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The HPAI Modelling Challenge

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The HPAI Modelling Challenge



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What is a modelling challenge?

A short competition designed to improve the ability of modelling teams to deliver fast-response policy advice to decision-makers.

Why High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI)?

HPAI epidemics continue to cause severe health and economic impacts across the globe. A comprehensive national preparedness plan includes ready-to-deploy models. This challenge provides the opportunity to both develop models that will be useful internally as well as facilitate the creation of ensemble models for future epidemic response.

How does this work?

An artificial multi-species HPAI epidemic will be simulated and split into 3 phases. Over a 3 month period at the start of each month, teams will be provided surveillance and situation reports for a given epidemic phase, along with modelling missions (e.g. predicting the locations of subsequent outbreaks, or making policy recommendations). Teams will be tasked with completing the missions in each phase, and at the end of the challenge, forecasts and recommendations will be analysed.

Why participate?

- To increase the breadth of HPAI models ready to be deployed
- To increase the transparency of HPAI model programs
- To improve the scientific community readiness and capabilities for real-time response to emerging infectious disease crises
- To improve collaboration opportunities in the modelling community
- To improve communication between modellers and risk assessors and managers
- ***To have fun!***