

Avian Influenza Emergency Preparation Course for Canada

February 21 – March 31, 2023

The Avian Influenza Emergency Preparation Course is a twelve-hour tutored online course that aims to prepare veterinarians to diagnose and investigate an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and to play an important role in emergency disease control measures.

The FAO Virtual Learning Centres together with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have tailored FAO's online course, the "Avian Influenza Emergency Preparation Course" to the Canadian national situation. This online course will be delivered as a bilingual tutored online course in February 2022 to CFIA and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians, and private veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

The course involves approximately **twelve hours of study over a five-week period**. The course opens and closes with live webinars (two in English, two in French), co-presented by experts from FAO and CFIA. Course participants will be supported in a bilingual online discussion forum, in which tutors answer questions from the course participants and pose a number of questions.

AHEM is proud to partner with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to deliver this important offering.

Visit www.animalhealth.ca/ahem/training for more details and to register

Learning Objectives:

The learning objectives of the course are as follows:

- describe the global distribution and significance of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI);
- provide an overview of the virological features of avian influenza (AI) viruses;
- describe the key epidemiological features of AI including risk factors and routes of transmission;
- describe the pathogenesis and clinical signs of AI;
- explain how to collect and transport samples to enable laboratory diagnosis of AI;
- explain essential biosecurity practices to reduce risk of AI introduction to premises;
- explain the risks of exposure to AI for humans and safety considerations for human health;
- explain the different objectives and key features of surveillance programs for AI;
- explain how to conduct an epidemiological investigation on a premises suspected of HPAI;
- summarize the advantages and disadvantages of available control measures for HPAI;
- explain the main considerations in the implementation of vaccination programs to control HPAI.

Achievement of the learning objectives is measured by a final assessment (40 multiple choice questions with a pass mark of over 70%).

Program Agenda:

The course will begin with an opening webinar and will run for a period of five weeks, ending with a closing webinar. The definitive agenda is not yet available; however, the breakdown of the course is as follows:

Week	Content
Week One: Introduction and Epidemiology	One-hour live webinar (English and French versions) Pre-course survey Module One: Introduction Module Two: Epidemiology
Week Two: Clinical and Laboratory Diagnosis	Module Three: Pathogenesis and Clinical Presentation Module Four: Laboratory Diagnosis
Week Three: Biosecurity and Surveillance	Module Five: Biosecurity Module Six: Surveillance
Week Four: Outbreak Investigation and Control	Module Seven: Outbreak Investigation Module Eight: Control Closing webinar (English and French)
Week Five: Scenario and Final Assessment	Scenario exercise Final Assessment

The trainers for the course will include Drs. Cynthia Philippe, Susan Craig, Yohannes Berhane and Sandra Stephens, CFIA and a team of experts from FAO and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut in Germany.

Trainers –

- Dr Sandra Stephens, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Dr Yohannes Berhane, CFIA, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory
- Dr Susan Craig, CFIA, Operational Guidance, Animal Health – Terrestrial Animals Disease & Traceability
- Dr Cynthia Philippe, Program Veterinarian, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Prof. Dr Timm Harder and colleagues, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany

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