

Japan orders chicken cull after bird flu outbreak

16 December 2014



Officials were also setting up stations to disinfect vehicles travelling on major roads around the affected farm to prevent the virus from spreading further.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered the farm ministry to "promptly take thorough measures for epidemic prevention," a statement said.

Japan's agriculture ministry regularly warns farmers about the risk of infection, citing the continued spread of the disease in Asia, including in neighbouring South Korea.

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Japan on Tuesday ordered the slaughter of some 4,000 chickens after officials confirmed bird flu at a poultry farm in the southwest of the country.

DNA tests confirmed the H5 strain of the virus at a farm in Miyazaki after its owner reported more than 20 sudden deaths among his poultry on Sunday and Monday, the agriculture ministry said.

"We confirmed at least three of the [chickens](#) tested positive for the virus," a ministry official said. "The Miyazaki government has already started culling all the chickens at the farm."

It was the first confirmed outbreak of [bird flu](#) at a Japanese poultry farm since April. Some wild birds that were found dead in southwestern Japan tested positive last month.

Authorities in Miyazaki prefecture, on Kyushu island, have locked down the affected farm and nearby farms, with the movement of chickens banned while the areas are being sanitised.

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