

# Vaccination as a Tool for Controlling the Risk of Salmonella



**Country of GP owner:** Spain

**BroilerNet Challenge:** Reducing the risk of Salmonella

The control of Salmonella in broiler chicken farms has become a priority. Beyond the obligations established by European and national regulations, companies and poultry farmers are aware of the high costs of all kinds associated with the presence of this infection on the farm, both in relation to zoonotic Salmonella and other types. Biosecurity, both in terms of facilities and management practices, has become an essential tool in the fight against this disease.

Prevention is also supported by vaccination of breeder flocks, which transmit immunity to the chicks. This vertically transmitted immunity is considered to last only 2–3 weeks and therefore does not cover the entire broiler growing period. In certain situations and circumstances, to be assessed by the farmer and the responsible veterinarian, a high epidemiological risk of infection is identified. Some of these factors may include a previous infection in an earlier broiler flock or in an epidemiologically related farm, proximity to a pig farm, or proximity to land fertilized organically with slurry.

In such cases, vaccination of chicks during the first days of life becomes an additional tool to reduce the risk of Salmonella infection. Vaccination is carried out using a live vaccine. It should be noted that this vaccination is not mandatory according to official Salmonella control programs, although it is considered as a possible option.