To all Vets

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreaks Alert

We have just confirmed another H5 PCR positive commercial poultry farm. It now brings the total of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks to five, four outbreaks in Gauteng Province and one outbreak in North West Province.

Genetic evaluation has confirmed that the outbreak reported in commercial layers on the 13th of April in Gauteng Province and the outbreak on commercial broiler-breeders in the North West Province seemed to have been caused by avian influenza strains that are not identical. These two outbreaks were therefore more likely to have been caused by separate introductions.

We urge you to please be on high alert. Should you be notified of increased mortalities and/or morbidities on any of the poultry farms you are attending to, please put HPAI as your first DD, and rule it out first. The best samples for this are organ samples from PMs and not serum. Please urgently notify the responsible state veterinarian of any suspected HPAI outbreak.

Please remember to observe biosecurity measures once you have visited any suspect farm to prevent potential secondary spread.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in this regard.

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