

Bird flu reaches Antarctica

Bird flu, which has killed millions of birds and mammals worldwide, has been confirmed on mainland Antarctica – a potential risk for the continent's penguin and marine mammal colonies



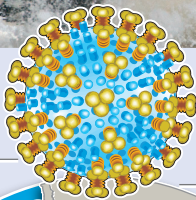
■ **1996-97:** Strain of avian influenza, known as H5N1, first detected in poultry in Guangdong, China

■ **2005:** Wild birds spread H5N1 to poultry in Africa, Middle East and Europe

■ **2014-20:** H5N6 and H5N8 virus subtypes emerge and spread widely

■ **2021:** New H5N1 strain found. Virus kills over 86m birds in U.S. and Europe alone, mainly through poultry culling.

European Food Safety Authority says epidemic is largest ever recorded on continent



1 Dec 2022: First case detected in Chile. Virus kills more than 29,000 sea birds and 20,000 marine mammals

2 Oct 2023: Virus detected in brown skuas on **Bird Island, South Georgia**. 100 elephant seals and fur seals die

3 Jan 2024: More than 200 gentoo penguin chicks die on **Falklands Islands**

4 Feb: Two cases of bird flu detected at **Hope Bay**

5 Feb 25: Two brown skuas infected at Primavera on mainland Antarctica

