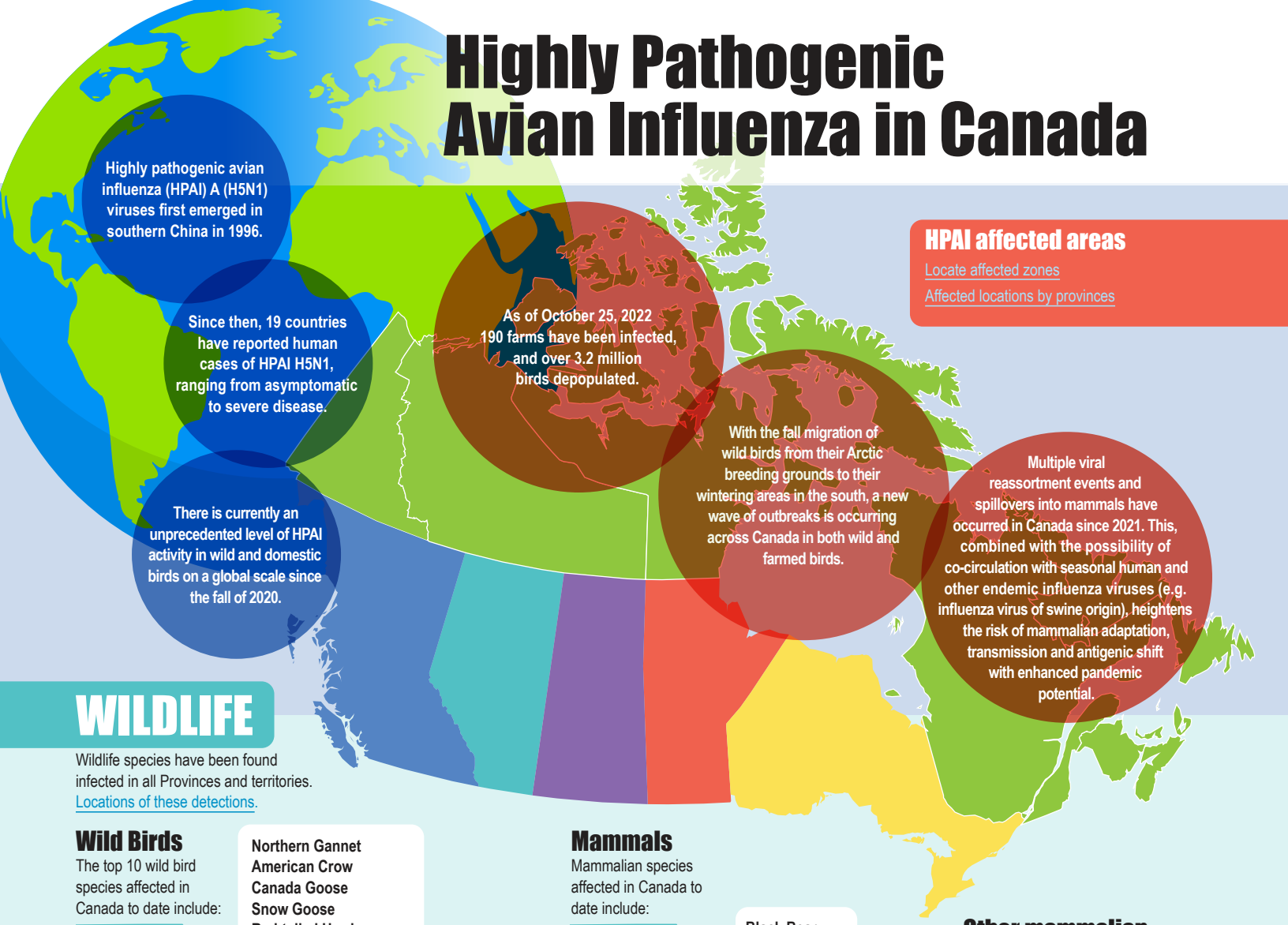
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Canada



HPAI affected areas

Locate affected zones

Affected locations by provinces

WILDLIFE

Wildlife species have been found infected in all Provinces and territories. Locations of these detections.

Wild Birds

The top 10 wild bird species affected in Canada to date include:

- Northern Gannet
- American Crow
- Canada Goose
- Snow Goose
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Mallard Duck
- Great Horned Owl
- Turkey Vulture
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Bald Eagle

Mass mortality events in wild birds have been occurring in a broad range of species around the world. Seabird mortalities in Canada have been particularly severe on the Atlantic Coast over the summer of 2022.

Mammals

Mammalian species affected in Canada to date include:

- Black Bear
- Grey Seal
- Harbour Seal
- Mink
- Red Fox
- Striped Skunk

Mammals have also been infected with HPAI, shown neurological signs, and died from the infection.

Other mammalian species affected globally

- Bobcat
- Civet
- Coyote
- Dolphin
- Opossum
- Porpoise
- Raccoon

FOR CLINICIANS

Suspect

Suspect HPAI, H5N1 infection in cases of acute respiratory infection without another identified cause OR in cases of acute febrile neurological syndromes of unknown etiology AND with one of the following risk factors:

1. a history of farm, backyard or wild bird exposure
2. a history of farming
3. a history of hunting
4. a history of contact with sick wildlife.

Test/Tell

Testing is available. Many commercial and non-commercial PCR assays can detect HPAI H5N1 as influenza A; ask your institutional microbiology laboratory.

In cases where clinical suspicion is high or where an untypeable influenza A positive result is reported:

- the sample should be referred to a public health laboratory for influenza virus subtyping.
- tell the local medical officer of health or local public health officer.

Treat

Treatment with oseltamivir is currently recommended as per the 2021–2022 AMMI Canada guidance on the use of antiviral drugs for influenza in the COVID-19 pandemic setting in Canada. At this point in time there is no evidence of oseltamivir resistance.

Prevent

- The annual human influenza vaccine is not directed against HPAI H5N1 viruses, however it is effective at reducing the burden of seasonal influenza. This may reduce the likelihood of reassortment with HPAI viruses and antigenic shift.
- Routine infection prevention and control practices for influenza-like illness will reduce the risk of influenza spread.
- Guidance for those interacting with wild birds is provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada: Wildlife and avian influenza – Handling guidelines to protect your health - Canada.ca

Additional Links

Links to useful resources for HPAI are available on the website of the Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases.

AMMI™ Canada