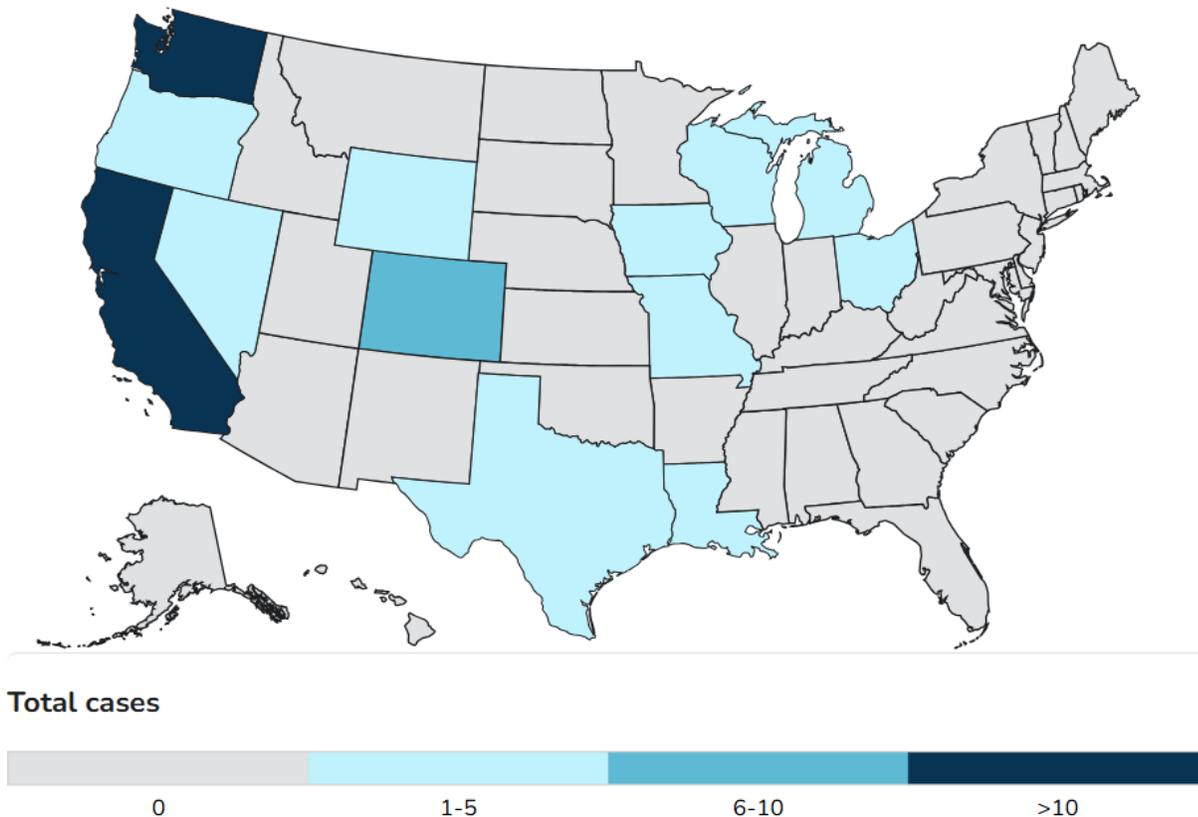
Cases	Exposure Source
41	Dairy Herds (Cattle)*
24	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations*
3	Other Animal Exposure†
3	Exposure Source Unknown‡

NOTE: One additional case was previously detected in a poultry worker in Colorado in 2022. Louisiana reported the first H5 bird flu death in the U.S.

*Exposure Associated with Commercial Agriculture and Related Operations

†Exposure was related to other animals such as backyard flocks, wild birds, or other mammals

‡Exposure source was not able to be identified



National situation summary since 2024

Person-to-person spread

NONE There is no known person-to-person spread at this time.

Current public health risk

LOW The current public health risk is Low.

Cases in the U.S.

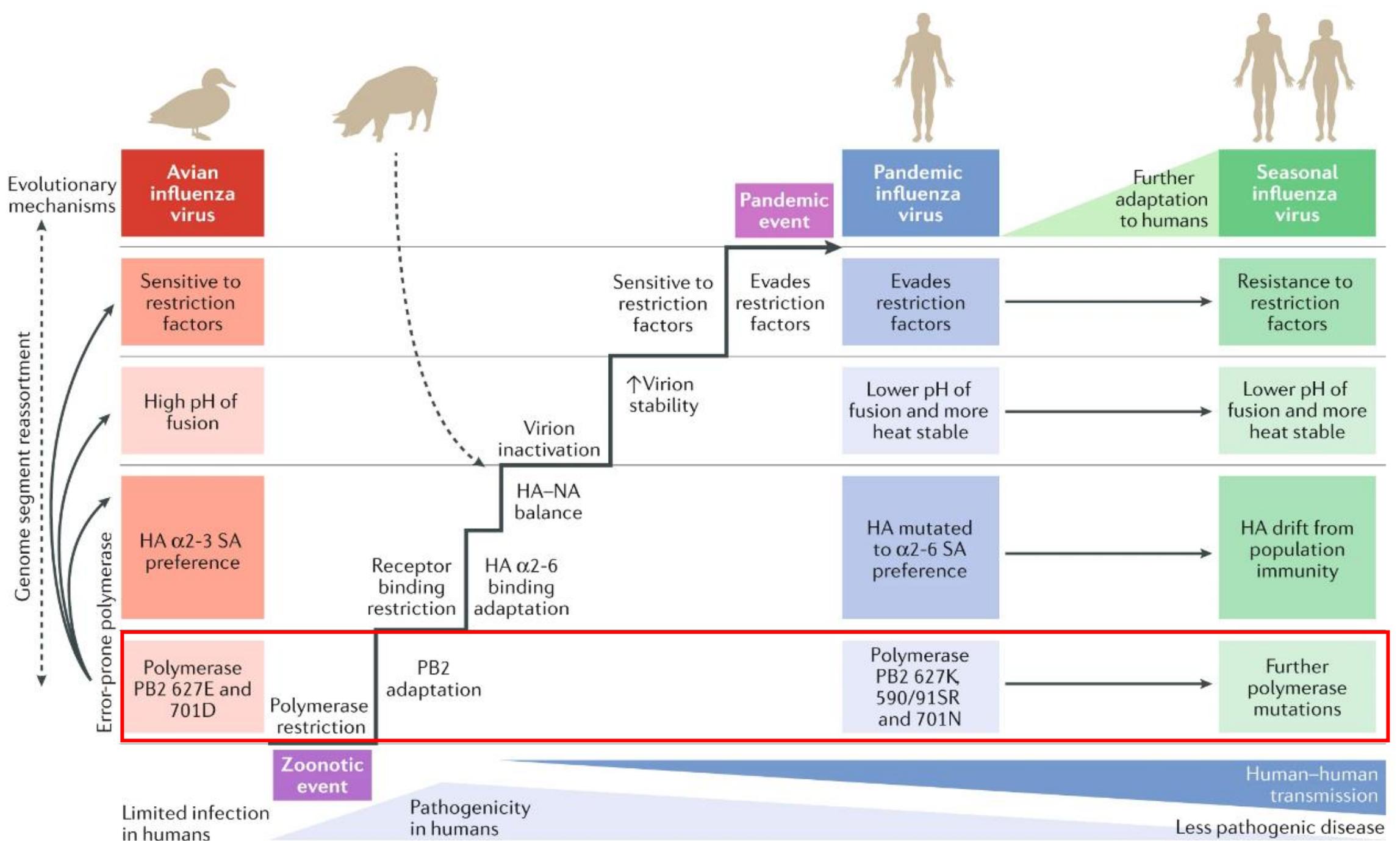
71 cases

Deaths in U.S.

2 deaths

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus Infection in a Dairy Farm Worker

Published May 3, 2024 | N Engl J Med 2024;390:2028-2029 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2405371 | VOL. 390 NO. 21
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● Zoonotic avian influenza A(H5N1) 2.3.4.4b assessment

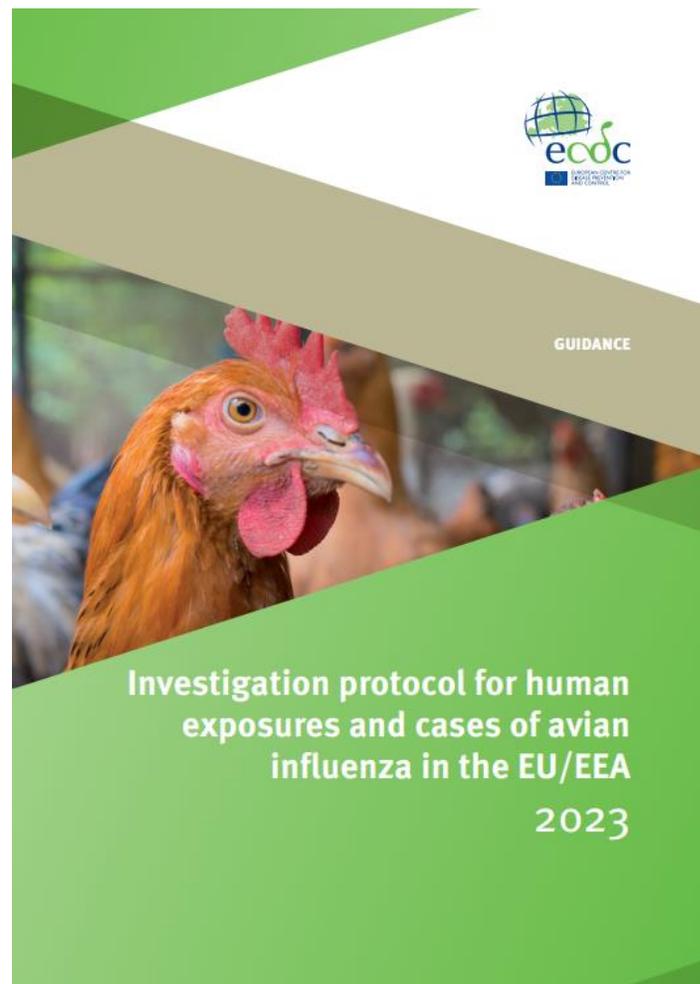
- Nessun caso confermato di infezione da A(H5N1) nell'uomo nell'UE/SEE.
- La trasmissione dagli animali infetti all'uomo rimane rara.
- Nessuna trasmissione sostenuta da uomo a uomo.
- I virus A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b attualmente circolanti nell'UE/SEE:
 - Rimangono adattati ai volatili
 - La maggior parte è sensibile agli antivirali disponibili utilizzati nell'uomo
 - Sono coperti dai virus candidati ai vaccini dell'OMS (preparazione alla pandemia) e dal vaccino recentemente autorizzato nell'UE/SEE

Valutazione del rischio dell'ECDC di infezione umana nell'UE/SEE

- Basso per la popolazione in generale
- Da basso a moderato per le persone esposte per motivi professionali o di altro tipo ad animali infetti da influenza aviaria o ad un ambiente contaminato

Misure di mitigazione del rischio per la salute pubblica

- Informare e sensibilizzare le persone più esposte al rischio d'infezione
- Riduzione al minimo dell'esposizione attraverso misure e dispositivi di protezione individuale adeguati per le persone a rischio
- Sorveglianza rafforzata per intercettare eventi di spillover mediante monitoraggio e test delle persone esposte ad animali infetti
- Disponibilità di farmaci antivirali per trattamento e profilassi post-esposizione
- Vaccinazione
 - Influenza stagionale
 - Influenza A(H5)



Conclusioni

- I virus HPAI continuano diffondersi e a diversificarsi a livello globale e, con la migrazione degli uccelli selvatici ceppi emergenti con nuove pericolose caratteristiche possono spostarsi attraverso i continenti
- I mammiferi non sono più ospiti senza via d'uscita, ma possono ospitare e diffondere i virus dell'IA all'interno di gruppi conspecifici e rappresentare nuove nicchie ecologiche per l'evoluzione del virus e potenziali cambiamenti nel profilo di rischio anche per l'uomo
- Necessità di monitorare queste specie (in particolare quelle più vicine all'uomo) soprattutto nelle aree e periodi a rischio di introduzione e diffusione di virus HPAI
- Rafforzare la sorveglianza genomica a livello globale al fine di intercettare precocemente varianti con caratteristiche divergenti pericolose
- Sostenere i Paesi in via di sviluppo per contrastare l'HPAI
- Mantenere una forte collaborazione tra i settori animale, umano e ambientale
- È fondamentale migliorare le misure di biosicurezza negli allevamenti di specie sensibili ad AIV (non più solo pollame)
- È necessario continuare ad investire in efficaci politiche di controllo ed eradicazione nelle aree a rischio attraverso strategie articolate su diversi livelli e complementari

Grazie dell'attenzione!

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