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Minister Aguilera calls for reinforcing prevention measures in the event of the first case of bird flu

– The authority reported that the epidemiology teams are deployed on the ground to investigate the source of the contagion.

The Minister of Health, Ximena Aguilera, referred to the first case in Chile of bird flu in humans, reported in the north of the country.

The highest health authority explained that it is a 53-year-old male "who had a severe influenza case, compromised the lower respiratory tract and as a result of the protocols that we have in place at this time for all cases of severe pneumonia that They are called severe acute respiratory infection, the causative agent is sought, which in this case was influenza, and since it was not possible to classify it, it was sent to the Institute of Public Health, where it was detected that it was an H5N1 virus, which is an avian virus, due to the surveillance protocols that are activated."

Regarding the current situation of the patient, the Secretary of State indicated that he is hospitalized and is stable within his severity.



"At this moment, the epidemiology teams are deployed on the ground to investigate the source of infection," said Minister Aguilera, who recalled that the avian influenza virus is transmitted by contact with sick animals and that they have normally died as a result of this disease. but that "it has also affected marine mammals such as sea lions, which are sometimes found by people on the beach, more and more frequently throughout the continent."

The authority stressed the importance of reinforcing prevention measures in the case of finding dead birds or marine animals, which translates into avoiding approaching them and calling the telephone numbers of the services related to this issue, which are the Agricultural Livestock Service. (2 2345 1100), in the case of birds, or the National Fisheries Service (800 320 032), in the case of marine animals.



"At the present time, there is no person-to-person transmission of this avian influenza picture, therefore the risk to humans is restricted to those people who are in contact with sick animals, however, people who are infected or infected They can have a serious condition, which is why it is important to have the systems alerted as we have had and that has effectively led to the detection of this condition in this person and which is expected to be of a rather sporadic presentation," the authority remarked. .