



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Operational intervention plan

Bird flu in animals

(translation of the original French document)

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1. Objective

Within the context of bird flu surveillance, the competent authorities have drawn up an operational intervention plan which will be triggered by the discovery of one or more cases of bird flu in animals on Luxembourg territory or in the border region in one of the neighbouring countries.

This plan is aimed at organising the rapid implementation of all measures necessary to curb the propagation of the bird flu virus.

It governs the responsibilities of ministries, departments and services called upon to act on the ground, and highlights the details of such intervention.

2. Possible scenarios in case of the discovery of a bird flu outbreak

The discovery of a bird flu outbreak on Luxembourg territory may involve several scenarios:

- Discovery of an outbreak in a commercial poultry farm,
- Discovery of an outbreak in a private farmyard,
- Discovery of an isolated case in a populated area,
- Discovery of an isolated case in a rural area,
- Discovery of a case in a border post with another country (e.g. airport, cargo centre),
- Discovery of a case in a means of transport.

3. Triggering the intervention plan

The intervention plan is triggered on the basis:

- of a **notification by a laboratory of a positive result giving rise to a suspicion or confirming the presence of the bird flu virus**, as a consequence of an analysis carried out within the context of bird flu surveillance operations,
- of a **suspicion expressed by a veterinary inspector** (or veterinary doctor) from the Administration des services vétérinaires (Veterinary Services) in view of a situation presenting serious indications of suspicion and a possible danger of propagation.

4. Alerting

Any suspicion or confirmation of a case of bird flu in animals on Luxembourg territory may only be announced officially by the director of the Veterinary Services or his deputy.

The director of the Veterinary Services then notifies the high commissioner for national protection of any suspicion or confirmation, whether effective or potential.

Depending upon the situation, the high commissioner for national protection launches a consultation process in order to determine the opportunity to refer to the structure for national protection.

The high commissioner for national protection decides:

- on convocation of the Crisis Unit,
- on convocation of the Operational Unit,
- on implementation of the intervention plan.

The departments and services represented in the Operational Unit make sure the relevant parties are alerted. Teams commence preparations so that they are in a position to attend the site of the bird flu outbreak on receipt of an implementation order from the Crisis Unit.

The Communication/Information Unit, which is the central command for communication and information intended for the media and the population, meets on convocation from the Crisis Unit.

5. The Crisis Unit

The Crisis Unit is responsible for the organisation and coordination of all applicable measures when the intervention plan is triggered.

Composition

The Crisis Unit consists of the following representatives:

- Administration des services vétérinaires (Veterinary Services),
- Haut-Commissariat à la protection nationale (High Commission for National Protection),
- Grand-ducal police,
- Administration des services de secours (Emergency Services Department),
- Direction de la santé (Health Directorate),
- Army,
- Administration des douanes et accises (Customs and Excise Department),
- Administration des ponts et chaussées (Bridges and Highways Department),
- Administration de l'environnement (Department of the Environment),
- Ministère des Transports (Ministry of Transport),
- Service information et presse du gouvernement (Government Press and Information Service).

If necessary, the Operational Unit could also include representatives from other ministries, departments or services, or even the private sector.

Tasks

The Crisis Unit defines the protection zone and the surveillance zone, finalises the details relating to those zones, on proposal of the Operational Unit, and ensures that the necessary communal regulations or ministerial orders are introduced.

It adapts the measures applicable in relation to the scenarios of discovery of a case of bird flu and in relation to the real situation on the ground.

It monitors the evolution of the epizootic and informs the media and the population of this through the Communication/Information Unit.

6. The Operational Unit

The Operational Unit, which reports directly to the Crisis Unit, is in charge of coordinating implementation of the measures triggered. The operational units on the ground act under the responsibility and under the orders of the respective departments and services represented in the Operational Unit.

Composition

The Operational Unit consists of representatives of the ministries, departments and services intervening on the ground.

Tasks

- Coordinating implementation of the measures and actions approved by the Crisis Unit,
- Defining the exact limits of the protection and surveillance zones (geographical extent, points of entry to and exit from the zones, diversions, road blocks and so on),
- Monitoring implementation on the ground and coordinating logistics with the departments and services in charge (sign-posting and securing premises, disinfection),
- Determining the set-up of wheel baths at the exit from the protection zone,
- Determining the organisation of traffic and road check methods,
- Submitting changes to traffic plans and public transport timetables to the Crisis Unit for publication.

Period

The Operational Unit remains active for the entire period of validity of the measures applied, which means at least 30 days from a case of bird flu being detected. If other outbreaks are detected during that period, the period of activation of the Operational Unit is extended by 30 days, dating from the last case of bird flu being detected.

The Operational Unit will function 24 hours a day at least for the first three days from detection of a case of bird flu. When all the measures defined have been applied on the ground, the number of active members of the Operational Unit can be reduced, however, in case of need, the Unit will be activated 24 hours a day.

7. General measures applicable once the intervention plan is triggered

Immediate posting on the ground

The intervention plan being triggered brings about the immediate posting to the place of discovery of the bird flu outbreak:

- of a veterinary inspector (if he is not already there),
- of a first intervention patrol from the grand-ducal police,

and, on convocation by the veterinary inspector

- of a team from the Health Directorate to coordinate the measures applicable to persons in contact with the detected outbreak.

Protection and surveillance zones

The measures provided within the Community context are as follows:

- Establishment of a reinforced “protection zone” with a radius of 3 kilometres around the bird flu outbreak,
- In turn surrounded by a “surveillance zone” with a radius of 10 kilometres around the bird flu outbreak (including the protection zone).

The measures applied can vary depending upon the situation (suspicion or confirmation of a case of bird flu in animals) and depending upon the scenario of discovery of the bird flu outbreak (in a commercial poultry farm, in a private farmyard, in a populated area, in a rural area, in airport cargo, on road transport).

In principle, the following measures are applied in the protection zone and the surveillance zone:

Protection zone

- Delimitation of a protection zone with a radius of at least 3 kilometres,
- Implementation and marking of the protection zone,
- Implementation of biosecurity measures at the exit from the zone,
- Confinement of poultry,
- Inventory of all farms located in the zone,

- Ban on the transport of poultry and poultry products in the zone,
- Period: until cancellation, or in the case of confirmation, at least 21 days to count from the date of completion of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations.

Surveillance zone

- Delimitation of a surveillance zone with a radius of at least 10 kilometres,
- Implementation and marking of the protection zone,
- Inventory of all farms located in the zone,
- Ban on the transport of poultry and poultry products in the zone,
- Period: until cancellation, or in the case of confirmation, at least 30 days to count from the date of completion of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations.

At a national level, on confirmation of bird flu and following a risk analysis, a “stand-still” for 72 hours is to be observed: ban on any commercial transport of poultry, eggs, poultry meat, carcasses, poultry manure, etc. over the entire territory of Luxembourg.

Procedure for implementing protection and surveillance zones

Protection zone

Implementation

- Installing “Bird flu” warning signs,
- Installing sign posts and road blocks,
- Installing one or a maximum two wheel baths,
- Establishing diversions,
- Changing service bus timetables according to places where wheel baths are installed,
- Checking observance of the measures implemented in the protection zone.

Progress

- Implementation by the Bridges and Highways Department of the scheme for road blocks and diversions defined by the Bird Flu Operational Unit,
- Installation of wheel baths by the Bridges and Highways Department at places defined by the Bird Flu Operational Unit,
- Activation of wheel baths by joint teams from the Emergency Services Department and the army,
- Posting “Bird Flu – Protection Zone” signs on the main roads leading to the protection zone (including barred accesses),
- Publication of traffic plans (delimitation of the zone and diversions),
- Publication of service bus timetables.

Surveillance zone

Implementation

- Posting “Bird Flu – Surveillance Zone” signs on the main roads leading through the surveillance zone,
- Checking measures applicable in the surveillance zone.

Communication of measures

The Crisis Unit will keep the media and the population informed through the Communication/Information Unit:

- about the situation, the measures introduced by the public authorities and any change in the situation,
- about the delimitation of restrictive zones (protection zone, surveillance zone) and all related aspects (example: traffic, passing through wheel baths, changes to service bus timetables, etc.),
- about the measures applicable in these zones.

Each ministerial department is responsible for internal and external communication to its partners/preferred contacts. Coordination of interministerial communication will be the task of the High Commission for National Protection.

8. Detail of the measures applied in relation to the scenarios of discovery of a bird flu outbreak

Scenario: discovery of an outbreak in a poultry breeding establishment

Implementation

- Transposition of specific measures defined by the Veterinary Services,
- Securing the site,
- Ban on any person entering or leaving the outbreak area (except with authorisation),
- Ban on letting other poultry or captive birds enter or leave the outbreak area,
- Installation of disinfection station and disinfection of potentially contaminated persons and vehicles,
- Culling poultry on instructions,
- Evacuation of culled poultry,
- Cleaning/disinfection of the outbreak area (preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations, lasting more or less two days, final cleaning and disinfection operations, end forecast around the tenth day).

Progress

- Arrival of the veterinary inspector on site,
- In case of immediate suspicion on site, the veterinary inspector informs the director of Veterinary Services,
- Alerting in accordance with the procedure described in point 4,
- The veterinary inspector applies the health measures defined by the Veterinary Services,
- Immediate dispatching of a grand-ducal police patrol to the site, in order to secure the site,
- Dispatching of a medical inspector to the site by the Health Directorate (on request from the veterinary inspector),
- Ban on entering the site,
- Ban on persons on the site leaving before arrival of the human disinfection station,
- Installing marking tape and “Bird Flu” signs on the site by the Bridges and Highways Department,
- Establishing road blocks on the main roads giving access to the site,
- Installing the human disinfection station by the army.

Scenario: discovery of a case of bird flu in a border post with another country

- Isolation of poultry and other captive birds,
- Delimitation of an isolation area,
- Ban on any person entering the isolation area (except with authorisation),
- Ban on letting other poultry or captive birds enter the outbreak area,
- Implementation of biosecurity measures for potentially contaminated persons and vehicles,
- Culling of poultry or other captive birds,
- Cleaning/disinfection,
- Ban on the introduction of poultry or other captive birds for 21 days after completion of the cleaning and disinfection operations,
- Informing the population on the measures introduced as well as any change in the situation.

Scenario: discovery of a case of bird flu in a means of transport

- Conveyance of the means of transport to an appropriate place,
- Culling poultry or other captive birds found on the means of transport,
- Cleaning/disinfection of the means of transport,
- Ban on use of the vehicle for the transport of poultry, other captive birds or any other animal for 24 hours.