WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

March 23rd 2026 – March 29th 2026

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

Influenza A (H9N2)

- A human case of avian influenza A(H9N2) was reported in the **Lombardy region** of **Italy** in a traveler returning from a non-European country where the virus has previously been identified in birds; this is the first human case of avian influenza A(H9N2) reported in Europe

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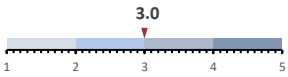

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

- A deceased sea lion found along **Morro Strand State Beach** in **San Luis Obispo**, **California** has tested positive for HPAI H5N1 marking the first confirmed case in a marine mammal in the county

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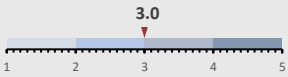

White Nose Syndrome

- Evidence of WNS was found in three caves in the **Rocky Mountains** of **Alberta** for the first time; indicating significant spread since it was first confirmed in the province in 2024

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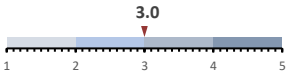
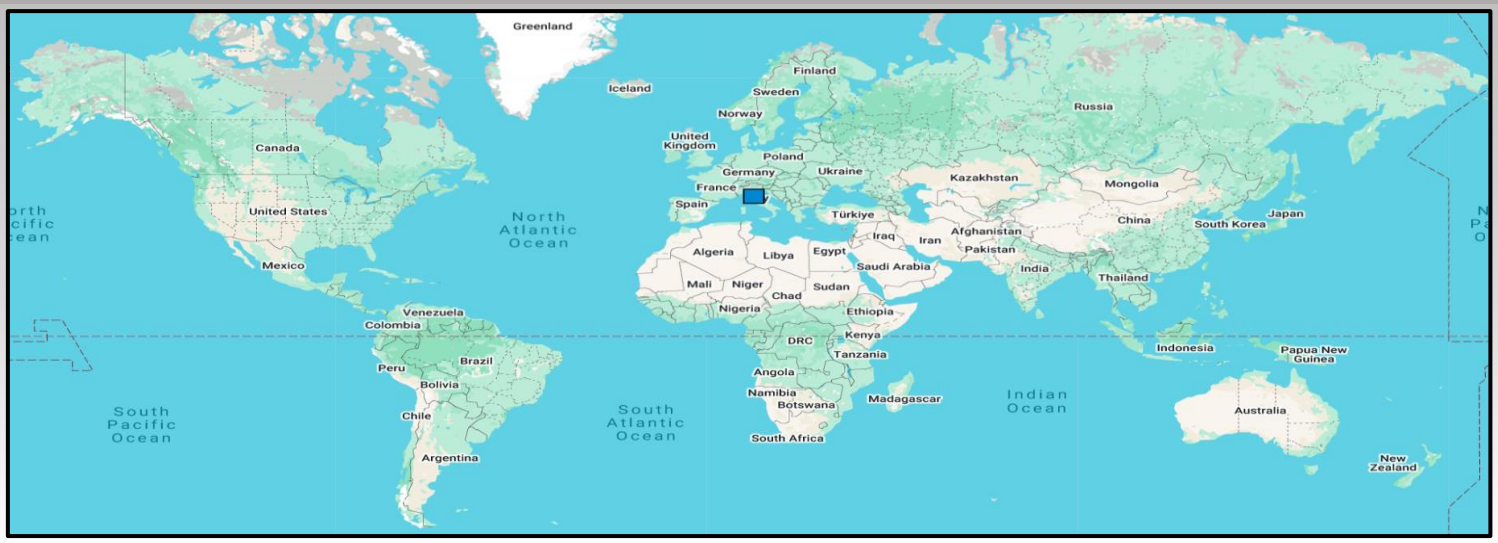


NEW EVENTS: (events rated > 2)



Influenza A (H9N2) in Italy – imported traveler

Pathogen: virus; **Transmission:** direct contact, aerosol, fomite; **Species affected in event:** human

① A human case of avian influenza A(H9N2) infection has been reported in the Lombardy region of Italy. The case was reported in a returning traveler from a non-European country where the virus has previously been identified in birds. This is the first human case of avian influenza A(H9N2) reported in the EU/EEA. The patient has co-existing medical conditions and is currently in hospital isolation, receiving medical treatment. Italian public health authorities performed contact tracing as a precaution to identify and control possible onward transmission and initiated several epidemiological and microbiological investigations. Since 1998, and as of 27 February 2026, 195 human cases of A(H9N2) had been reported worldwide by 10 countries in Asia and Africa. Read More

Avg. Rating	2.8 - 3.0
No. of Signal	7
No. of Ratings	5

CONTINUED EVENTS: (events rated ≥ 2.4)

White Nose Syndrome in Canada — **No. of Signals: 01** — **No. of weeks in report: 09** — **Avg. Rating: 3.0**

- Evidence of WNS was found in three caves in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta for the first time; indicating significant spread since it was first confirmed in the province in 2024

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North America — **No. of Signals: 08** — **No. of weeks in report: 210** — **Avg. Rating: 2.0 - 3.0**

- Canada has not reported any outbreaks of HPAI over the last week
- Over the last week, the USDA has reported outbreaks of HPAI in commercial poultry in: Indiana(7) and Pennsylvania(1); and in WOAH poultry in: New Jersey(1)
- New York has reported additional dead bird findings, primarily Canada geese, along the shores of Long Island
- As of March 30, 2026, the USDA has reported influenza A(H5N1) in 1088 dairy herds across 19 states: Wisconsin(1), Nebraska(1), Wyoming(1), North Carolina(1), Ohio(1), Oklahoma(2), Kansas(4), Arizona(5), South Dakota(7), Minnesota(9), New Mexico(9), Nevada(11), Iowa(13), Utah(13), Texas(30), Michigan(31), Colorado(64), Idaho(112), and California(773); no new outbreaks have been reported in the last thirteen weeks
- A deceased sea lion found along Morro Strand State Beach in San Luis Obispo, California has tested positive for HPAI H5N1 marking the first confirmed case in a marine mammal in the county
- As of March 30, California has reported positive HPAI H5N1 detections in marine mammals in: San Mateo (32 northern elephant seals, 2 California sea lions, and 1 southern sea otter), Santa Cruz (4 northern elephant seals), and San Luis Obispo (1 California sea lion)
- Wastewater surveillance dashboards for influenza can be found at the CDC and Stanford University's WastewaterSCAN

Foot and Mouth Disease in Europe — **No. of Signals: 02** — **No. of weeks in report: 09** — **Avg. Rating: 2.5 - 2.8**

- Greece has reported 12 additional outbreaks of FMD SAT-1 on the island of Lesvos, bringing the total number of outbreaks to 17

Cattle Disease in Russia (suspected FMD) — **No. of Signals: 03** — **No. of weeks in report: 02** — **Avg. Rating: 2.3 - 2.7**

- President Putin signed a decree overhauling Russia's animal vaccine industry, consolidating state producers into a single entity following disease outbreaks in cattle, mass culling, and farmer unrest
- Kazakhstan has banned imports of animal feed wheat from Russia after an outbreak of cattle diseases in several Russian regions bordering Kazakhstan led to mass culling of livestock

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in South America — **No. of Signals: 04** — **No. of weeks in report: 111** — **Avg. Rating: 1.8 - 2.7**

- Chile has announced the immediate suspension of all poultry product exports following the detection of the first commercial case of HPAI H5N1 in 2026, identified at a large-scale table-egg layer farm located in El Monte

African Swine Fever in Europe — **No. of Signals: 04** — **No. of weeks in report: 178** — **Avg. Rating: 2.0 - 2.6**

- Spain has reported additional detections of ASF in wild boar, bringing the total number of positive wild boar to 238
- In Germany, ASF positive wild boar detections have increased in the North-Rhine Westphalia region, with 73 detection reported in March, significantly higher compared to January(23) and February(32)

African Swine Fever in Asia — **No. of Signals: 01** — **No. of weeks in report: 140** — **Avg. Rating: 2.5**

- In the first three months of 2026, South Korea culled ~150,000 pigs across 24 farms after ASF outbreaks intensified, with authorities also destroying ~500 tonnes of pig feed after ASF genetic material was detected in feed containing porcine plasma

White Nose Syndrome in the United States — **No. of Signals: 02** — **No. of weeks in report: 09** — **Avg. Rating: 2.3 - 2.4**

- Oregon has reported its first findings of WNS in the state, with six bats suffering from WNS identified in Columbia and Benton
- Idaho has also recently reported its first findings of the syndrome after three bats collected in northern Idaho tested positive for WNS

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Asia — **No. of Signals: 11** — **No. of weeks in report: 231** — **Avg. Rating: 2.0 - 2.2**

- Japan, Taiwan, Nepal, and India have reported outbreaks of HPAI in domestic poultry
- Nepal and Israel have reported HPAI in wild birds

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe — **No. of Signals: 09** — **No. of weeks in report: 267** — **Avg. Rating: 2.0**

- Poland, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic have reported outbreaks of HPAI in domestic poultry
- Moldova, Romania, Austria, Belgium, Norway, and Poland have reported HPAI in wild birds
- Sweden has reported HPAI H5N2 in a wild bird from December 2025
- A summary of the overall HPAI situation in Europe is available here

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS, REPORTS, AND GUIDANCE:

African Swine Fever

- *Ornithodoros lahorensis* as a biological vector of African swine fever virus Read More

Coronavirus

- Post-pandemic changes in population immunity have reduced the likelihood of emergence of zoonotic coronaviruses Read More

Influenza

- Containment scenarios for post-spillover transmission chains of avian influenza H5N1 from poultry to humans Read More
- Host-specific functional evolution of seal influenza A virus NS1 protein following avian-to-seal transmission Read More
- High pathogenicity avian influenza in pinniped conservation Read More
- To what extent may the duck population be protected after vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza? Contributions from a modelling approach and French field data Read More

Vectors and Vector Borne Diseases

- Case Report: Retrospective discovery of *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda in *Haemaphysalis longicornis* Neumann ticks on a cow-calf farm in Tennessee (US) Read More

Other

- Pre-print: First detection of hepatitis E virus in wastewater in Costa Rica Read More
- Integrated Surveillance of Viral Pathogens in Wild Boars: Serological and Molecular Insight in Southern Italy Read More
- New York Global Health Update Report – 03/26/2026 Read More
- France - Weekly Bulletin for International Animal Health Surveillance 31/03/2026 Read More
- ECDC - Communicable disease threats report, 21 – 27 March, week 13 Read More
- European Commission Animal Disease Information System – Weekly Outbreak Summary 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.