

**DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES CIRCULAR NO.2 OF 2021**

**DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES  
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**31 May 2021**

**L/VET/4/5**

**TO: ALL DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS  
ALL DISTRICT VETERINARY OFFICERS  
ALL DISTRICT ANIMAL PRODUCTION OFFICERS**

**COPY: Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food Security  
P.S Agriculture and Food Security  
All heads of Departments-MAFS  
District Administrators  
Heads of Divisions-DLS  
Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Ministry of Small Business Development and Marketing  
Ministry of Police- Commissioner of Police  
Commander of Lesotho Defense Force  
Commissioner of Customs (LRA)  
Heads of Border Agencies  
Director General of Health Services  
FAO  
WHO  
Agricultural Information Services**

## **Subject: Outbreak of Notifiable Avian influenza in Lesotho**

The Department of livestock Services under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security received a report of high mortality of layers (over 500 birds dead) in a mixed farm located at Ha Penapena on 28 May 2021. Our veterinarian went to investigate on the same day, which was followed by another visit by a team of veterinarians the next day on the 29 May 2021. Based on the history, clinical signs and post-mortem findings, avian influenza (bird flu) was suspected. Samples were collected and submitted to the Central veterinary laboratory where the Real-time polymerase chain reaction (real-time PCR) was conducted and confirmed an outbreak of the Notifiable Avian Influenza (tentative avian influenza subtype H5). The Department of Livestock Services is at an advanced stage of sending samples for pathotyping and N typing to LGC Genomics in Germany and Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Department has taken the following measures with immediate effect to curb the spread of the disease:

- 1) Disinfection and decontamination
- 2) Official disposal of carcasses.
- 3) Placing the affected farm and surrounding areas (10 km radius) under quarantine with immediate effect.
- 4) Banning of exportation of poultry and poultry products from the borders of Lesotho.
- 5) Tracing of contact farms.

The Department and all concerned will continue monitoring and assessing the situation and will inform the public about any changes.

N:B This is a zoonotic disease, which can be transmissible between infected birds and humans, public is advised not to consume sick or dead chickens, and should immediately report any suspicious, sick or dead domestic and wild birds to the nearest veterinary establishment.



**Dr. Keneuoe Lehloenya**  
**Director of livestock Services**