



# OFFLU AVIAN INFLUENZA REPORT

September 2020 to February 2021

## **SCOPE**

In this document we present a summary of H5, H7 and H9 avian influenza A virus events reported from September 2020 to current. (February 2021)

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# Avian Influenza A Viruses

## Introduction, data sources and acknowledgements

The H5/H7/H9 epidemiological summary was generated using data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) EMPRES Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i) and the WAHIS interface weekly disease information service provided by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). EMPRES-i is an information system designed to facilitate the compilation of animal disease data from different sources, such as the OIE, government Ministries of Agriculture and veterinary services and partner Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Only data for confirmed reports in environmental samples, wild birds, captive wild birds and domestic birds were used; suspect cases were excluded where results were based solely on serology. Sequence data and viruses were shared by the OFFLU network and OIE/FAO partner countries and we are very grateful for their collaboration. We acknowledge and thank the OIE Reference laboratory and diagnostic laboratory teams at APHA, IZSve, AAHL, FLI and NVSL for their expertise in data analyses and compiling the report.

Analyses were conducted by subtype. Reference sequences and new data added from the beginning of this reporting period (2020-09-01 until 2021-02-23) were downloaded from Genbank, NCBI and GISAID in addition to data provided through the OFFLU network. Sequences were aligned using MAFFT (Kato and Standley, 2013) using default settings. Alignments were manually inspected and trimmed to the start and stop codon of HA1. Trees were run using IQ-TREE (Nguyen et al., 2015) using an aLRT test (Guindon et al., 2010). HA1 consensus sequences were generated using SMOF (<https://github.com/incertae-sedis/smoffor>) for groups of phylogenetically similar sequences and these were compared against the most similar CVV using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit (<https://github.com/flu-crew>). Best matched strains were selected for testing against reference ferret antisera in haemagglutination inhibition (HI) assays.

Avian influenza A virus haemagglutination inhibition (HI) assay antigenic data in this reporting period was generated by APHA-Weybridge and IZSve using WHO-CC and OFFLU- provided ferret-origin reagents and harmonised protocols.

## Avian influenza A virus vaccination

In many AI endemic countries, H5 and other vaccination are employed as part of overall control efforts. Recent H5 HPAI epizootic events have resulted in additional countries considering vaccination to control disease. China has had an extensive vaccination production system and current understanding is that RE-14 is the H5 vaccine representative.

Currently, in China, vaccination of poultry is mandatory in all provinces (including chickens, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons and other rare birds in captivity). From September 2017, a government sponsored campaign using a bivalent H5/H7 vaccine (H5 2.3.4.4 Re-8 based on A/chicken/Guizhou/4/13(H5N1); H7N9 Re-1) has been implemented. Although the backbone HA sequence for the H7 component of the bivalent vaccine is based on A/pigeon/Shanghai/ S1069/2013(H7N9), the HA sequence was modified to reflect changes in more contemporary viruses in order to improve the antigenicity and titre of the vaccine strain. Institutions in China also produce various other H7 and H9 vaccines. Current understanding is that RE-2 is the H7 component. Despite the risk of potential incursion of Asian lineage H7N9, H7 vaccination is currently banned in Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia. Active surveillance for reportable H5 and H7 viruses occurs in poultry along the border in these countries.

# Global H5, H7 and H9 avian influenza events in animals

## Epidemiology

The majority of H5 events were due to the Goose/Guangdong (GsGD) H5 clades of HPAI. Relatively few countries reported H5 LPAI in domestic birds: H5N2 in the UK and H5N3 in South Korea both in October and H5N3 in January in France. During this reporting period there were no PCR-confirmed reports of HPAI H7 viruses and the only reports of H9 viruses were in China and India. While not officially reportable H9 viruses can significantly impact poultry.

H5Nx clades have been steadily evolving since 2008 constituting an antigenically and genetically broad series of isolates. The vast majority of outbreaks this reporting period were caused by H5 HPAI 2.3.4.4b. Since early 2020 small H5N8 outbreaks have been reported across the European poultry sector. H5N8 outbreaks in Iraq, Russia and Kazakhstan occurred mid 2020 caused by a new H5 2.3.4.4b variant with closest relatives to 2.3.4.4b viruses detected in Israel and Iraq in 2019 and 2020 respectively. There have been numerous subsequent and continuing outbreaks throughout Europe and Asia which appear genetically closely related. Other distinct H5N8 2.3.4.4b events in Japan and South Korea occurred from October onwards and these Asian outbreaks appear to be closely related to outbreaks seen in European Member States in early 2020.

Throughout this reporting period H5N5 outbreaks occurred sporadically in Taiwan, Russia and subsequently in Europe from October onwards. H5N1 outbreaks have been seen periodically in Viet Nam, Laos and Germany and recently in India and Senegal. Sporadic cases of H5N6 have been seen in the first half of the year in China and continuously in Viet Nam. Phylogenetic analysis shows that they are of the clade 2.3.4.4h and are closely related to previously circulating strains in that region. H5N1 strains seen in January 2021 in Cambodia appear to be genetically similar to circulating strains of the 2.3.2.1c clade seen since throughout 2019.

# Regional geographic summary and context

A(H5), A(H7), A(H9) activity

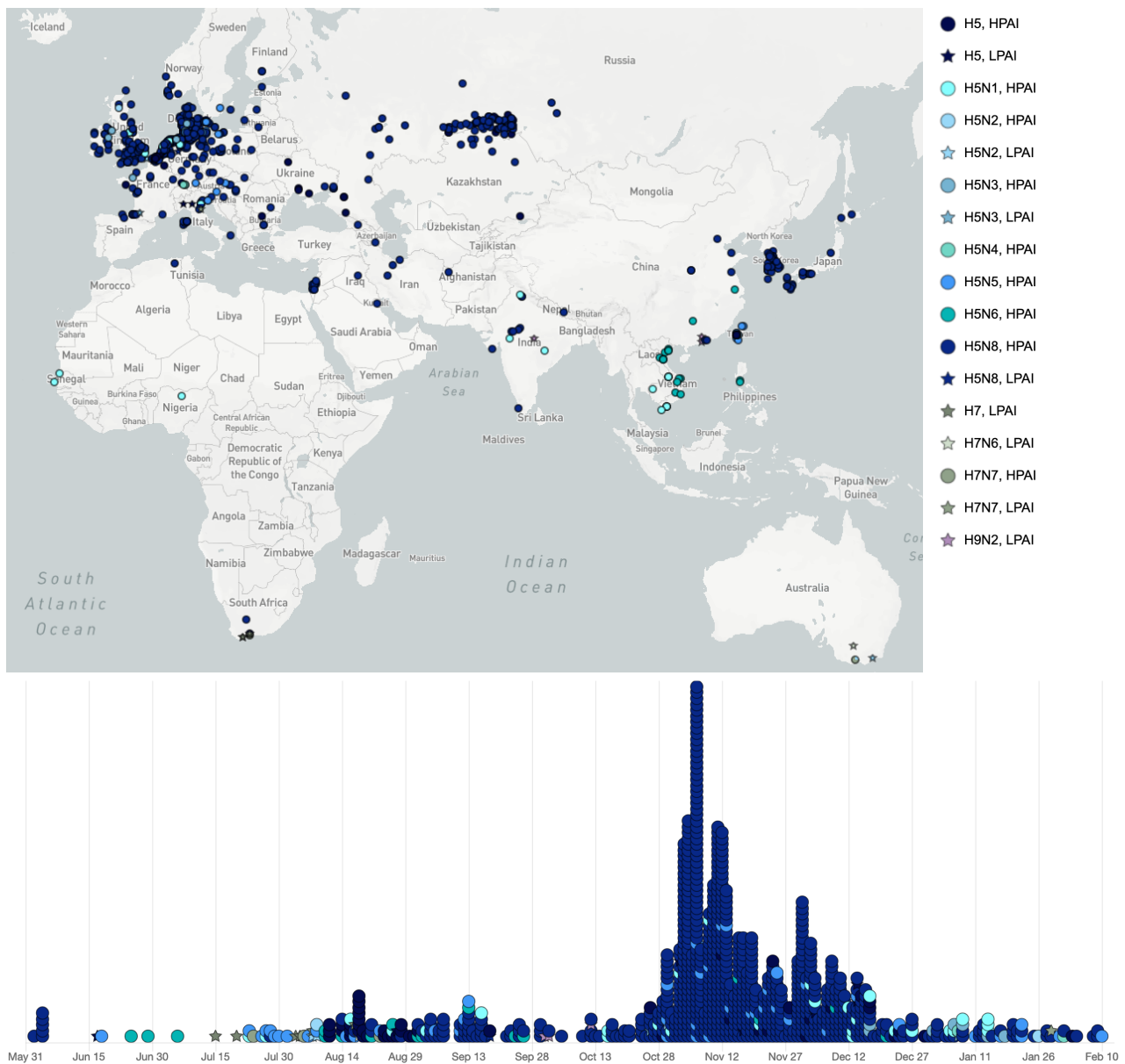


Figure 1: MicroReact map of H5, H7 and H9 events for the timeperiod – 1 June 2020 to 22 February 2021 (N=961). Points are coloured by subtype. Shape denotes low pathogenic (star) or highly pathogenic (circle) avian influenza A viruses. Collection data is represented along the timeline. Geographic centroid coordinates were used for reports where no precise geolocation was available.

## **H5N1 ACTIVITY WITHIN REPORTING PERIOD (SEPTEMBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021)**

### **EUROPE:**

#### **H5**

- Russia in September
- Netherlands in October
- Italy and France in November
- Ukraine, Germany and Belgium in December

#### **H5N1**

- Netherlands in October
- Italy in November
- The UK and Germany in December

#### **H5N2**

- Scotland in January

#### **H5N3**

- Germany in December
- UK and Ireland and France in January

#### **H5N4**

- Germany in January
- Switzerland in February

#### **H5N5**

- Russia in September
- Denmark and Germany in October
- Italy, UK and Sweden in November
- France and Slovenia in December

#### **H5N8**

- Russia from September onwards
- Georgia from September onwards
- UK and Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany from October onwards
- France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Spain, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia in November.
- Italy and Lithuania in December onwards
- Hungary, Czech Republic, Finland, Romania and Slovakia in January
- Austria and Ukraine, Bulgaria and Latvia and Estonia in February

### **ASIA:**

#### **H5N1**

- Lao and Viet Nam from September
- Cambodia and India in January

#### **H5N8**

- Kazakhstan and the Republic of Georgia in September
- Israel, Republic of Korea and Japan in October
- Kuwait in December
- India, Hong Kong, Iraq, China and Afghanistan in January

#### **H5N5**

- Taiwan in September

#### **H5N6**

- Viet Nam in September
- China in November

Philippines: Although just outside the reporting period, recently shared sequence data show that the H5N6 2.3.4.4e clade has continued to be maintained in Philippines poultry systems since first incursion back in July 2017 (following the initial emergence of A/Hyogo/1/2016(H5N6)-like viruses in Japan and ROK in 2016).

**AFRICA:**

- Senegal and Nigeria reported H5N1 in January
- Algeria reported H5N8 in January

**AMERICAS (US)/ OCEANIA (AUSTRALIA):**

No reports

**LPAI ACTIVITY:**

**EUROPE:**

H5

- Italy in November
- Belgium and the Netherlands in December

H5N2

- UK in October

H5N3

- France in January

H5N8

- Germany in September

H7N7

- Italy in January

**ASIA:**

H5

- Korea in November

H5N3

- Korea in October

H9N2

- China and India in October

**AFRICA/AMERICAS (US)/OCEANIA (AUSTRALIA)**

No reports

Data for 43 H5 and 13 H9 sequences were contributed to OFFLU by animal health laboratories in countries representing Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas to which 150 H5 and 3 H9 sequences from Genbank and GISAID were added.



## Activity Table (H5) viruses

Table 1: 01/09/2020 to 12/02/2021 A(H5) viruses of the A/goose/Guangdong/1/96 lineage detected in domestic and wild birds as summarised below. Where sequences have been available for analysis clades have been included. Data was collected through EMPRES-i, OIE via the WAHIS system or through OFFLU collaborators.

Country, area or territory	Host	Genetic clade
Afghanistan	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Algeria	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Austria	Wild Birds	unknown (H5N8)
Bangladesh	Wild bird Poultry	2.3.4.4h (H5N6) 2.3.2.1a (H5N1)
Belgium	Wild bird Poultry	unknown (H5) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8) unknown (H5N5)
Bulgaria	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Cambodia	Poultry	2.3.2.1c (H5N1)
China	Human (5)* Poultry/environmental Wild birds	2.3.4.4h, unknown (H5N6) 2.3.4.4h (H5N6), 2.3.2.1f (H5N1) unknown (H5N6), 2.3.4.4h (H5N8)
Chinese Taipei	Poultry Wild Birds	unknown (H5N2/5) unknown (H5)
Croatia	Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
The Czech Republic	Poultry Wild Birds	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Denmark	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N5/N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Estonia	Wild Birds	unknown (H5N8)
Finland	Wild Birds	unknown (H5N8)
France	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) unknown (H5N3) 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8)
Germany	Wild bird Poultry	unknown (H5N/x/1/3/4), 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8)
Hong Kong	Wild birds	unknown (H5N8)
Hungary	Wild birds Poultry	unknown (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
India	Poultry Wild Birds	unknown (H5N1/8) 2.3.4.4b(H5N8) 2.3.4.4b(H5N1)
The Islamic Republic of Iran	Wild bird Poultry	unknown (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
Republic of Iraq	Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Ireland	Wild birds Poultry	unknown (H5N3), 2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Israel	Wild birds Poultry	unknown (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
Italy	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N1/5/8) unknown (H5N8)
Japan	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Kazakhstan	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Kuwait	Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Human (1) Poultry	2.3.2.1c (H5N1) unknown (H5N1)
Latvia	Wild Birds	unknown (H5N8)
Lithuania	Wild birds Poultry	unknown (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
Nepal	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Netherlands	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N1/5/8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N1/8)
Nigeria	Poultry	unknown (H5N1)
Norway	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
Poland	Poultry Wild birds	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8)
Republic of Georgia	Wild birds	unknown (H5N8)
Republic of Korea	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Romania	Poultry Wild birds	unknown (H5N8) unknown (H5N8)
Russian Federation	Wild bird Poultry Human	2.3.4.4b (H5N8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N8)
Saudi Arabia	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Senegal	Poultry Wild birds	unknown (H5N1) unknown (H5N1)
Slovakia	Poultry Wild birds	unknown (H5N5/8) unknown (H5N8)
Slovenia	Wild birds	unknown (H5N5/8)
Spain	Wild birds	unknown (H5N8)
Switzerland	Wild Birds	unknown (H5N4)
Sweden	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N5/8)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Wild birds Poultry	2.3.4.4b (H5N1/2/3/5/8) 2.3.4.4b (H5N1/8)
Ukraine	Poultry	unknown (H5N8)
Viet Nam	Poultry	unknown (H5N1) 2.3.4.4h (H5N6)

# H5 phylogenetic tree overview:

February 2021 Submissions

September 2020 Submissions

Human Sequence

CVV

— Europe

— Asia

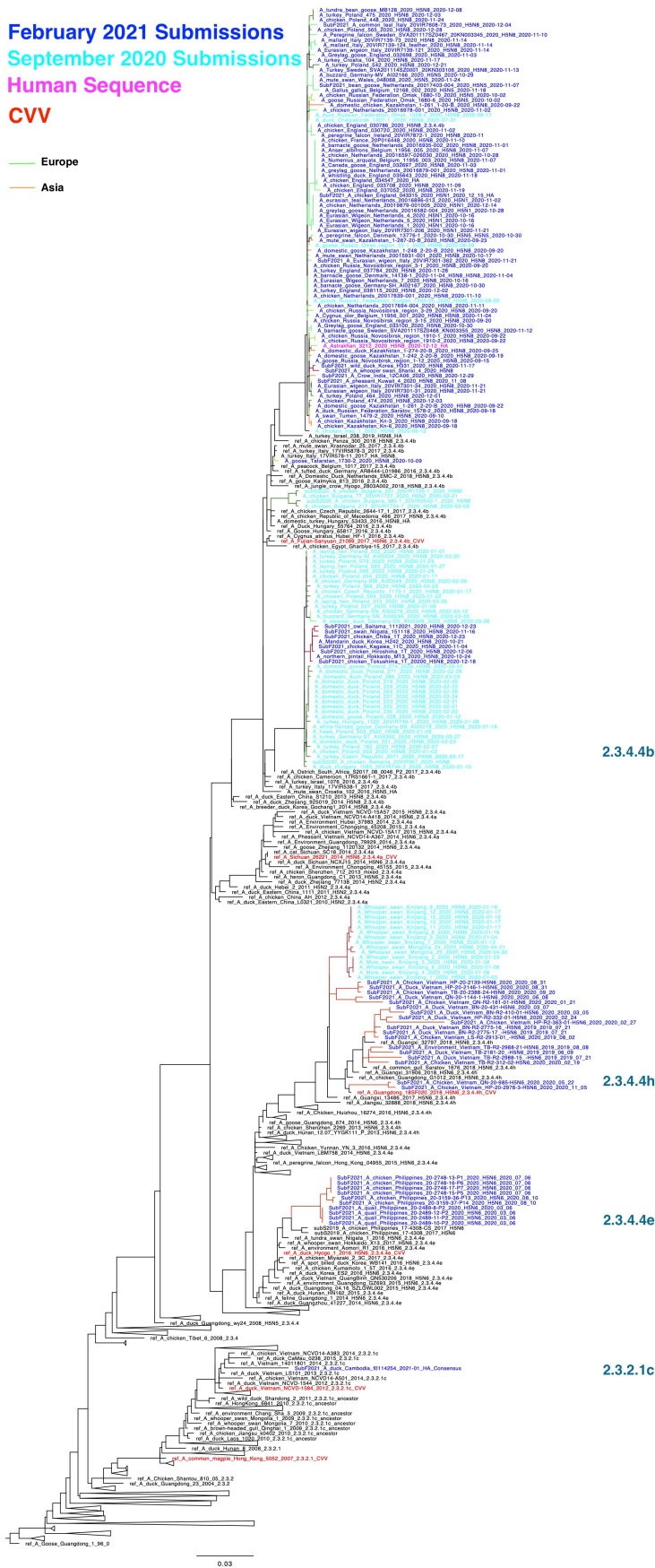


Figure 2: Avian H5 global summary maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree annotated by clades. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID or shared by the OFFLU network. Branches are coloured by geographic location (Europe: green and Asia: orange). New data acquired between September 2020 and February 2021 is coloured in dark blue and data from between February and September 2020 coloured in light blue. Candidate Vaccine strains (CVV) are shown in red and human cases in pink.

### H5 2.3.4.4b Phylogenetic tree coloured by geographic location

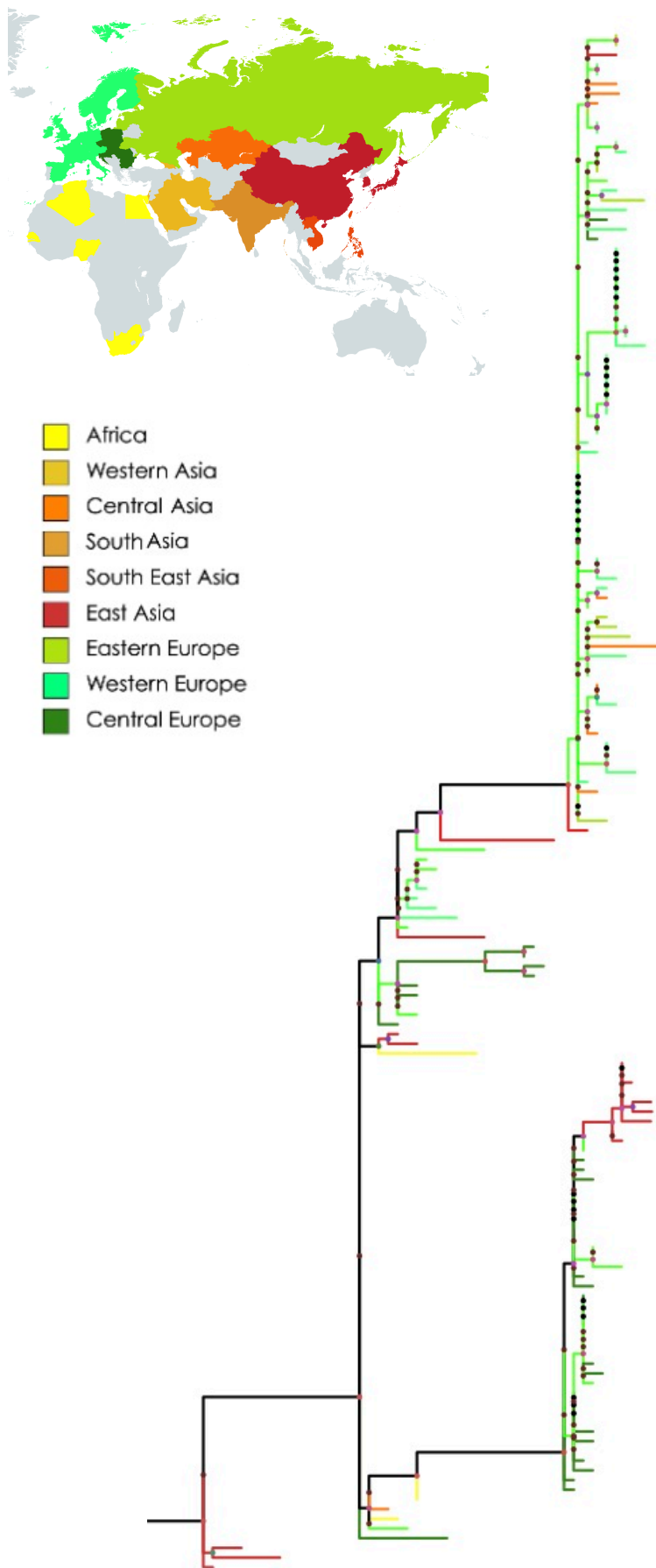


Figure 3: H5-2.3.4.4b phylogenetic tree with labels removed coloured by geography as according to EMIS subregion nomenclature

# H5 2.3.4.4b Phylogenetic analysis

H5 2.3.4.4b  
 February 2021 submissions  
 September 2020 submissions  
 Human-derived sequence  
 Candidate vaccine virus  
 HI assay

Node annotations: aa substitutions from CVV

- Homologous
- Twofold difference
- Fourfold difference
- Eightfold difference

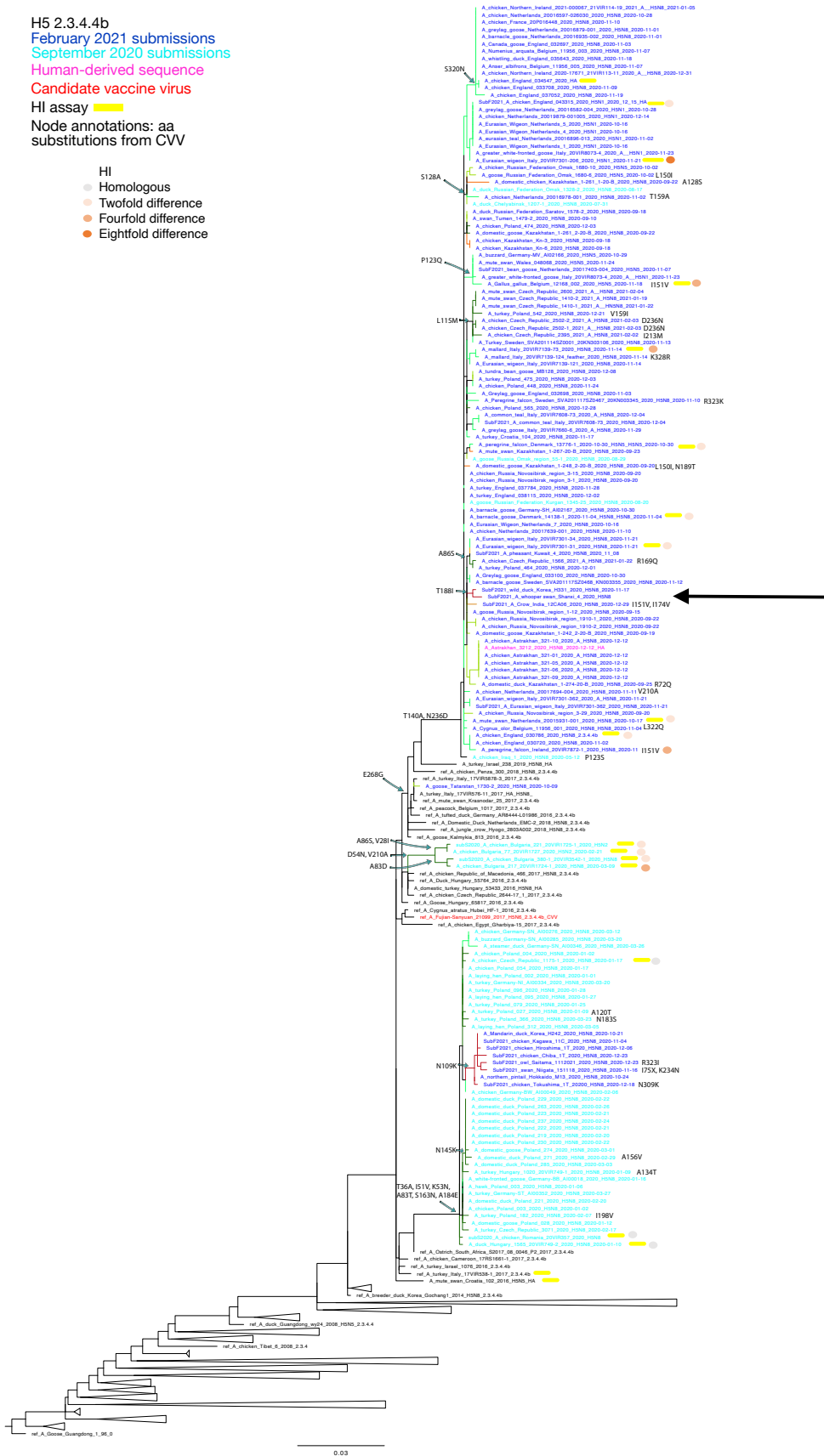


Figure 4: Avian H5 clade 2.3.4.4b phylogenetic tree. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID/shared by OFFLU. New data acquired between September 2020 and February 2021 is coloured in dark blue and data between February and September 2020 coloured in light blue, the human isolate is pink. The CVV for this clade A/Fujian-Sanyuan/21099/2017 is shown in red and amino acid differences relative to the CVV are annotated on the tree at the relevant nodes. Viral strains selected for HI testing are marked by a yellow bar. Branches are coloured by geographic location.

# H5 2.3.4.4b Comparative amino acid substitutions to clade CW

Table 2: Avian H5 2.3.4.4b clade sequence comparison to the CVV A/Fujian-Sanyuan/21099/2017 which is shown in red. Human strain is shown in pink. HI strains are represented in bold and a yellow box. Tables were generated using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit. Antigenic positions were annotated based on H5 numbering. Coloured bars correspond to geographical region.

site	1	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	6	6	7	7	8	7	7	8	9	site	Annotations		
14	E																																				E	14		
36	T																																				T	36		
51	T																																					T	51	
53	K																																					K	53	
54	D																																					D	54	
72	FR																																					FR	72	
83	A																																						A	83
86	A																																						A	86
94	S																																						S	94
101	L																																						L	101
109	N																																						N	109
114	L																																						L	114
115	L																																						L	115
120	A																																						A	120
123	P																																						P	123
128	S																																						S	128
134	A																																						A	134
140	T																																						T	140
141	P																																						P	141
145	N																																						N	145
150	L																																						L	150
151	I																																						I	151
156	A																																						A	156
163	G																																						G	163
169	D																																						D	169
174	I																																						I	174
175	L																																						L	175
181	S																																						S	181
183	N																																						N	183
184	A																																						A	184
188	T																																						T	188
189	N																																						N	189
195	T																																						T	195
198	T																																						T	198
210	V																																						V	210
213	I																																						I	213
234	K																																						K	234
236	N																																						N	236
257	V																																						V	257
268	E																																						E	268
273	H																																						H	273
282	V																																						V	282
309	N																																						N	309
320	S																																						S	320
322	L																																						L	322

# H5 Antigenic analysis

Table 3: Antigenic analysis IZSVe and APHA reference lab data: Haemagglutination inhibition assay data using reference antigen ferret antisera against H5 lineage strains selected across clades to represent currently circulating viruses.

Fold differences between the homologous and antigen titres are highlighted from grey to red. Differences from CVW strains \* A/GYRFALCON/WASHINGTON/41088-6/2014\_CVV or \*\*A/Fujian-Sanyuan/21099/2017\_CVV \*\*\*A/DUCK/HYOGO/1/2016 are annotated on the table. Antigenes whereby strains weren't available for analysis have been allocated a surrogate and any amino acid differences from the surrogate are noted on the right hand column.

Semester	Reference Antigen	Clade	Ferret ID	Homologous					H5 strain AA diff from CVW * or **	AA diff from surrogate
				640	<10	20	<10	<10		
APHA	A/ANHUI/1/2005	2.3.4	HSN1	640	<10	20	<10	<10		
	A/SICHUAN/26221/2014	2.3.4.4a	HSN6	<10	160	320	40	20		
	A/DUCK/HYOGO/1/2016	2.3.4.4e	HSN6	<10	80	640	320	80		
	A/CHICKEN/ENGLAND/36254/2014*	2.3.4.4c	HSN8	<10	160	70	1280	1280	R119K, S181P, A185E, S233R, M269V, H273Y	
	A/TURKEY/ITALY/17VIR576-11/2017	2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	20	<10	320	320	**E268G	
	<b>Test antigen</b>									
	1 A/TURKEY/HUNGARY/53433/2016	2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	40	20	640	640	**E268G	
	2 A/MUTE SWAN/CROATIA/102/2016	2.3.4.4b	HSN5	<10	80	20	320	160	**R169L, N183S	
	3 A/CHICKEN/ENGLAND/030786/2020	2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	40	10	160	160	**T140A, N236D, E268G	
	4 A/CHICKEN/ENGLAND/034547/2020	2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	40	10	320	640	**T140A, N236D, E268G	
	IZSVe	A/SICHUAN/26221/2014	2.3.4.4a	HSN6	<10	160	320	40	80	40
		A/FUJIAN-SANYUAN/21099/2017XPR8	2.3.4.4b	HSN6	<10	40	20	40	80	40
		A/CHICKEN/ENGLAND/030786/2020	2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	10	<10	80	20	80
		A/CHICKEN/ENGLAND/43315/2020	2.3.4.4b	HSN1	80	10	<10	20	20	20
<b>Test antigen</b>										
7 A/CHICKEN/BULGARIA/380-1_20VIR3542-1/2020		2.3.4.4b	HSN8	<10	40	20	40	160	160	
AAHI	A/DUCK/HYOGO/1/2016	2.3.4.4e	HSN6	<10	80					
	A/quail/Philippines/20-2489-8-P2/2020	2.3.4.4e	HSN6	<10	40					
	A/chicken/Philippines/20-2748-15-PS/2020	2.3.4.4e	HSN6	<10	<10					

# H5 2.3.4.4b Amino Acid Phylogenetic Tree

February 2021  
Submissions

September 2020  
Submissions

Human Sequence

Candidate vaccine  
viruses

Amino acid  
differences from CVV

HI assay strains

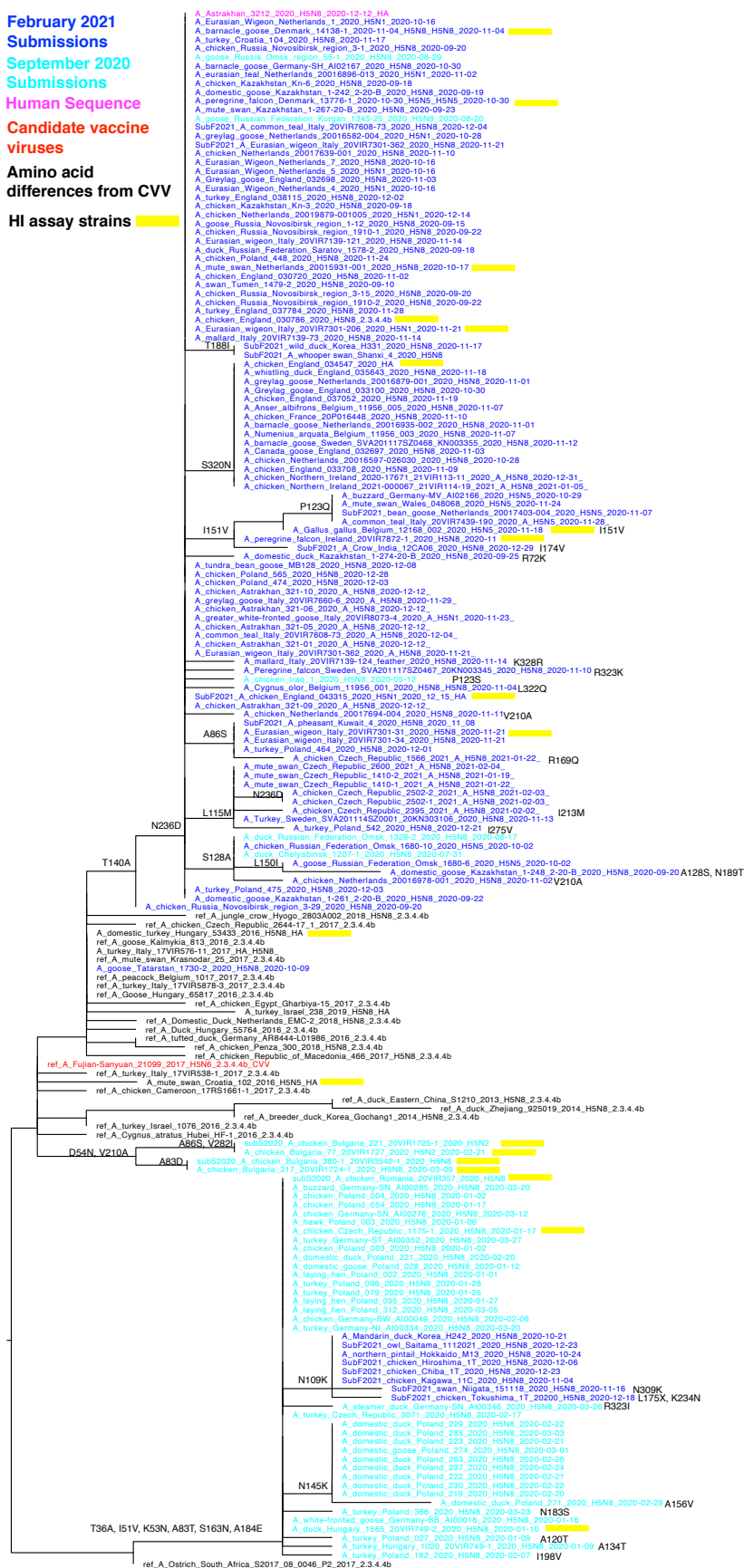


Figure 5: Phylogenetic tree inferred from HA1 amino acid sequences has been included to complement the HI table and amino acid difference table. HI strains are shown in yellow. Amino acid annotations are added at the relevant node. The tree is midpoint rooted.

## H5 Genome mutation analysis

### H5 2.3.4.4b mutational analysis

Full genome sequence data from A/Astrakhan/3212/2020(H5N8-2020) was compared with the CDC (Atlanta) H5N1 genetic changes inventory and Suttie et al. 2019 to identify genetic mutations that determine viral phenotypic characteristics of importance that might cause increase virulence, adaptation to mammalian species or alter susceptibility to existing antivirals.

16 unique amino acid differences were found. Phenotypic consequences where available are shown in Table 4. Further in-silico analyses indicate likely oseltamivir sensitivity and there are no changes present indicating baloxavir resistance as summarised in Table 5.

Table 4: Analysis of genetic changes present in A/Astrakhan/3212/2020/H5N8/2020-12-12 that may increase virulence, signal adaptation to mammalian species or alter susceptibility to existing antivirals.

Protein	Amino acid position/motif	Phenotypic consequences	Reference
PB2	N556S	Mutation carried in second- and third-wave viruses of study. These variants were found to replicate more rapidly in human airway epithelial (HAE) cells	Elderfield et al. 2014
	E677G	Mutation was studied however no effect to virulence was observed	Herfst et al. 2009
PB1	S216N	Genomic signature of pandemic H1N1	Chen and Shih 2009
	E614D		
PA	S115D	No result	
	R319G	No result	
	N436D	No result	
	S599N	No result	
	M620L	No result	
	D681N	No result	
HA	No mutations found		
NP	G16S	No result	
	S129A	No result	
NA (aligned against H5N8 2020-2021 sequences)	S28N	No result	
	V50I	Mutation observed in H3N2 canine influenza	Ou, Lu, Jia and Li 2020
	M295I	Mutation observed in H5N1 viruses isolated in Vietnam in 2012	Xuan, Chi and Quang 2014
MP	No mutations found		
NS1 and NS2	S3P	AA substitution observed in HPAI H5N1 in Thailand 2004-2005	Suwannakhon et al 2008

### H5 2.3.4.4b In-silico risk antiviral resistance assessment

Table 5: Analyses of A/Astrakhan/3212/2020/H5N8/2020-12-12 for any changes which indicate antiviral resistance.

Protein	Amino acid position/motif	A/Astrakhan/3212/2020 (H5N8)
PA	I38T	Not present
	E23K	Not present
	A37T	Not present
	A36V	Not present



## H5 2.3.4.4e Phylogenetic analyses

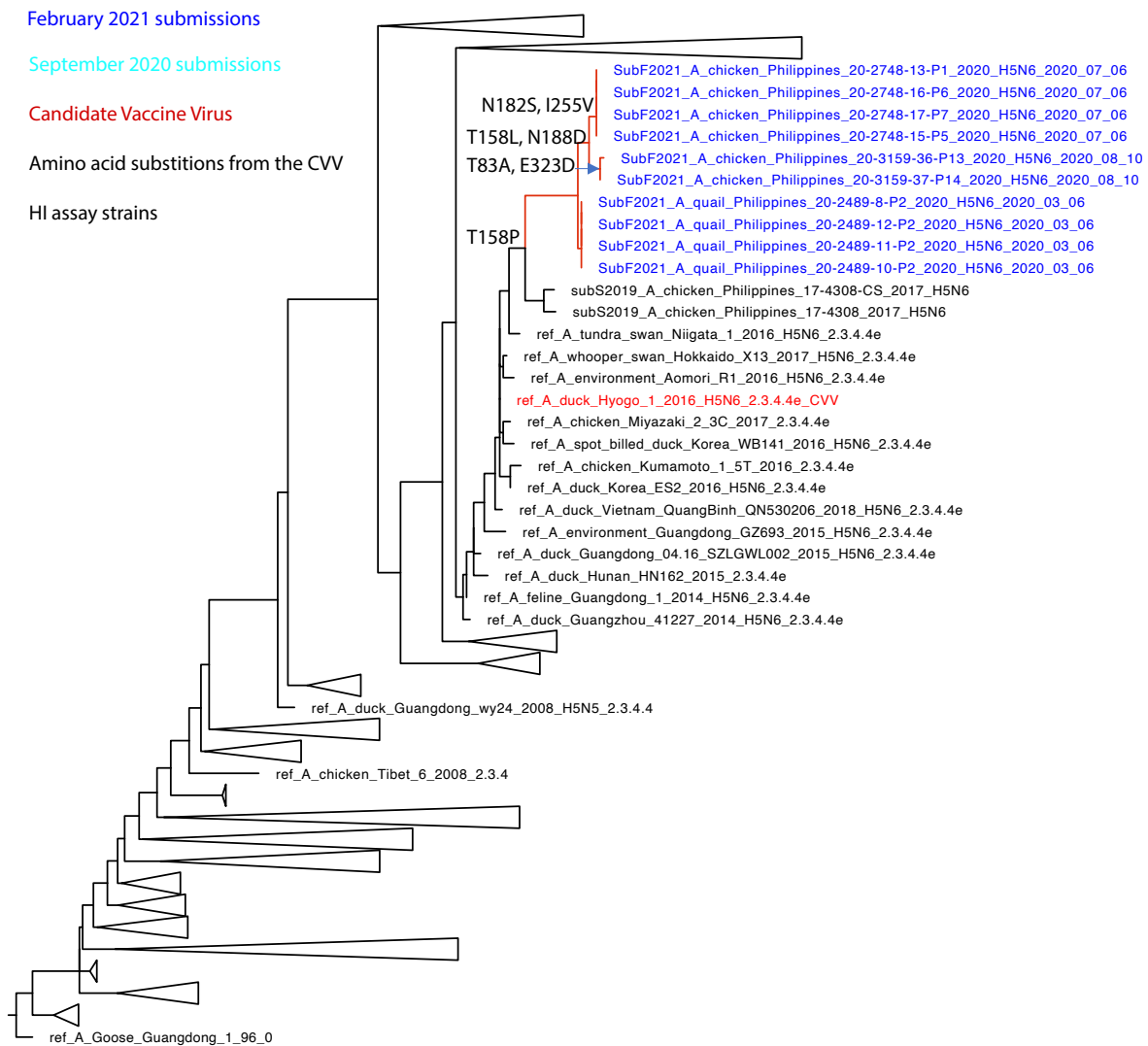


Figure 6: Avian H5 2.3.4.4e maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID/shared by OFFLU. New data acquired since September 2020 is coloured in dark blue and data from between February and September 2020 in light blue. The CVV for this clade is shown in red and amino acid differences relative to the CVV are annotated on the tree.

## H5 2.3.4.4e Comparative amino acid substitutions to clade CW

Table 6: Avian H5 2.3.4.4e clade sequence comparison to the CVV shown in red. Tables were generated using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit. Antigenic positions were annotated based on H5 numbering.

site	ref_A_duck_Hyogo_1_2016_H5N6_2.3.4.4e_CVV	SubS2019_A_chicken_Philippines_17-4308-CS_2017_H5N6	SubS2019_A_chicken_Philippines_17-4308_2017_H5N6	SubF2021_A_quail_Philippines_20-2489-8-P2_2020_H5N6_2020_03_06	SubF2021_A_chicken_Philippines_20-2748-13-P1_2020_H5N6_2020_07_06	SubF2021_A_chicken_Philippines_20-3159-36-P13_2020_H5N6_2020_08_10	Annotations
83	T					A	
96	N	Y	Y				
158	T	P	P	P	L	L	
182	N				S		
188	N				D	D	Antigenic Site B
255	I				V		
268	M	I	I				Antigenic Site C
271	G		S				
Total		3	4	1	4	3	

## H5 2.3.4.4h Phylogenetic analysis

February 2021 submissions

September 2020 submissions

Candidate Vaccine Virus

Amino acid substitutions from the CVV



Figure 7: Avian H5 clade 2.3.4.4h maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID/shared by OFFLU. New data acquired since September 2020 is coloured in dark blue and data from between February and September 2020 in light blue. The CVV for this clade is shown in red and amino acid differences relative to the CVV are annotated on the tree. Branches are coloured by geographical region.

## H5 2.3.4.4h Comparative amino acid substitutions to clade CWV

Table 7: Avian H5 2.3.4.4h clade sequence comparison to the CVV shown in red. Tables were generated using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit. Antigenic positions were annotated based on H5 numbering.

site	ref_A_Guangdong_18SF020_2018_H5N6_2.3.4.4h_CVV	A_Duck_Vietnam_TB-2181-20_H5N6_2019_2019_06_09	A_Duck_Vietnam_BN-R2-2775-16_H5N6_2019_2019_07_21	A_Duck_Vietnam_BN-R2-2775-17_H5N6_2019_2019_07_21	A_Duck_Vietnam_TB-R2-2988-15_H5N6_2019_2019_07_21	A_Chicken_Vietnam_LS-R2-2913-01-H5N6_2020_2019_08_02	A_Environment_Vietnam_TB-R2-2988-21-H5N6_2019_2019_08_02	A_Chicken_Vietnam_QN-R2-161-01-H5N6_2020_2020_01_21	A_Chicken_Vietnam_TB-R2-312-02-H5N6_2020_2020_02_19	A_Duck_Vietnam_HP-R2-332-01-H5N6_2020_2020_02_24	A_Duck_Vietnam_BN-R2-410-01-H5N6_2020_2020_03_05	site	Annotations
2	Q	R										2	
5	I	F										5	
8	H	Q							Q			8	
11	N				H							11	
16	V								G			16	
28	H				Q							28	
30	Q		R	R		R				R	R	30	
39	G							R				39	
51	V	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	51	
56	S				T							56	
72	S									I		72	Antigenic Site E
84	N	D			D	D		D				84	Antigenic Site E
93	G	A										93	
94	N	T			T	T		T				94	
95	L								F			95	
99	E				K							99	
100	E				K							100	
105	L			W	W							105	
111	F	C										111	
124	N				S							124	Antigenic Site B
132	A						T					132	
135	P									S	S	135	
137	Q	T	T	T	T	T		T	T	T		137	Antigenic Site A
153	N							T				153	Antigenic Site B
161	M	K	R	R	K	R	K		K	R	R	161	
183	A							V				183	Antigenic Site B
187	T	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A	E	187	
188	D							N				188	Antigenic Site B
191	K				E							191	
197	V				L						I	197	
199	V				L							199	
234	P	R			R		R		R			234	
254	K							H		Q		254	
265	K							N			N	265	
269	E				Q							269	
270	Y				H			H				270	
276	K											276	
290	F				L							290	
295	P							S				295	
303	K		R								R	303	
308	N							Y		Y		308	
311	V							I			I	311	
317	R							T				317	
Total		12	6	6	20	5	7	12	11	10	9	Total	

## H5 2.3.2.1c Phylogenetic analyses

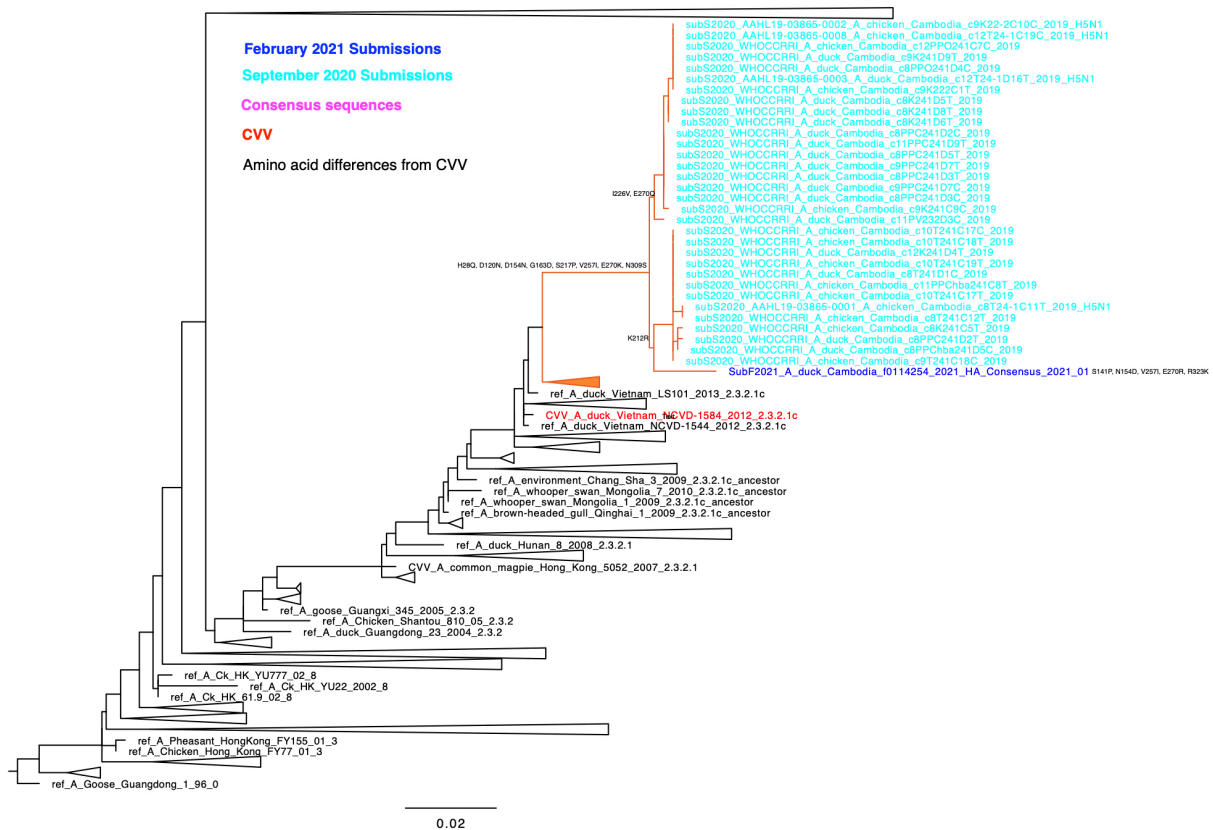


Figure 8: Avian H5 2.3.2.1c maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID/shared by OFFLU. New data acquired since September 2020 is coloured in dark blue and data from between February and September 2020 in light blue. The CVV for this clade is shown in red and amino acid differences relative to the CVV are annotated on the tree. Branches are coloured by geographical region.

## H5 2.3.2.1c Comparative amino acid substitutions to CW

Table 8: Avian H5 2.3.2.1c clade sequence comparison to the CVV shown in red. Tables were generated using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit. Antigenic positions were annotated based on H5 numbering.

site	Annotations		
28	H	Q	
120	D	N	Antigenic Site A
141	S	P	Antigenic Site A
163	G	D	Antigenic Site D
212	K	R	
217	S	P	
257	V	I	
270	E	R	
309	N	S	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>		

**CW\_A\_duck\_Vietnam\_NCVD-1584\_2012\_2.3.2.1c**

A\_duck\_Cambodia\_f0114254\_2021\_HA\_Consensus\_2021\_01

# H9 HPAI Influenza A Viruses

## H9 Phylogenetic analysis



Figure 9: Avian H9 maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree. Analyses were conducted with reference sequences and data downloaded from GISAID/shared by OFFLU. New data acquired since September 2020 is coloured in dark blue, data from between February and September 2020 in light blue and data from September 2019 to February 2020 is coloured in green. The CVV for this clade is shown in red.

# H9 G1 Comparative amino acid substitutions to clade CW

Table 9: Avian H9 G1 clade sequence comparison to the CVV shown in red. Tables were generated using the NADC IAV bioinformatic toolkit. Antigenic positions were annotated based on H9 numbering.

site	CVV	A. Oman_2747_2019_H9N2_2019-03-21_HA	SubF2021_A_chicken_India_10TR90_2020_H9N2_2020-10-00_HA gene	A_chicken_Pakistan_UDL_105_2020_2020-01-09	SubF2021_A_duck_Benin_20-A-03-2020-E_20VIR6511-111_2020_H9N2_2020-03	A_chicken_Saudi_Arabia_MW049330.1_ASH98.3_2020_H9_HA_2020-10-05	A_chicken_Saudi_Arabia_MW049331.1_ASH100.1-2_H9_HA_2020-10-05	site	Annotations
2	K	I						2	
12	S	C						12	
22	T	N	S					22	
24	V	I						24	
28	Q	H						28	
57	I	V						57	
69	M	L	L					69	
74	R	K						74	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
77	S		A					77	
94	N	H						94	
103	T	M						103	
104	L		F					104	
108	S	A						108	
109	S	N						109	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
114	V	I	I					114	
116	L	I	I					116	
120	S	T	A					120	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
127	T	D						127	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
135	D	N	G					135	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
148	N		D					148	
150	G	A	N	S				150	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
152	P	T						152	Published escape mutation, potential antigenic site
153	I	V						153	
158	Y	F						158	
169	V	I						169	
177	T	S						177	
180	A			V				180	
185	Y		X					185	
187	X	R	R	R	R	R		187	
194	V	I						194	
198	T	N	N					198	
246	F	Y	Y					246	
249	V		X					249	
250	L	I						250	
259	L		X					259	
260	R	K	K					260	
263	L	K						263	
264	S	K						264	
265	S	N						265	
266	G		S	S				266	
267	N	D						267	
269	V	L						269	
283	M	L	L					283	
295	T	N		N	N			295	
311	L			M	M			311	
315	H	P	P					315	
Total		17	10	5	5	4			



# Annex

## Additional H5 2.3.4.4b Analyses

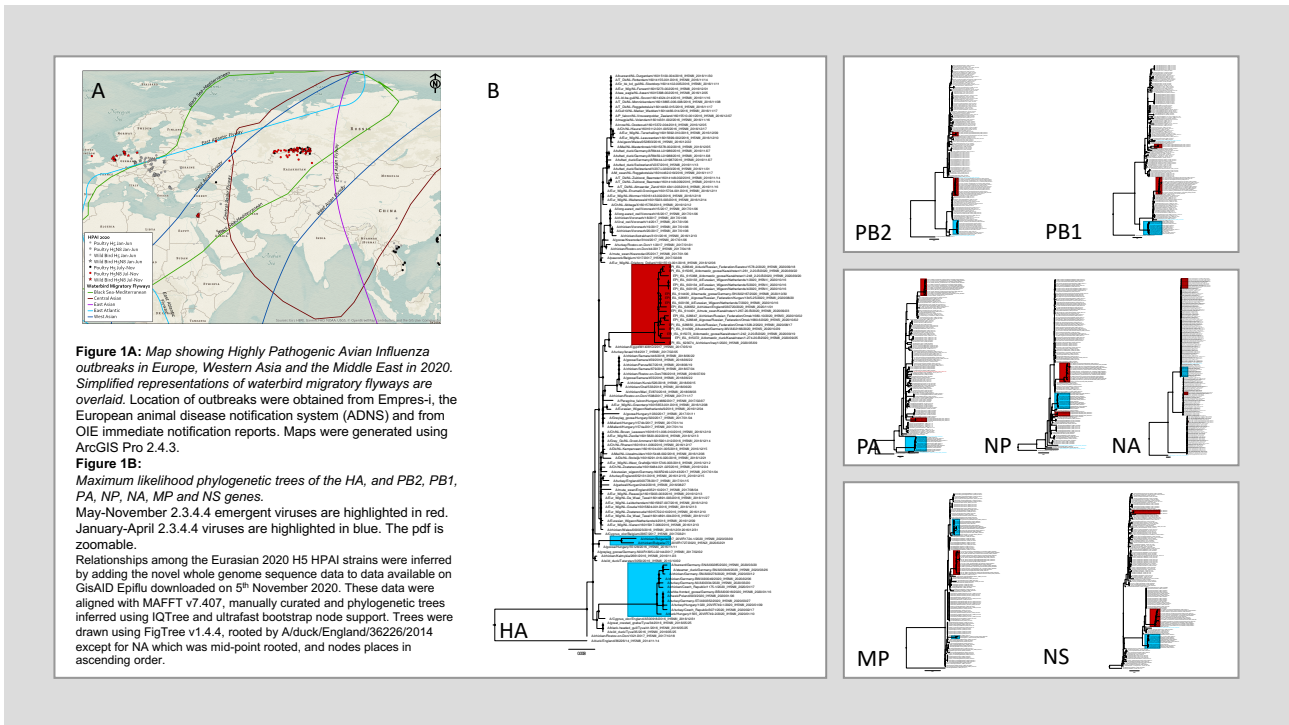


Figure 10: A/turkey/England/038115/2020 (A/H5N8) segment 6 (NA) closest blast relative to A/crow/India/12CA06/2020\_H5N8\_2020-12-29 taken from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/22221751.2021.1872355>

## Genome mutation analysis of A/chicken/England/030685/2020 H5N8

We have analysed the full genome sequence data of A/chicken/England/030685/2020 H5N8 HPAIV (H5N8-2020) and compared it with the CDC (Atlanta) H5N1 genetic changes inventory and Suttie et al. 2019 to identify genetic mutations that determine viral phenotypic characteristics of importance that may increase virulence, signal adaptation to mammalian species or alter susceptibility to existing antivirals. This totals 212 mutations or combinations of mutations.

We have observed 29 mutations/combinations of mutations that are listed (Table 1). It should be noted that all of the genetic changes identified were also present in representative H5N8-2016 sequences.

For the proteins of the polymerase complex, six, two and four mutations/combination of mutations were identified in PB2, PB1 and PA, respectively. The majority of these genetic changes are reported to increase polymerase activity and virulence in mammals and chickens, but there were also mutations reported to decrease virulence in mice. However, the PB2 E627K mutation was not identified. The PB1-F2 protein was found to be truncated, which has been associated with adaptation to mammalian infection and increased virulence in mammals.

The five mutations identified in the HA are reported to increase binding to mammalian  $\alpha$ 2-6 receptors, with the T156A mutation being the only change that has also been observed in the Asian H5N6 viruses. However, the T156A mutation was also present in European H5N6 and H5N8 viruses. Nevertheless, all five HA mutations are not considered characteristic of enabling the binding to  $\alpha$ 2-6 receptors in the literature. Therefore, it is predicted that the HA of H5N8-2020 will bind to avian  $\alpha$ 2-3 receptors.

The two mutations identified in NP are associated with increased virulence in chickens and do not have any reported impact on mammalian adaptation.

Mutations in NA reported to affect zanamivir and oseltamivir susceptibility (Table 2) were not found.

Within M1, three mutations associated with increased virulence in mice, chickens and ducks were identified, however, no mutations reported to effect amantadine and rimantadine susceptibility in M2 (Table 2) were found.

There is a lack of a deletion in NS1 at amino acid position 80-84 that is conserved among contemporary H5 viruses, possibly decreasing the zoonotic potential of the H5N8 virus. However, six mutations reported to increase virulence and decrease antiviral responses in mammals and chickens were identified.

**In conclusion, no strong correlates for specific increased affinity for humans were found.**

**Table 1.** A/chicken/England/030685/2020 H5N8 (H5N8-2020): Genetic changes that may increase virulence, signal adaptation to mammalian species or alter susceptibility to existing antivirals.

<b>Protein</b>	<b>Amino acid position/motif</b>	<b>Phenotypic consequences</b>	<b>Reference</b>
PB2	I292V [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian cell line, increased virulence in mice	Gao et al. 2019; Xiao et al. 2016
	V598T [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity and replication in mammalian cells, increased virulence in mice	Hu et al. 2017
	K627E [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in chickens	Schat et al. 2012
	S715N [Same as 2016]	Decreased virulence in mice	Sun et al. 2015
	L89V, G308D [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian cell line and increased virulence in mice	Li et al. 2009
	L89V, G309D, T339K, R477G, I495V, K627E, A676T [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian cell line and increased virulence in mice	Li et al. 2009
PB1	D3V <sup>1</sup> [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity and viral replication in avian and mammalian cell lines	Elgendy et al. 2017
	D622G [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity and virulence in mice	Feng et al. 2016
PB1-F2	Truncated PB1-F2 [Same as 2016]	Adaptation to mammalian infection with increased virulence in mammals	Kamal et al. 2015
PA	S37A [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian cell line	Yamayoshi et al. 2014
	P190S [Same as 2016]	Decreased virulence in mice	DesRochers et al. 2016

	N383D [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian and avian cell lines	Song et al. 2015; Song et al. 2011
	N409S [Same as 2016]	Increased polymerase activity and replication in mammalian cell line	Yamayoshi et al. 2014
PA-X	None found		
HA (H5 numbering)	S133A [Same as 2016]	Increased pseudovirus binding at a2-6	Yang et al. 2007
	S154N [Same as 2016]	Increased virus binding to a2-6	Wang et al. 2010
	T156A [Same as 2016]	Increased virus binding to a2-6 and increased transmission in guinea pigs	Wang et al. 2010; Gao et al. 2009
	S107R, T108I [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in chickens and mice, increased pH of fusion	Wessels et al. 2018
	K218Q, S223R [Same as 2016]	Increased virus binding to a2-3 and a2-6	Guo et al. 2017
NP	M105V [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in chickens	Tada et al. 2011a; Tada et al. 2011b
	A184K [Same as 2016]	Increased replication in avian cells and virulence in chickens, enhanced IFN response	Wasilenko et al. 2009
NA	None found		
NS1	P42S [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence and decreased antiviral response in mice	Jiao et al. 2008
	L103F [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in mice	Kuo and Krug 2009; Spesock et al., 2011
	I106M [Same as 2016]	Increased viral replication in mammalian cells virulence in mice	Ayllon et al. 2014

	C138F [Same as 2016]	Increased replication in mammalian cells, decreased interferon response	Li et al. 2018
	V149A [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence and decreased interferon response in chickens	Li et al. 2006
	L103F, I106M [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in mice	Kuo et al. 2009; Spesock et al. 2011
NS2/NEP	None found		
M1	M30D [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in mice	Fan et al. 2009
	I43M [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in mice, chickens and ducks	Nao et al. 2015
	T215A [Same as 2016]	Increased virulence in mice	Fan et al. 2009
M2	None found		

**Table 2.** Genetic changes demonstrated to alter antiviral susceptibility. NA mutations are numbered according to N2.

<b>Protein</b>	<b>Amino acid position/motif</b>	<b>Phenotypic consequences</b>	<b>Reference</b>
NA	V116A	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir	Hurt et al. 2007; Boltz et al. 2010
	I117T	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir	Kode et al. 2019a
	E119A	Reduced susceptibility to zanamivir Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, peramivir, and laninamivir	Gubareva et al. 1997; Baek et al. 2015; Ilyushina et al. 2010; Gubareva et al. 2017
	Q136L	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir	Hurt et al. 2010
	V149A	Reduced susceptibility to zanamivir	Naughtin et al. 2011
	R156K	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir	Ilyushina 2012
	D198G	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir	Hurt et al. 2009
	I222M	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Hurt et al. 2009
	S246N	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Boltz et al. 2010
	H274Y	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and peramivir Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Baek et al. 2015; Ilyushina et al. 2010; Gubareva et al. 2017; Hurt et al. 2009; Le et al. 2005; Nguyen et al. 2013
	E277Q	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Govorkova et al. 2007
	R292K	Reduced susceptibility to zanamivir Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, peramivir, and laninamivir	Gubareva et al. 1997; Gillman et al. 2015; Hai et al. 2013; Sleeman et al. 2013
	N294S	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Kode et al. 2019b
	K432T	Reduced susceptibility to zanamivir	Creanga et al. 2017

	I117V, I314V	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Hurt et al. 2007
	E119A/D/G, H274Y	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir	Baek et al. 2015
	I222L, S246N	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Creanga et al. 2017
	I222M/V, H274Y	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir and peramivir	Hurt et al. 2009
	K150N, I222L, S246N	Reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir	Boltz et al. 2010
M2	L26F	Increased resistance to amantadine and rimantadine	Abed et al. 2005; Lan et al. 2010; Bean et al. 1989
	I/V27A/T/S I/ V27A/T/S	Increased resistance to amantadine and rimantadine	Abed et al. 2005; Lan et al. 2010; Cheung et al. 2006 Bean et al. 1989; Ilyushina et al. 2005
	A30V/T/S	Increased resistance to amantadine and rimantadine	Cheung et al. 2006 Bean et al. 1989; Ilyushina et al. 2005
	S31N/G	Increased resistance to amantadine and rimantadine	Lan et al. 2010; Cheung et al. 2006; Bean et al. 1989; Ilyushina et al. 2005; He et al. 2008; Puthavathana et al. 2005; Buranathai et al. 2007
	G34E	Increased resistance to amantadine and rimantadine	Abed et al. 2005