

Bird flu outbreak in Havana zoo

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Entrance of the National Zoological Garden of Havana (Source: [Maps.me](https://www.maps.me/))

According to the Cuban Center for Animal Health on Tuesday, several cases of avian influenza ("bird flu") have been detected at the Havana National Zoo, which is why the facility in Havana's Vedado district has been quarantined until further notice.

"The population will be kept informed of the evolution of this event. Health authorities recommend that in the event of any deaths in farmed or wild birds, local veterinary services be notified immediately," the agency, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, said in an official note.

Avian influenza (influenza H5N1) is a contagious viral infection for which there is no specific treatment, and which causes high mortality in wild and domestic birds. Due to clustered cases worldwide, the Cuban Health Center recommended back in December to avoid contact between wild birds and poultry farms, maximize security measures on poultry farms, and avoid transporting sick birds.

For humans, the disease is harmless. However, an outbreak on a Spanish farm recently aroused concern that the virus could also adapt to humans. According to experts, however, genetic hurdles have so far stood in the way of a so-called zoonosis.

Update (08.02): As the health authorities announced, the outbreak has now been brought under control. There are currently no other known bird flu cases in Cuba. ([Cubaheute](https://www.cubaheute.com/))