

# Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS) Call

Monday, February 27, 2023, at 3:00PM ET

- **Welcome**
  - Jasmine Chaitram, CDC Division of Laboratory Systems
- **SARS-CoV-2 Variants Update**
  - Natalie Thornburg, CDC Division of Viral Diseases
- **H5 Situation Report**
  - John Barnes, CDC Influenza Division
- **Resilient Supply Chain Program**
  - Tammy Beckham, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

# About DLS

## Vision

Exemplary laboratory science and practice advance clinical care, public health, and health equity.

## Mission

Improve public health, patient outcomes, and health equity by advancing clinical and public health laboratory quality and safety, data and biorepository science, and workforce competency.

# Four Goal Areas



## Quality Laboratory Science

- Improve the quality and value of laboratory medicine and biorepository science for better health outcomes and public health surveillance



## Highly Competent Laboratory Workforce

- Strengthen the laboratory workforce to support clinical and public health laboratory practice



## Safe and Prepared Laboratories

- Enhance the safety and response capabilities of clinical and public health laboratories



## Accessible and Usable Laboratory Data

- Increase access and use of laboratory data to support response, surveillance, and patient care

# LOCS Calls

<https://www.cdc.gov/locs/calls>

Find LOCS Call information, transcripts, and audio recordings on this page

DLS Home > CDC's Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS)

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## LOCS calls

Laboratory Outreach Communication System

**CLCR calls are now LOCS calls!**

Clinical Laboratory COVID-19 Response (CLCR) Calls are now Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS) Calls. Find an archive of CLCR call audio files, transcripts, and slide presentations, [here](#).

CDC's Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS) convenes regular Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS) calls with clinical laboratories and other audiences. The calls are an opportunity for CDC and other participants (such as federal partners and professional organizations) to provide updates and answer questions from the laboratory and testing community. These calls take place on the third Monday of each month at 3:00 PM Eastern time. DLS posts the audio, slides, and transcripts online after each call.

To submit questions for consideration, email [DLInquiries@cdc.gov](mailto:DLInquiries@cdc.gov) in advance or use the question and answer (Q&A) function in Zoom during the call. Because we anticipate a large number of participants on this call, and many questions, we may not be able to directly and immediately address every issue. However, we will note your questions and feedback and tailor the content of future calls accordingly.

# We Want to Hear From You!

## Training and Workforce Development

Questions about education and training?

Contact [LabTrainingNeeds@cdc.gov](mailto:LabTrainingNeeds@cdc.gov)



# How to Ask a Question

- **Using the Zoom Webinar System**

- Click the **Q&A button** in the Zoom webinar system
- Type your question in the **Q&A box** and submit it
- **Please do not submit a question using the chat button**

- For media questions, please contact CDC Media Relations at [media@cdc.gov](mailto:media@cdc.gov)
- If you are a patient, please direct any questions to your healthcare provider



## Division of Laboratory Systems

Slide decks may contain presentation material from panelists who are not affiliated with CDC. Presentation content from external panelists may not necessarily reflect CDC's official position on the topic(s) covered.



## SARS-CoV-2 Variants Update

Natalie Thornburg  
CDC Division of Viral Diseases



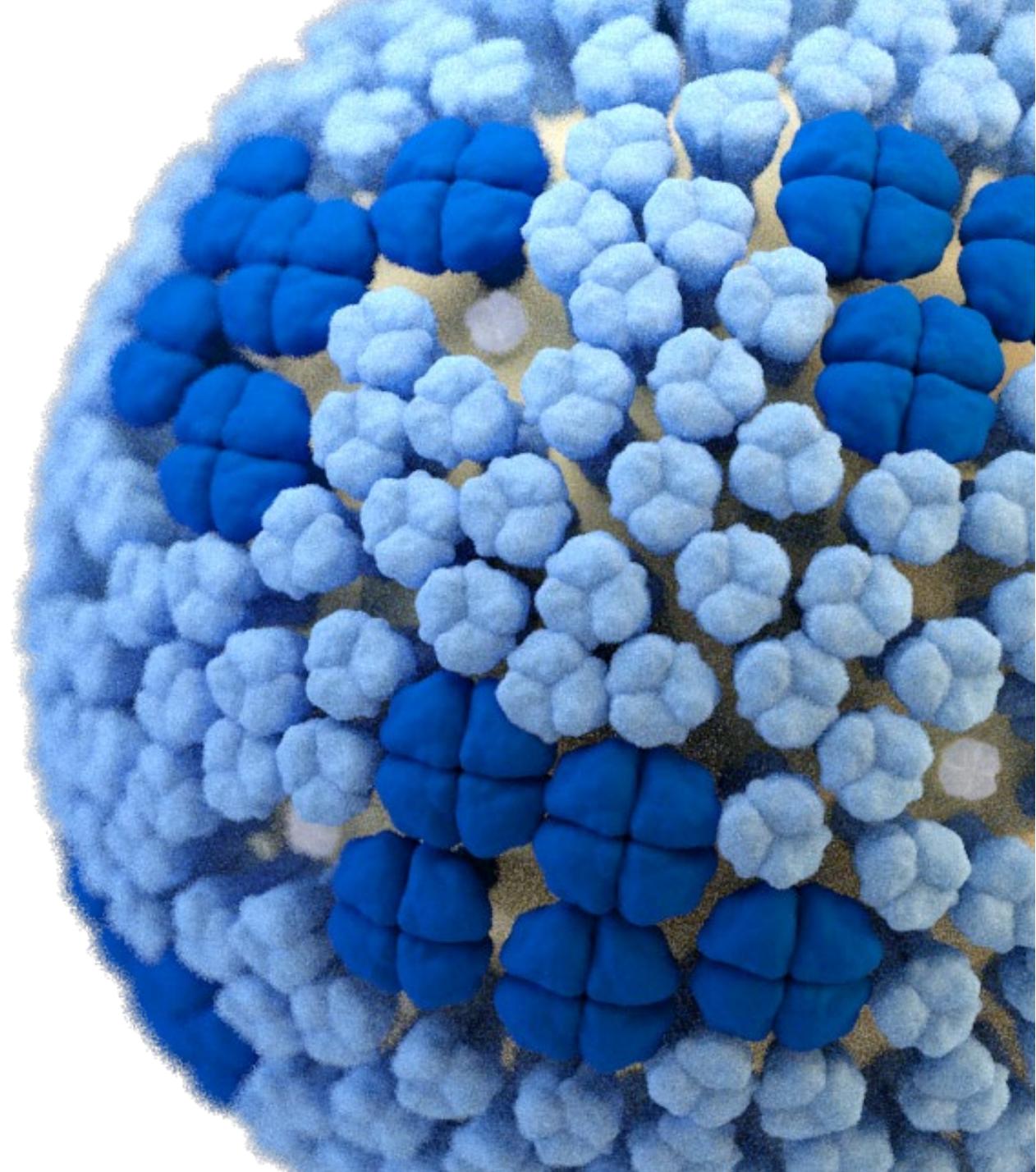
# H5 Situation Report

February 27, 2023  
CDC LOCS call

John R Barnes, PhD  
Team Lead Genomic and Diagnostics Team  
Influenza Division

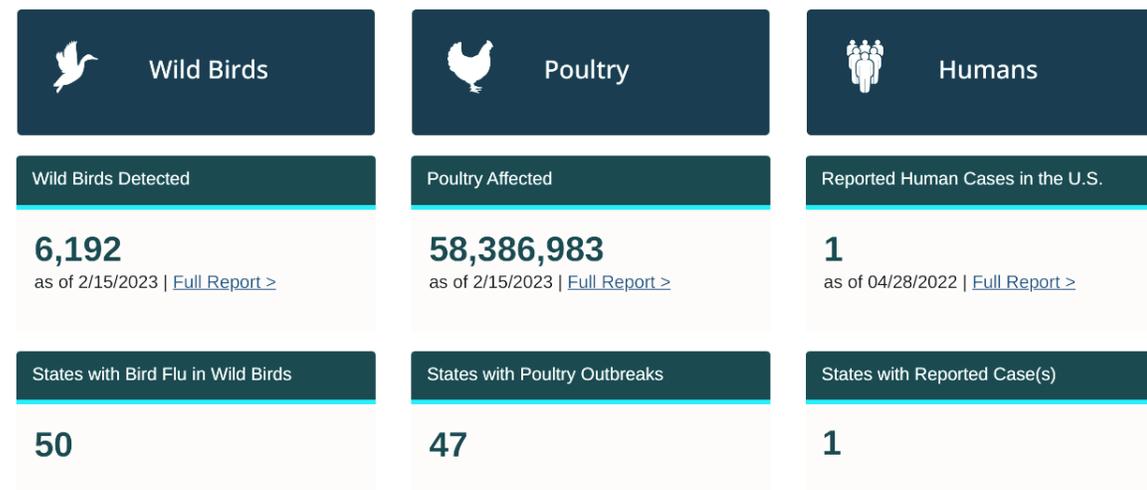
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

CDC



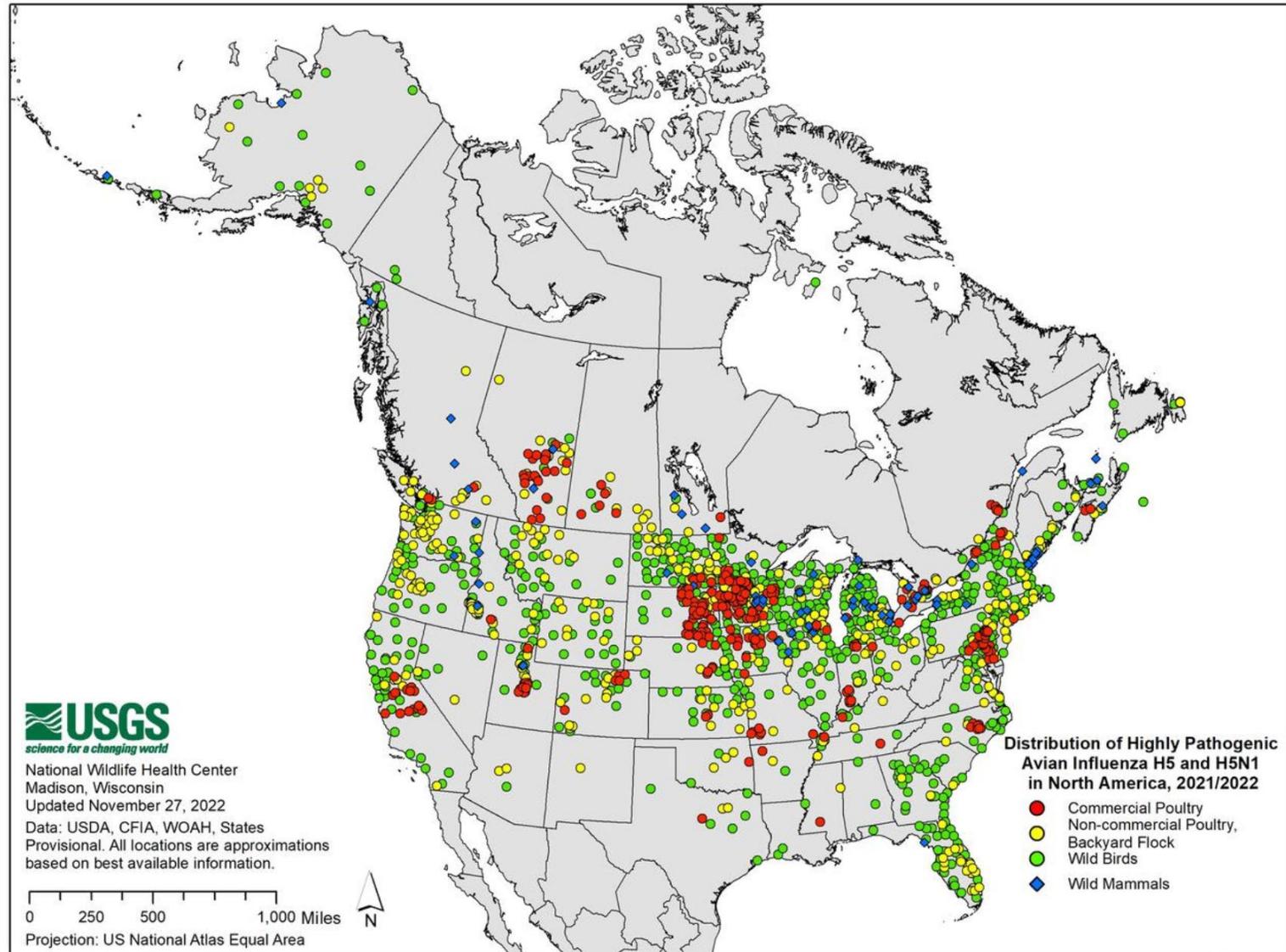
# Human H5N1 cases, 2021-present

- Seven human cases reported globally
  - **Ecuador (1)** -- January 2023
  - **China (1)** -- November 2022 (fatality)
  - **Vietnam (1)** -- October 2022
  - Spain (2) -- October 2022
  - United States (1) -- April 2022
  - UK (1) -- Jan 2022
- No human-to-human transmission has been identified
- CDC considers the risk to the general public to be low



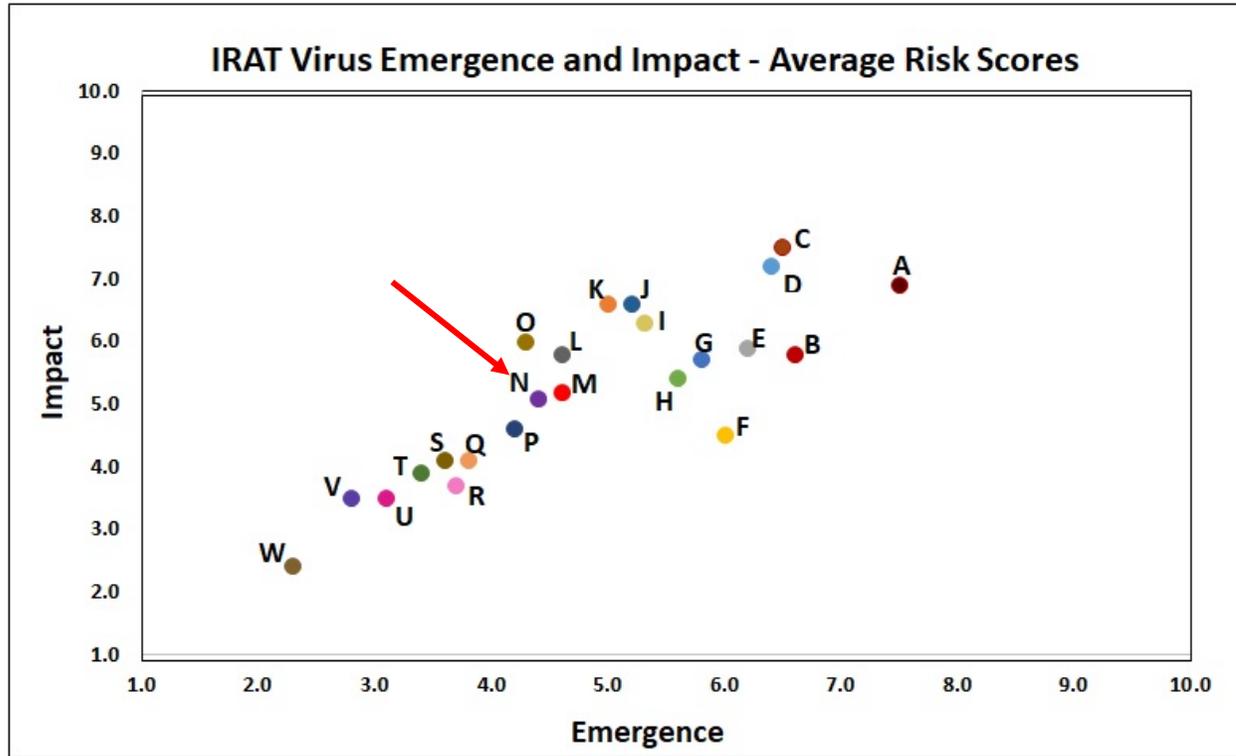
# 2023 – HPAI A(H5): Current U.S. Situation

- Distribution of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 and H5N1 in North America, 2021/2022



<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>

# Influenza Risk Assessment Tool (IRAT) for Potential Pandemic Risk



	Influenza Virus	Emergence Score	Impact Score	Risk Assessment Year
● A	A(H1N1) [A/swine/Shandong/1207/2016]	7.5	6.9	Jul 2020
● B	A(H3N2) variant [A/Ohio/13/2017]	6.6	5.8	Jul 2019
● C	A(H7N9) [A/Hong Kong/125/2017]	6.5	7.5	May 2017
● D	A(H7N9) [A/Shanghai/02/2013]	6.4	7.2	Apr 2016
● E	A(H9N2) Y280 lineage [A/Anhui-Lujiang/13/2018]	6.2	5.9	Jul 2019
● F	A(H3N2) variant [A/Indiana/08/2011]	6.0	4.5	Dec 2012
● G	A(H1N2) variant [A/California/62/2018]	5.8	5.7	Jul 2019
● H	A(H9N2) G1 lineage [A/Bangladesh/0994/2011]	5.6	5.4	Feb 2014
● I	A(H5N6) clade 2.3.4.4b [A/Sichuan/06681/2021]	5.3	6.3	Oct 2021
● J	A(H5N1) Clade 1 [A/Vietnam/1203/2004]	5.2	6.6	Nov 2011
● K	A(H5N6) [A/Yunnan/14564/2015] – like	5.0	6.6	Apr 2016
● L	A(H7N7) [A/Netherlands/219/2003]	4.6	5.8	Jun 2012
● M	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b [A/Astrakhan/3212/2020]	4.6	5.2	Mar 2021
● N	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b [A/American wigeon/South Carolina/AH0195145/2021]	4.4	5.1	Mar 2022
● O	A(H10N8) [A/Jiangxi-Donghu/346/2013]	4.3	6.0	Feb 2014
● P	A(H5N8) [A/gyrfalcon/Washington/41088/2014]	4.2	4.6	Mar 2015
● Q	A(H5N2) [A/Northern pintail/Washington/40964/2014]	3.8	4.1	Mar 2015
● R	A(H3N2) [A/canine/Illinois/12191/2015]	3.7	3.7	Jun 2016
● S	A(H5N1) [A/American green-winged teal/Washington/1957050/2014]	3.6	4.1	Mar 2015
● T	A(H7N8) [A/turkey/Indiana/1573-2/2016]	3.4	3.9	Jul 2017
● U	A(H7N9) [A/chicken/Tennessee/17-007431-3/2017]	3.1	3.5	Oct 2017
● V	A(H7N9) [A/chicken/Tennessee/17-007147-2/2017]	2.8	3.5	Oct 2017
● W	A(H1N1) [A/duck/New York/1996]	2.3	2.4	Nov 2011

- Eurasian Avian/swine H1N1 in China (A) has highest emergence score  
Emergence = 7.5, Impact = 6.9
- Avian H7N9 in China (C) has highest Impact score  
Emergence = 6.5, Impact = 7.5
- Avian H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b [A/American wigeon/South Carolina/AH0195145/2021] (N)  
Emergence = 4.4, Impact = 5.1

[IRAT-Virus-Report-H5N1-clade-2.3.4.4b.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[Influenza Risk Assessment Tool \(IRAT\) | Pandemic Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)

# Influenza A(H5) Surveillance

- CDC and state and local health departments actively monitor people exposed to infected birds and poultry for 10 days after exposure
  - >6,200 people in 52 jurisdictions
  - 162 people who were monitored reported symptoms and tested for novel influenza A
- Existing seasonal influenza surveillance can identify human cases of avian influenza A
  - Seasonal influenza assays in 128 public health laboratories in all 50 U.S states and 170 laboratories globally
  - Influenza A(H5) virus assays in 99 public health laboratories in all 50 U.S. states and 129 international laboratories

# Overview of Guidance

- Monitor birds for signs and symptoms of avian flu and report sick birds to animal health authorities
- Avoid direct contact with sick birds and the environment
- Take precautions around wild birds (wash hands, avoid touching face) and wear appropriate PPE when in direct contact with potentially infected birds
- Monitor for symptoms for 10 days after last exposure
- If symptomatic, avoid contact with others and contact your local health department



## CDC guidance

[Poultry workers](#)

[Bird flu responders](#)

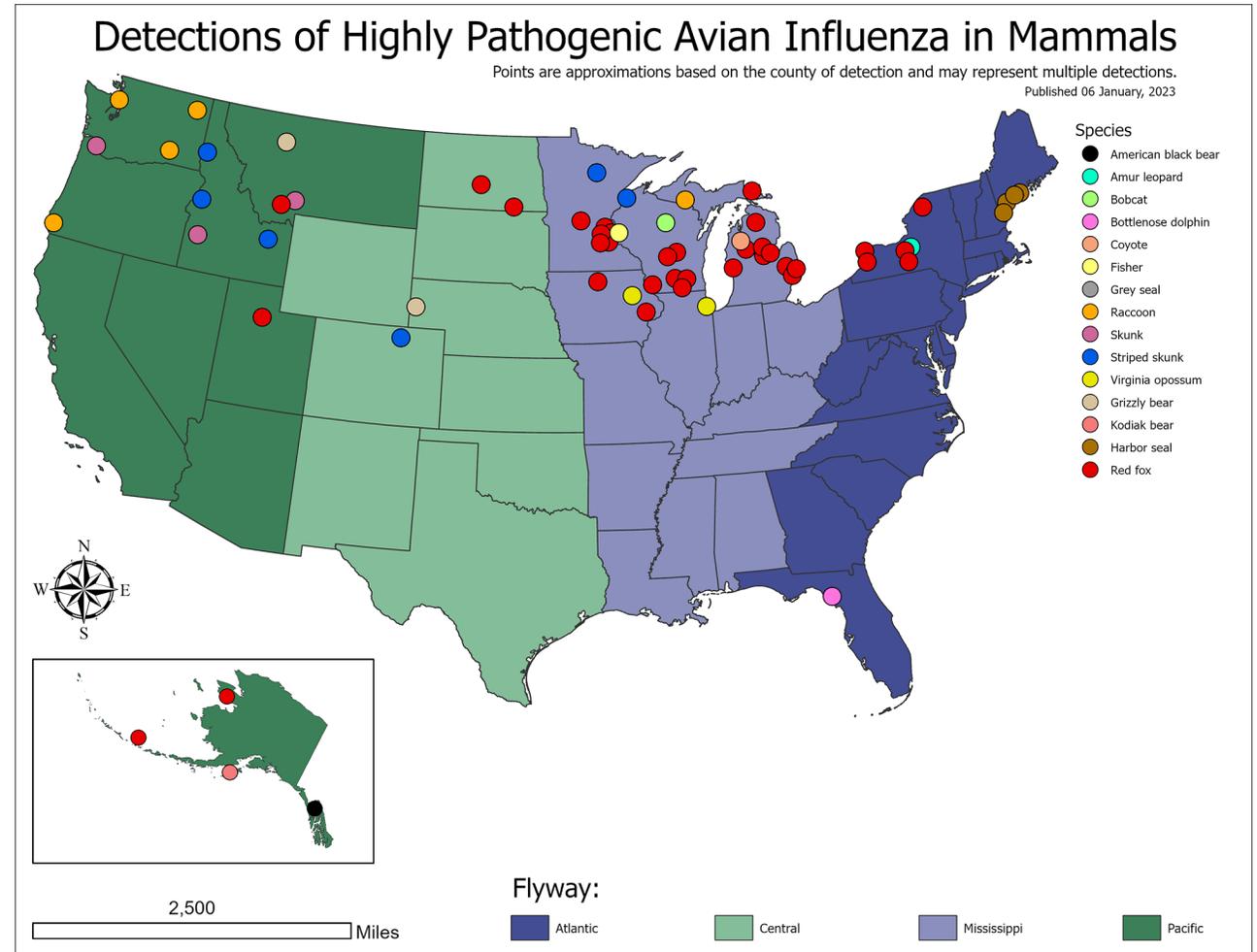
[Backyard flock owners](#)

[Hunters and bird enthusiasts](#)

[Anyone known to be exposed to infected birds](#)

# H5 Infections in Mammals

- H5N1 viruses have been detected in some mammals
- An October outbreak in a mink farm in Spain suggested the possibility of mink-to-mink transmission
- Overall, these outbreaks do not raise CDC's threat assessment
  - Viruses contained a genetic change related to RNA replication that may have aided transmission or disease in mink, but did not contain changes that would suggest increased risk for humans



# Medical Countermeasures

- Sequence analyses indicate that currently available influenza antiviral treatments would be effective against more than 99% of A(H5) viruses
- A Candidate Vaccine Virus (CVV) was developed and made available to vaccine manufacturers in early 2022
  - CVV & mink H5 are 100% identical for HA1
- CDC continues to analyze viral sequence data for genetic markers associated with greater disease severity, more efficient infectivity/transmissibility to people, reduced susceptibility to antiviral drugs, or impact on candidate vaccine viruses and diagnostics

## CDC Priorities

- CDC continues to be in a posture of readiness
- Pandemic preparedness planning activities are ongoing should the situation change
  - Surveillance activities and monitoring of exposed individuals
  - Continued viral genomic analyses
  - Pandemic vaccine risk mitigation - outlining potential A(H5) virologic and epidemiologic changes
  - National testing capacity readiness
    - Engaging FDA and interagency partners
    - Exploring commercial interest for A(H5) assay development, manufacturing, testing
- Vaccine effectiveness, safety and immunization data systems

# H5 Testing Guidance

## A/H5: Specimens with presumptive positive or inconclusive results

- A specimen is only presumptively positive for influenza A/H5 if all three targets (InfA, H5a and H5b) are positive.
- A result is inconclusive for A/H5 if the test is positive for InfA and has only one of the two H5 markers testing positive.

Our interpretation of current USDA's Division of Agricultural Select Agents and Toxins (DASTAT) guidance is that **a specimen that tests positive for H5 or other avian virus is considered a select agent** and must be reported to APHIS by phone or email IMMEDIATELY (even prior to confirmation by CDC).

<https://www.selectagents.gov/sat/list.htm>

- The lab would have 7 days to submit a Form 4
- All shipping and handling of that specimen to CDC would have to abide by select agent rules until the specimen has been verified to be in an excepted category (**Note: don't ship while testing**)
- We encourage you to consult USDA/DASTAT site and your institutes Responsible Official (RO) for more information.

Further instructions on how to handle and report the specimen can be found here:

<https://www.selectagents.gov/compliance/faq/reporting.htm>

Questions?

# Resilient Supply Chain Program Overview

Tammy Beckham  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration



# Division of Laboratory Systems

These slides were shared during the call but are not available for public distribution.



# Next Scheduled Call

Monday, March 20  
3 PM - 4 PM ET



# CDC Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/CDC>



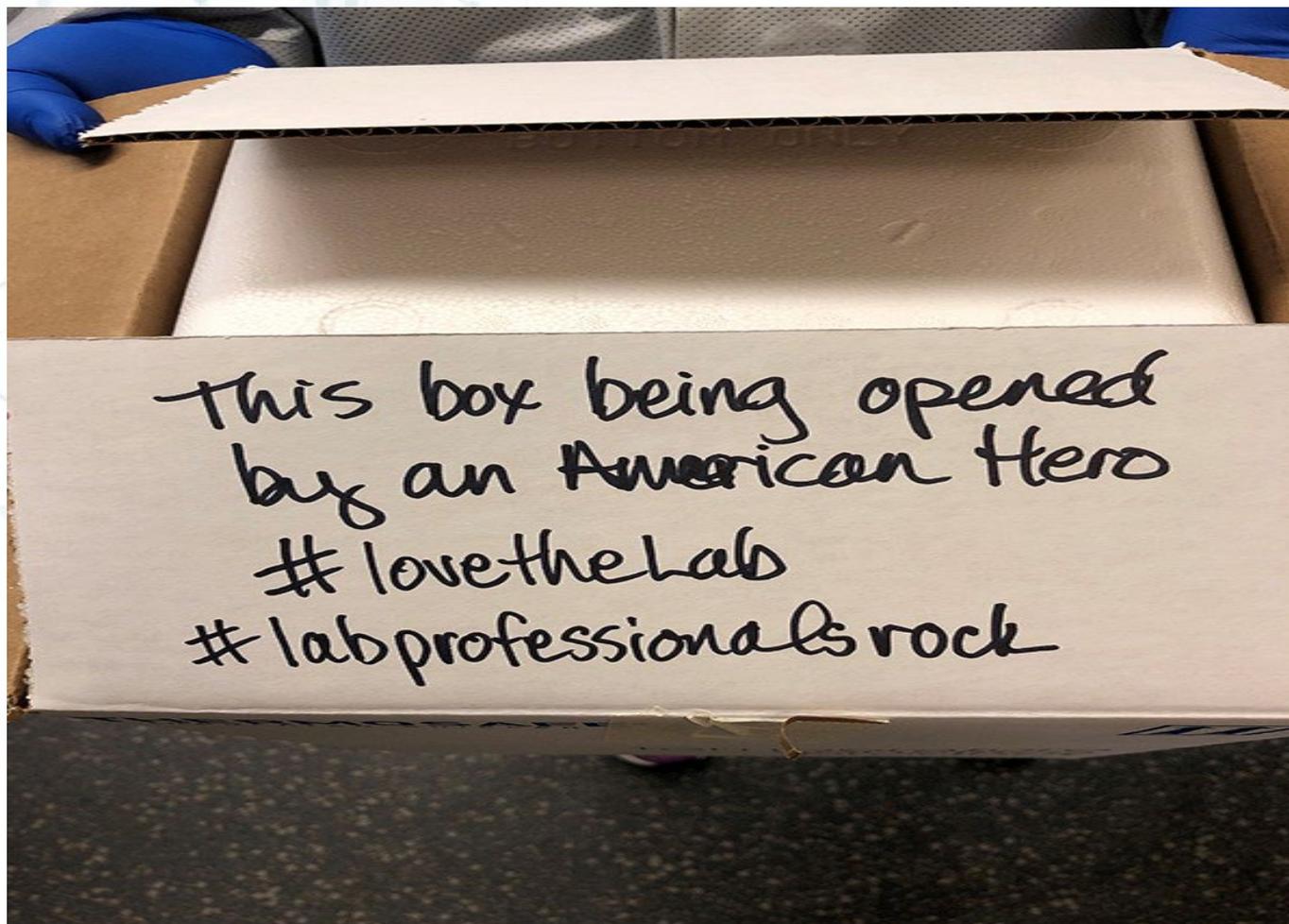
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<https://www.instagram.com/cdcgov>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cdc>

# Thank You For Your Time!



*Photo submitted by the Microbiology Laboratory at The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*



For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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