



ANIMAL DISEASE ALERT!



Pacific Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

AD ALERT: 01

ANIMAL HEALTH - PACIFIC COMMUNITY LAND RESOURCES DIVISION

A strain of very virulent **Infectious Bursal Disease Virus** has been detected in **Solomon Islands**

ALERT

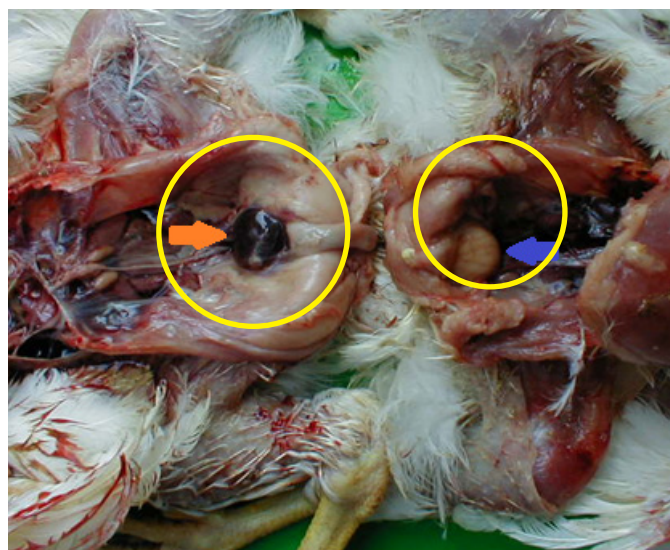
A strain of very virulent Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (vvIBDV) has been confirmed in the Guadalcanal province of the Solomon Islands. The ability of this strain to cause mass mortality events in farmed broiler and layer birds is a concern to the Solomon Islands and the region as a whole. The virus represents an imminent threat to Pacific livelihoods and food security.

BACKGROUND

Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD), also referred to as Gumboro, is a viral disease that affects the immune system of younger birds. Present worldwide, the disease is highly contagious. It primarily affects young birds between 3-6 weeks of age but could affect individuals up to 18 weeks. Symptoms of the disease can include depression, watery diarrhoea, ruffled feathers and dehydration. Mortality rates range from 5 to 70 percent, depending on the type of chicken flock it affects. IBD can also cause major economic loss to the poultry industry. There is no cure, however, vaccination campaigns have proved to be effective in other countries. The IBD Virus is also incredibly resilient, capable of surviving in the environment for 4 months, which leads to recurring infections in new flocks.

CURRENT STATUS

Serotype 1 IBDV strains are endemic globally. The Very Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (vvIBDV) strain is endemic in parts of southern Asia, Indonesia, the Middle East, Africa and South America, and spread to North America in 2008. This is the first confirmed detection of vvIBDV in the Solomon Islands





RECOMMENDATIONS

- Through the SPC LRD Animal Health Team, SPC member countries can be assisted through targeted surveillance to establish whether vvIBDV is present.
- Establish a plan of response/action, including possible vaccination strategies.
- Mobilise funding and technical support to strengthen biosecurity advocacy:
 - i. Pre-border assessments – stringent import risk assessments for live poultry and products.
 - ii. Border – stringent inspections at the borders.
 - iii. Post-border - Ongoing awareness and outreach, monitoring and surveillance.
- Coordinate capacity building to establish early warning systems and strengthen technical responses to disease outbreaks
 - Improve farm biosecurity practices
 - Traceback the potential risk pathway

REFERENCES:

1. MSD Veterinary Manual. Infectious Bursal Disease in Poultry (Gumboro disease). Daral J. Jackwood , PhD, Center for Food Animal Health, Department of Animal Sciences, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, The Ohio State University
2. Animal Health Australia (2021). Response strategy: Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent form) (version 5.0). Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN), edition 5, Canberra, ACT.
3. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/ead-bulletin/ead-bulletin-no-124>

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