



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 38

Series of 2022

SUBJECT : UPDATED GUIDELINES ON THE MOVEMENT OF LIVE POULTRY OTHER BIRD SPECIES, EGGS, AND POULTRY PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS EXCEPT LIVE DUCKS DURING THE AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA-FREE REGIONS

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Circular No. 27, Series of 2022 on June 30, 2022, which provide guidance on movement of poultry, other birds species, eggs and poultry products and by-products across different regions in the Philippines due to incidence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 in the country;

WHEREAS, HPAI subtype H5N1 is a highly contagious viral disease that can cause severe clinical signs and possible high mortality rates to both domestic and wild birds, and has been also recorded to affect humans. To date, more than fifty (50) countries and territories in the world were infected with HPAI and has resulted in the death and mass slaughter of more than three hundred sixteen (316) million poultry worldwide;

WHEREAS, from June 10 to September 15, 2022, new confirmed cases HPAI Subtype H5N1 were reported in the provinces of Benguet, Kalinga, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon and Sultan Kudarat;

WHEREAS, reported cases of H5N1 to date have affected avian species such as ducks, native chickens, commercial chicken layers and broilers, gamefowls, quails, pigeons, pet birds and turkey;

WHEREAS, surveillance for HPAI or Bird Flu is a routine bi-annual activity required by the Bureau of Animal Industry, to support our claim freedom in the community of nations, particularly the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) formerly known as OIE, which is a standard setting body on all matters relating to animal health;

WHEREAS, in the conduct of the Animal Health Congress facilitated by the Bureau of Animal Industry held on June 20-22, 2022 at the City of Manila, attended by over one hundred fifty (150) participants from Local Government Unit Veterinary Officers in the country, regional field office counterparts, and other poultry experts from the industry, the need for surveillance data to provide basis for, and support of claim of freedom from HPAI or Bird Flu was agreed upon;

WHEREAS, to ensure supply chain continuity and local food sufficiency, the movement of different poultry-related commodities is allowed subject to existing guidelines based on disease

status of various localities and/or regions, with provisions of additional safety measures to prevent the further spread of HPAI to the remaining disease-free areas in the country;

WHEREAS, to facilitate unhampered movement of live poultry, other bird species, eggs, poultry products and by-products except live ducks coming from regions of the country with **NO REPORTED CASES** of HPAI Subtype H5N1, the following guidelines are hereby provided to supplement Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Circular No. 27 series of 2022 on June 30, 2022, as appropriate, particularly on the requirement of accreditation and tests per shipment for movement purposes:

1. Surveillance data of the DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) showing **NEGATIVE** test result for HPAI submitted to the Bureau of Animal Industry for 2022, shall be used as basis for **backyard and commercial farms** to be allowed to transport their commodities to its respective destination **AND** shall be used as basis for the issuance/concurrence of the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) by the government veterinarian to attest Avian Influenza-free status of the farm.
2. The test result, which are the basis of surveillance shall be **valid for 6 months** from the date of the first sample collection for bi-annual surveillance activities conducted in the region.
3. All backyard and commercial farms in HPAI-free regions shall still need to comply with the other documentary requirements as per DA Administrative Order No.5 series of 2019 "*Guidelines on the Local Transport/Shipment of Animals, Animal Products and by-Products*", depending on the type of commodity to be transported.
4. Provincial Veterinary Offices in the HPAI-free regions are required to submit a **Monthly Negative Monitoring Data** for HPAI which can be accessed through <https://philahis.bai.gov.ph/Member/NMonitor>. The data entry will serve as an attestation that for the said reporting period, there has been no reported HPAI cases, suspect or otherwise in all localities in their province.

All other provisions inconsistent with this Circular are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Circular shall take effect immediately and shall be fully enforced until revoked in writing.

Done this 5th of October 2022.


DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary

