

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was first detected in wild birds in the US in January 2022. It impacted poultry in 47 states, including Alaska, and is still being detected at low levels in wild birds in the U.S. and Alaska. The most recent case in poultry in the US was May 2023.

In Alaska in 2022 6 poultry flocks, 3 foxes, a black bear, a brown bear, and many wild birds were confirmed to have HPAI. The Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) is continuing surveillance efforts in partnership with the USDA, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Owners can take actions to protect their birds and should notify OSV if they see increased illness or deaths in their flocks.

Signs to Watch For:

- Sudden death
- Respiratory distress
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Abnormal behavior or difficulty walking
- Nasal discharge, sneezing, and coughing
- Significant drop in water consumption
- Blue discoloration of comb and wattles
- Swollen comb, wattles, legs, or head

What to Do:

- **Use good biosecurity practices on your farm!**
- If you have a pond nearby where waterfowl may be, do not allow your chickens or ducks near the water.
- Keep feed protected from wild birds and other wildlife.
- Keep poultry under cover or otherwise limit free ranging to prevent contact with wild birds.
- Change clothes and boots before going to another farm or area with birds.
- Do not share equipment and supplies with other bird owners.
- Isolate new birds for 1 -2 weeks before adding to your flock.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling or working with birds. Wear clean clothes, and disinfect cages or equipment that come in contact with birds and their droppings.
- When handling and cleaning game, hunters should wear gloves, wash hands, and disinfect knives and equipment used for cleaning. Use caution if you have domestic birds at home.

Who to Contact:

To report illness or death in a backyard flock:



Your private veterinarian



Office of the State Veterinarian
(907) 375-8215



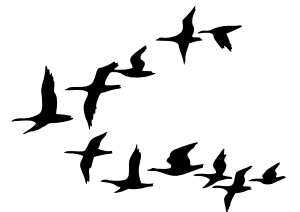
To report observations and concerns about migratory birds:



1-866-527-3358



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