

# Controlled poultry diseases in South Africa

06/03/2024



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# CONTENT

- What is considered as poultry
- Animal Diseases Act requirements
- Controlled diseases
  - Avian influenza
  - Newcastle disease
  - Salmonella



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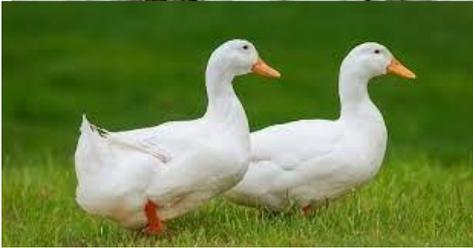


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# What is considered as poultry?



# What is not considered poultry for international reporting?

- If you do not sell live birds, meat or eggs from your backyard poultry but only use it for yourself. (control measures will still apply)
- Wild birds



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# Controlled and notifiable diseases

- Diseases that have specific control measures as described in the Animal Diseases Act.
- Animal Disease Act 35 of 1984 (ADA)
- If such a disease is spotted or if there is a suspect of such a disease, it must be reported to the nearest State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician.



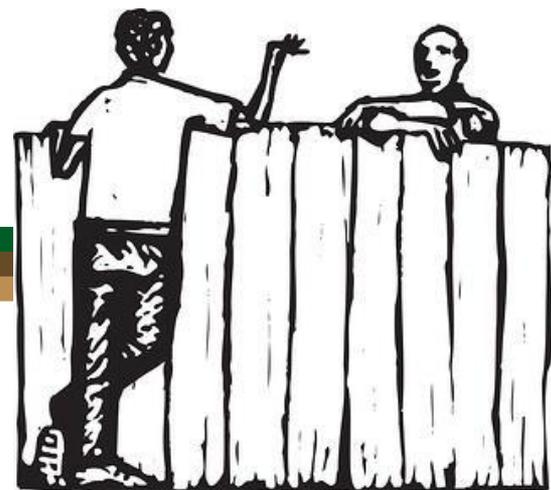
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# What else is in the Animal Diseases Act that I must know about?

- Article 11 in the ADA states that the owner of animals (including poultry), must ensure that if there is a disease in his/her flock, that it does not spread to neighbours.
- The owner must inform the neighbours of disease so that they can be on alert.



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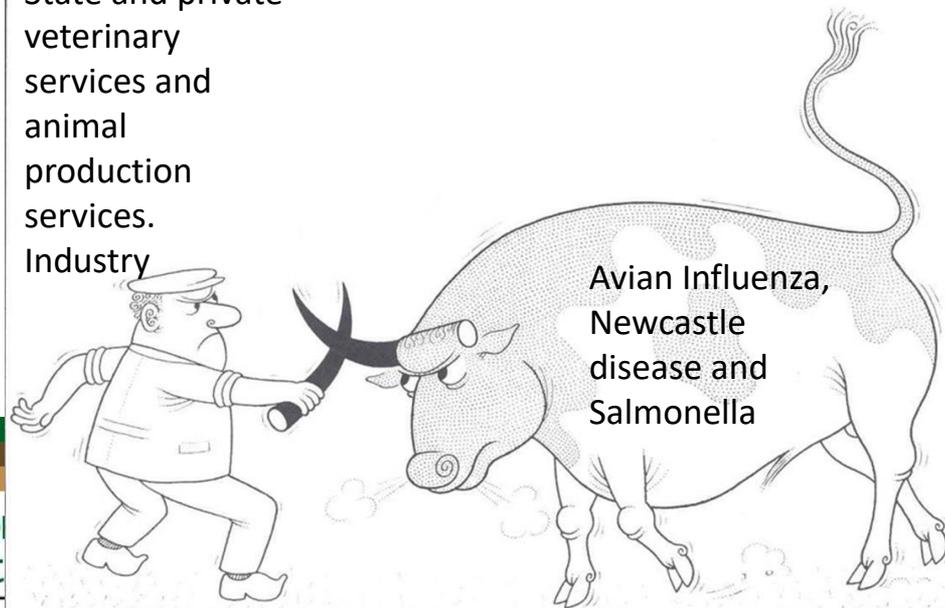
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# Controlled poultry diseases

- Avian Influenza (all the different strains)
- Newcastle Disease
- Salmonella (3 different strains)

State and private  
veterinary  
services and  
animal  
production  
services.  
Industry



Avian Influenza,  
Newcastle  
disease and  
Salmonella



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# How will I recognise these diseases?

- Signs of disease will look very similar
  - Sudden death, they look ill and do not want to eat, egg production will drop, poor growth.
  - Spread to other chickens in area.



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# What now?



- If you suspect any of these diseases, ask the nearest state veterinarian/animal health technician to come and investigate and take samples or contact a private veterinarian.
- If he/she confirms that there is a controlled disease/suspicion, samples will be taken, and government will pay for the tests.



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# Where will I find the nearest state veterinarian?

- Find the right person to help you.
- Link to the website of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.
- Contact provincial state veterinary services
- <https://old.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/contacts/provincialveterinary>



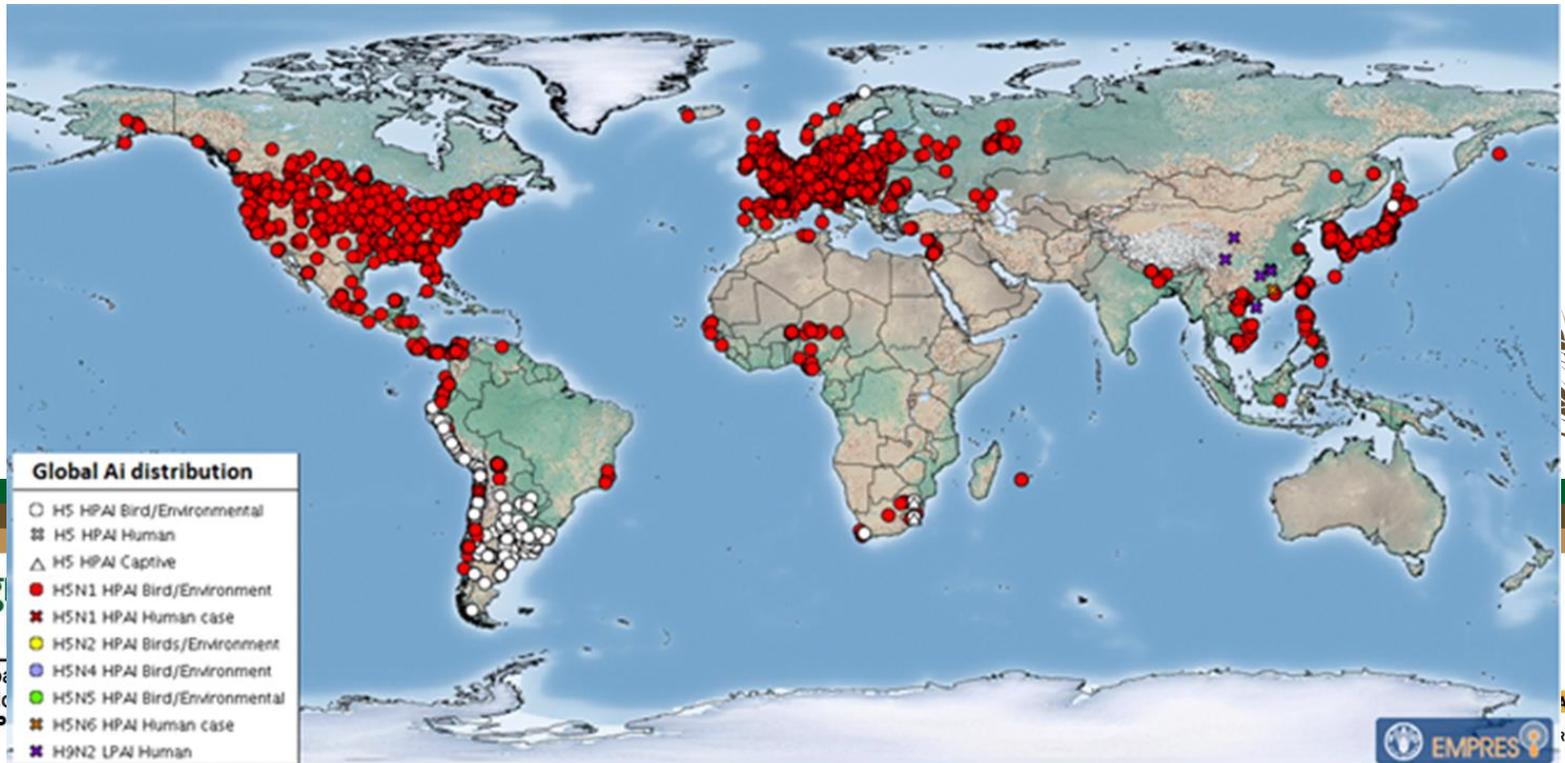
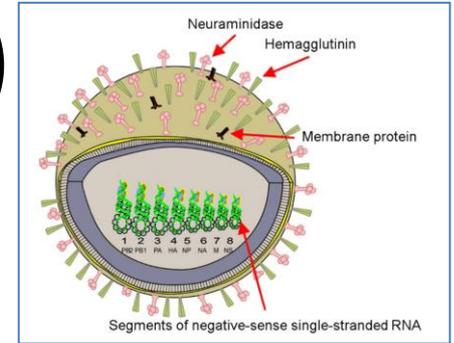
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# Avian Influenza (AI)

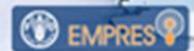
- Virus - Orthomyxoviridae
- Disease that can be found globally
- Contagious and have the potential to cause severe disease



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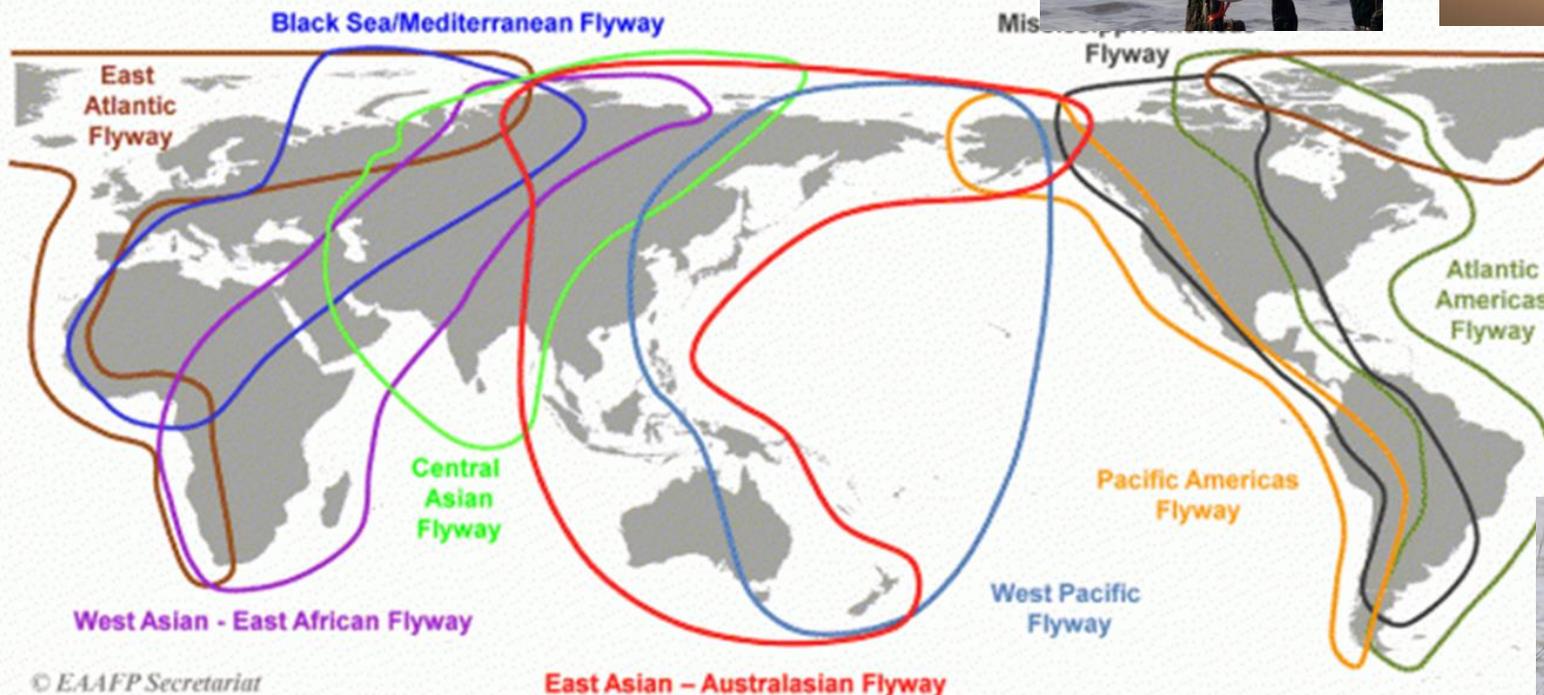
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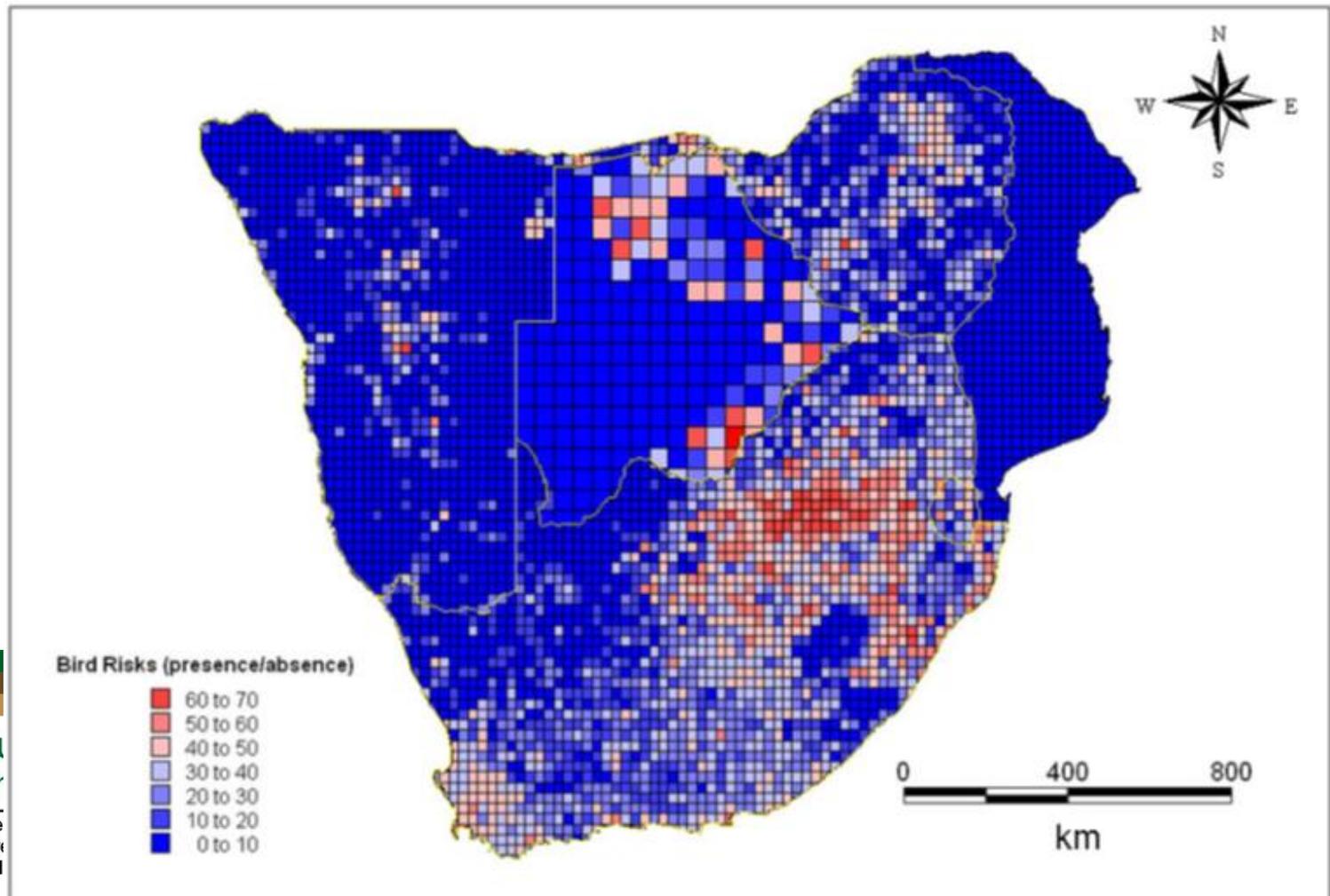
# How does it travel across the world?

- Migratory wild birds are the natural host of avian influenza viruses, but wild bird transmissions remain low.



# Which areas are high risk

- Areas with food and water, large numbers of poultry and humans



# General AI information

- Avian Influenzas can be classified into two categories:
  - low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) that typically causes little or no clinical signs; (H6 and others )
  - high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) that can cause severe clinical signs and possible high mortality rates. These have a high potential of mutating to infect people. (H5, H7)



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# History of AI in South Africa

- First Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in ostriches in the ECP in 2004 (H5N2).
- The first case of an HPAI outbreak was detected in a broiler breeder facility in the Mpumalanga province on 19 June 2017 (H5 N8).



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# Information on recent outbreaks

- H5N1 (detected in 2021) (outbreak closed 2023).
  - Introduced as Highly Pathogenic virus (HP).
  - Low zoonotic potential
- H5N1 (detected in 2023) - HP H5N1
  - Different virus from the previous H5N1 virus, also HP
  - Low zoonotic potential



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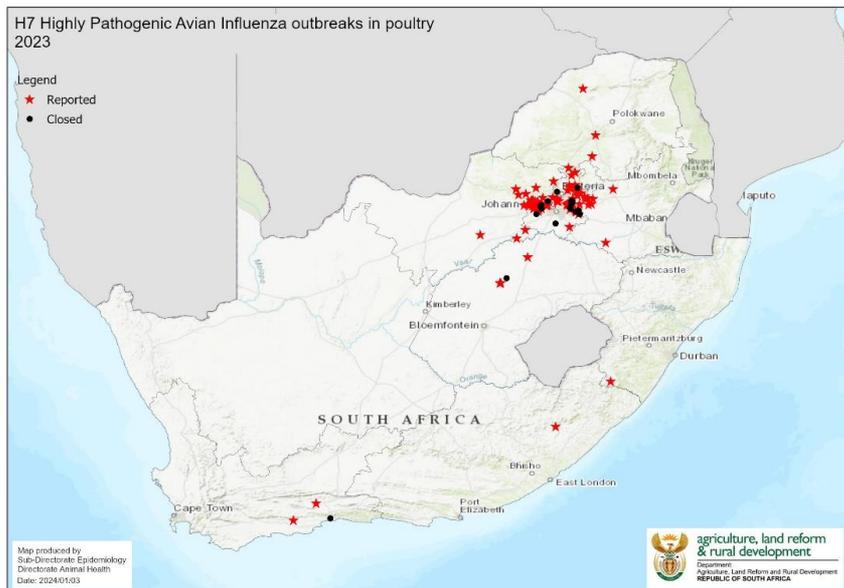
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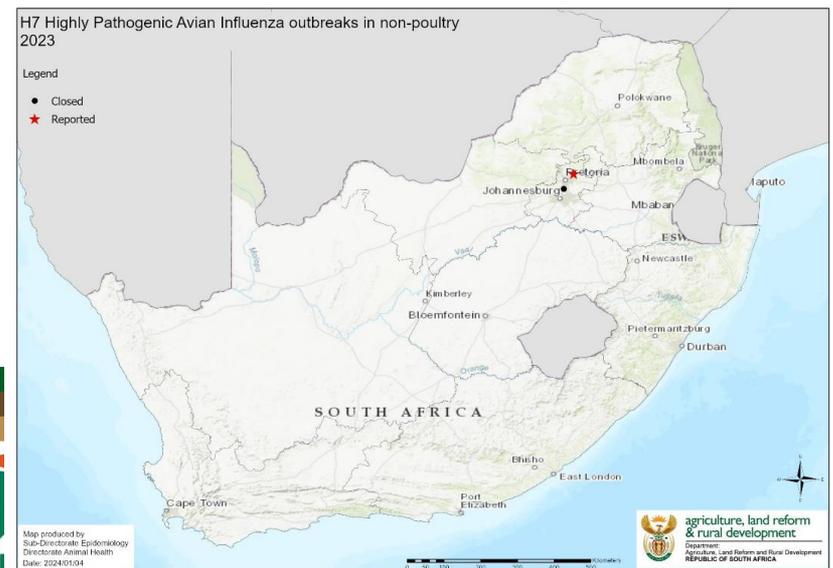
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# Information on recent outbreaks

- HP H7N6 (most recently detected in 2023)
  - First HP H7 and first outbreak of H7 in chickens.
  - There are indications of mechanical spread between farms possibly by trucks , people and equipment.
  - Two wild bird positives were detected.



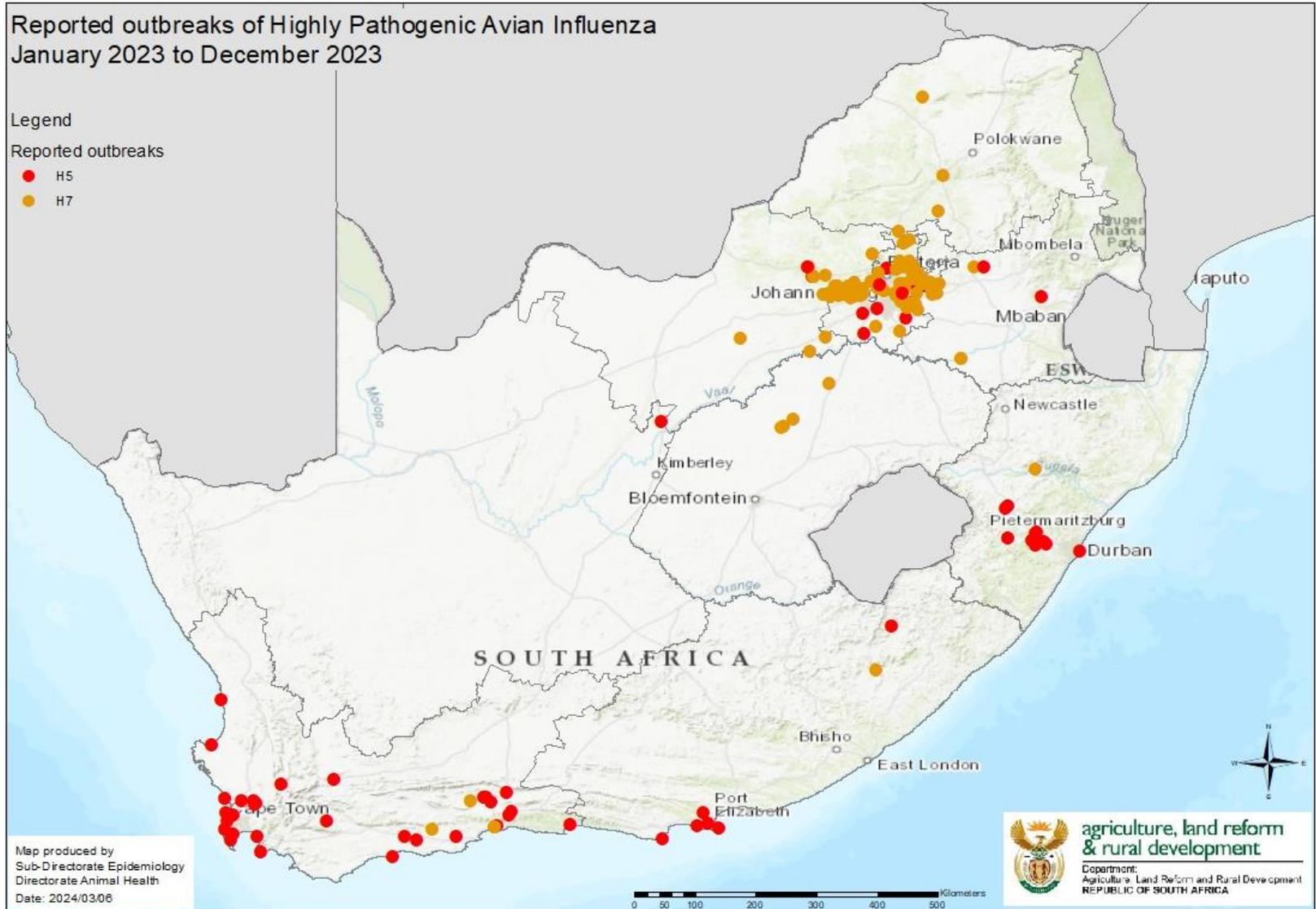
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# Avian Influenza in 2023



# What will prevent AI from infecting my flock?

- Prevent contact between wild birds and poultry (biosecurity).
- Do not bring sick chickens into your flock
- Do not handle your chickens after you have handled any other chickens (wash clothes and shower)
- Do not sell sick chickens to someone else.
- Be on the lookout and report any suspicion.



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# Control of AI in chickens

- Current control measures in the ADA
  - All contact poultry shall be isolated and destroyed by the responsible person under the supervision of an officer.
  - All infected poultry shall be destroyed by the responsible person under the supervision of an officer.



# Control of AI in chickens

- Additional control methods that are under discussion
  - Exception from culling (kill and destroy)
    - high biosecurity
    - Increased surveillance
  - Vaccination
    - high biosecurity,
    - Increased surveillance
    - chickens may only go for direct slaughter at an abattoir (no sales of spent hens).



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# Control of AI in chickens – implication of vaccination

- Vaccination will not prevent disease but will just decrease the signs and therefore the impact of the disease.
- This increases the risk of movement of disease by the movement of chickens that look healthy.
- No example in the world where where vaccination managed to get rid of AI.



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# Control of AI in chickens – implication of vaccination

- The cost of vaccination must be considered as well as the cost of increased biosecurity and surveillance.
- SADC agreed not to vaccinate – RSA got permission as an experiment to evaluate the effect and success of vaccination.
- No export from vaccinated flocks and immediately progeny.



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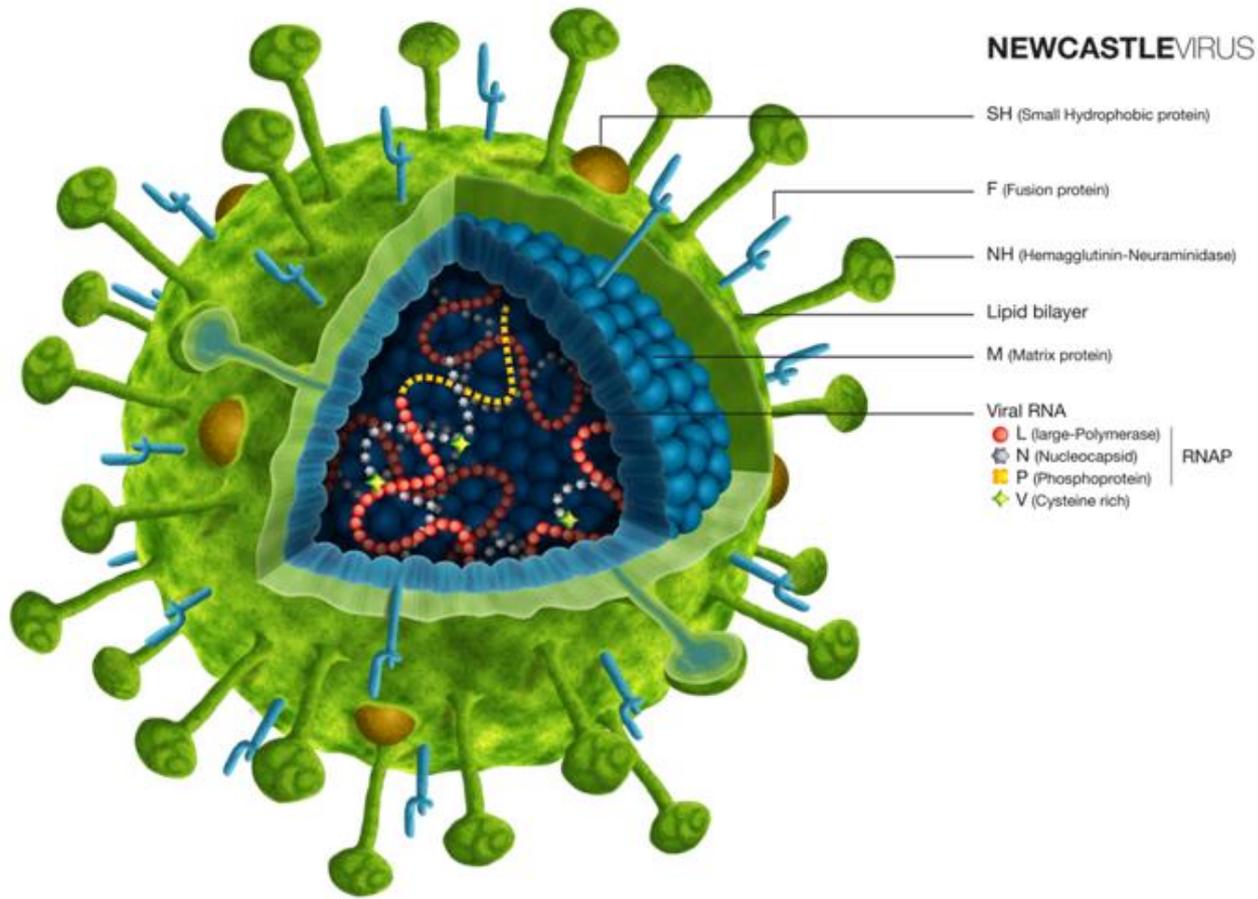


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# Newcastle Disease



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# Newcastle

- Highly contagious viral disease caused by avian paramyxovirus 1.
- Have the potential to cause severe disease.
- All fowls, domesticated ostriches and racing pigeons in the Republic shall be immunised.
- Infected animals shall be isolated and be destroyed or dealt with as determined by the director.



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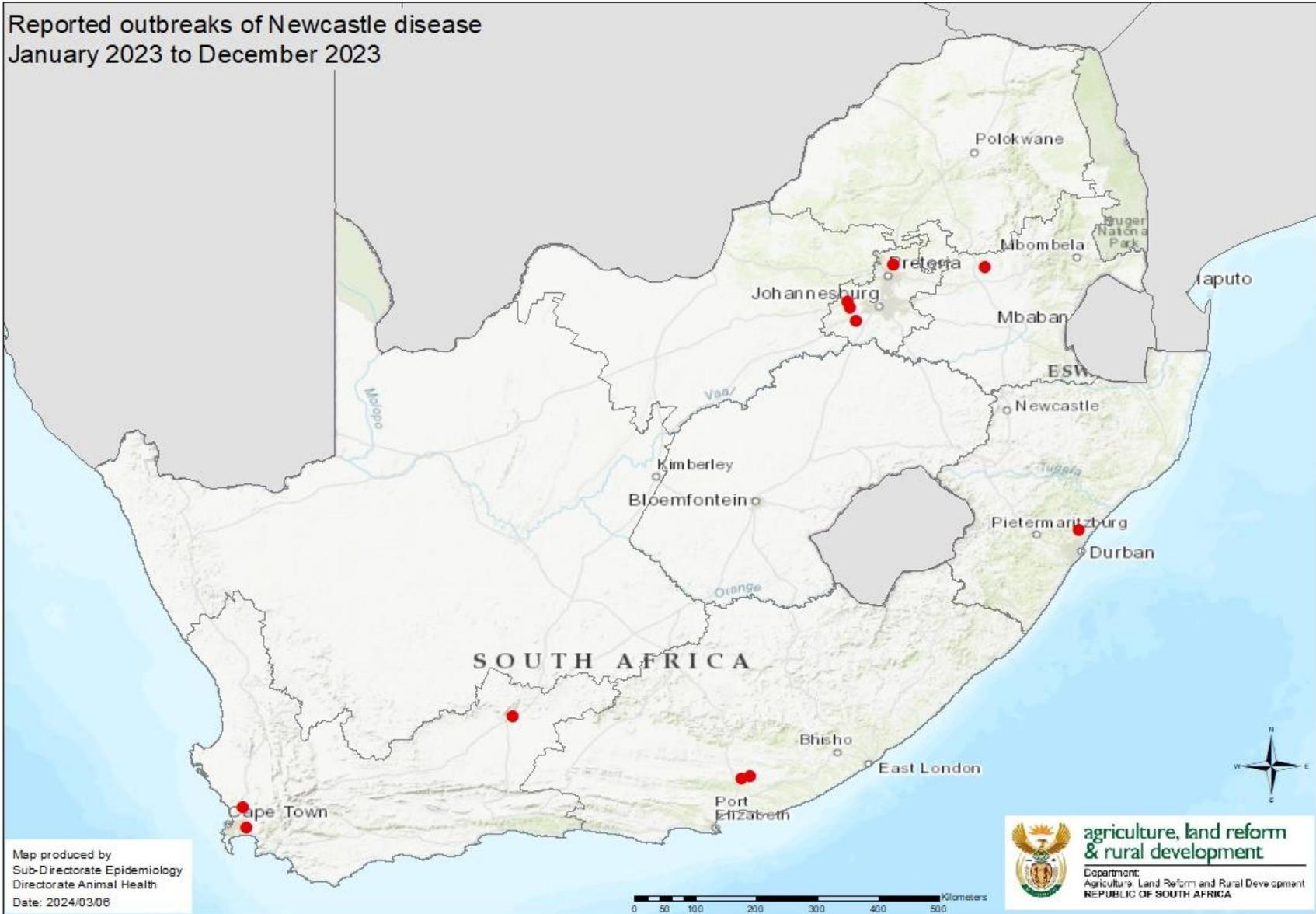
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# Newcastle disease

Reported outbreaks of Newcastle disease  
January 2023 to December 2023



Map produced by  
Sub-Directorate Epidemiology  
Directorate Animal Health  
Date: 2024/03/08



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# Salmonella

- An infectious egg-transmitted bacterial disease.



# Salmonella

- Different strains with different control strategies. (Vaccination, isolation, treatment)
- Work with state veterinarian after an outbreak to go through steps to clean out the flocks by implementing a control strategy.
- Have a strategy to prevent infection.



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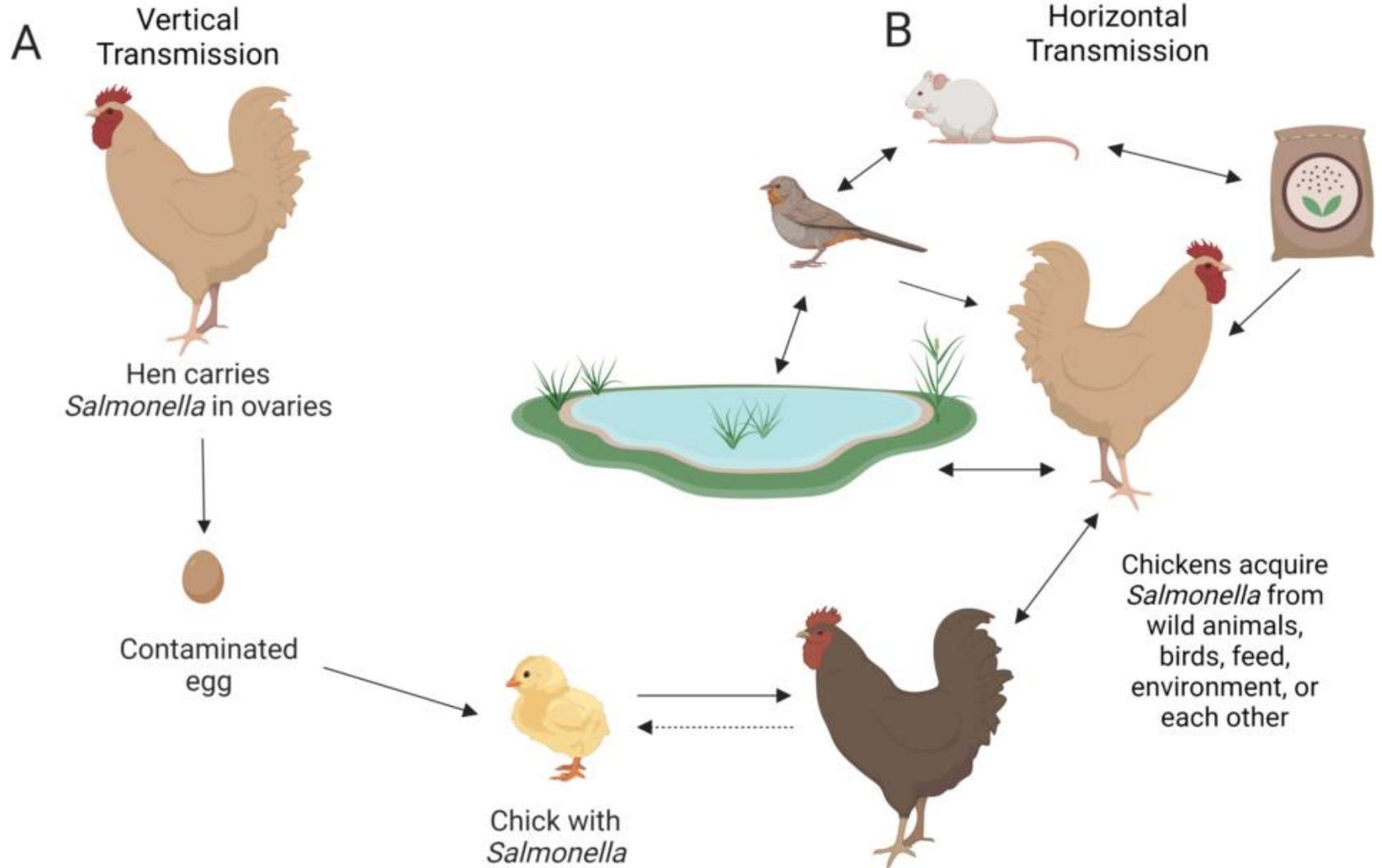


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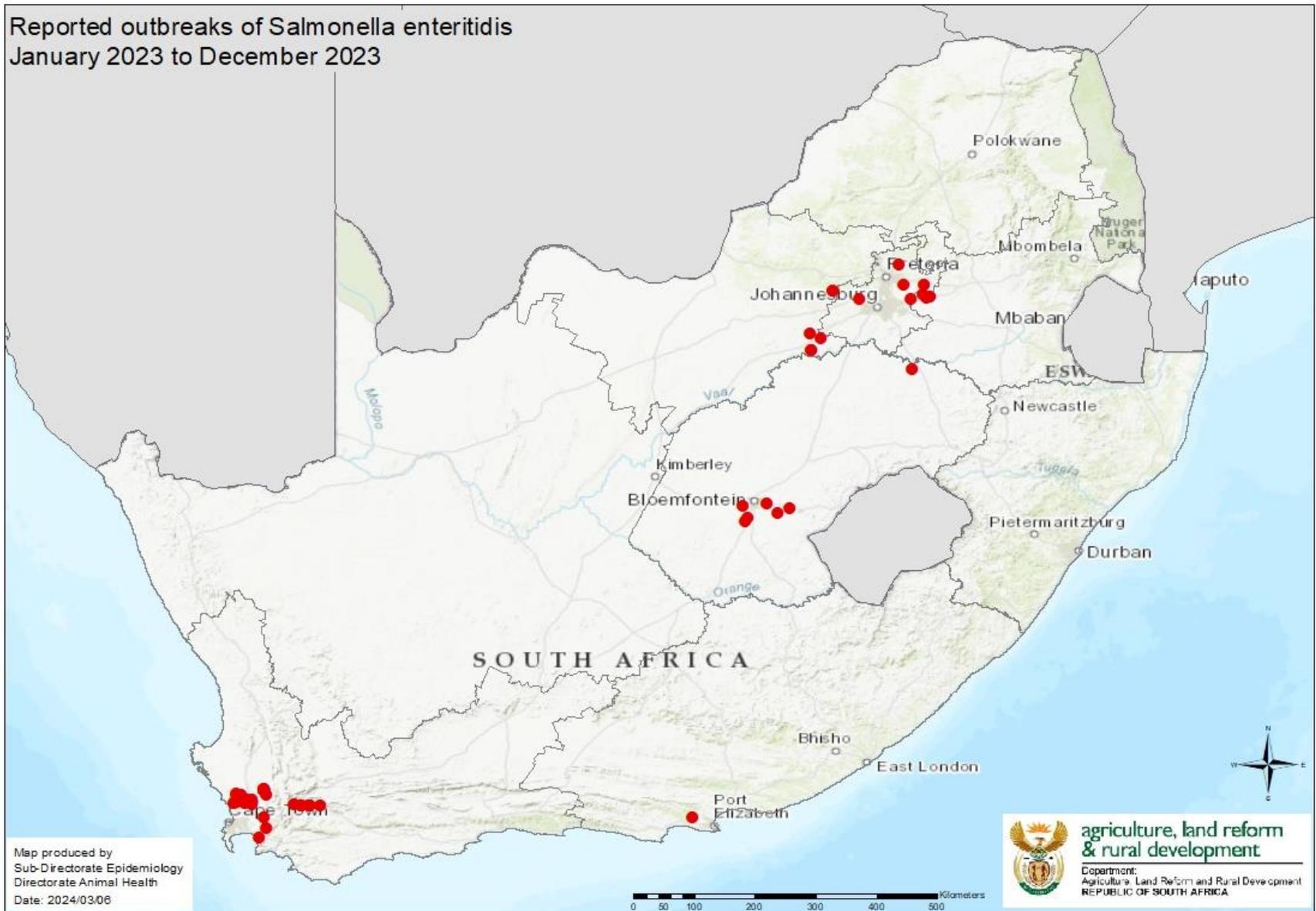
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# Salmonella



# Salmonella enteritidis

Reported outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis*  
January 2023 to December 2023



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Date: 2024/03/06

# THE END

