

## **H5N1 in Avian and Bovine**

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), this influenza virus is not considered a significant public health threat and the public health risk remains low. The [California Department of Health \(CDPH\)](#) will provide official confirmation of any human cases associated with this incident.

Livestock and poultry owners that have experienced any unusual/suspicious illness or deaths should call our **H5N1 Bird Flu hotline at: 1-866-922-2473**.

Please report any unusual or suspicious dead wild birds to the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife Mortality Report website](#). If you have questions about wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Health Lab](#) directly.

- For the latest updates of HPAI in California domestic poultry, visit our website at: [bit.ly/CalAvianflu](http://bit.ly/CalAvianflu).
- For the latest updates of H5N1 in California domestic livestock, visit our website at: [bit.ly/cdfaLivestockHPAI](http://bit.ly/cdfaLivestockHPAI).
- For public inquiries regarding H5N1 Bird Flu in California, please send an e-mail to [cdfa.HPAInfo@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.HPAInfo@cdfa.ca.gov) or call 916-217-7517. For media inquiries, please call 916- 654-0462 or send an e-mail to [OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.ca.gov).

## **Bird Flu in Humans**

For the most up to date data on bird flu cases in California, please visit [CDPH's Current Bird Flu Situation dashboard](#). While the risk to the general public remains low, additional human cases of bird flu are expected to be identified and confirmed in California. CDPH recommends that personal protective equipment (PPE), such as eye protection (face shields or safety goggles), respirators (N95 masks), and gloves be worn by anyone working with animals or materials that are infected or potentially infected with the bird flu virus. Wearing PPE helps prevent infection. Please see CDPH's [Worker Protection from Bird Flu](#) for full PPE guidance. For the latest updates from CDPH, visit [Bird Flu \(ca.gov\)](#). If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can [submit an inquiry directly to CDPH](#).

If anyone suspects that they are infected with the Bird Flu virus, please contact your local public health department for further direction and testing. Not all medical care facilities are equipped or have testing available.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE  
Karen Ross, Secretary

To All Poultry Producers,

We are seeing the continued spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza (aka HPAI or Bird Flu) in both dairy and poultry farms across multiple counties. We consider the winter bird migration season a period of high risk to all poultry owners. We are asking ALL poultry producers to enhance their biosecurity plans until risks are reduced. We recommend that producers also conduct daily active observational surveillance. This means, routinely check your entire flock for signs of H5N1: increasing mortality, decreased egg production, decreased feed and water intake, and other clinical signs you can read at this [link](#). If you do see these signs or have questions, please contact your veterinarian or CDFA's Sick Bird Hotline at: 866-922-2473.

Please emphasize personal protective equipment (PPE) compliance and vehicle cleaning and disinfecting (C&D) stations. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends PPE, such as eye protection (face shields or safety goggles), respirators (N95 masks), and gloves be worn by anyone working with animals or materials that are infected or potentially infected with the bird flu virus. Wearing PPE helps prevent infection. Please see CDPH's [Worker Protection from Bird Flu](#) for full PPE guidance.

Lastly, USDA has recently updated their [Indemnity Program](#). The program will require satisfactory biosecurity audits on farms planning to place new birds onto quarantined farms and will limit indemnity for infected zones. CDFA already audits quarantined farms for movements requiring permits. We will assist you with these audits when they occur, but please review your biosecurity plans and on-farm practices in preparation.

For the latest updates on H5N1 affecting poultry and livestock, please visit our webpage [here](#) and for national detections of H5N1, please visit the USDA APHIS webpage at this [link](#).

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State of California  
Gavin Newsom, Governor



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
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To All Backyard Poultry Owners,

We are seeing the continued spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza (aka HPAI or Bird Flu) in both dairy and poultry farms across multiple counties. We consider the winter bird migration season a period of high risk to all poultry owners. Avian Influenza is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in birds. The disease is spread through movement of infected or exposed birds, direct or indirect contact with infected wild and domestic birds or contact with the Bird Flu virus on fomites (surfaces) such as hands, shoes, clothing, or feet and fur of rodents and other animals. This virus is mainly spread by wild birds, especially in wild waterfowl such as ducks and geese. Any wild bird species can also become a source of infection.

The California State Veterinarian has placed a [ban](#) on poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions at fairs and shows until further notice. This decision was made to protect the remaining unaffected herds and flocks across California. This ban addresses the highest risk bird species related to Avian Influenza – chickens, turkeys, ducks, and upland game birds (e.g. pheasants and chukars). All other exhibitions and shows including those with pigeons, pigeons, and doves will not be impacted at this time. We're working tirelessly to combat Bird Flu and protect our state's farms and flocks. CDFA and USDA are working together to safeguard our agricultural resources and food supply. We hope our communities will support us in our efforts through supporting this ban and the recommendations we have provided in this letter.

Clinical signs of Bird Flu in poultry include sudden death, trouble breathing, clear runny discharge (from nose, mouth, and eyes), lethargy, decreased food and water intake, swelling (eyes, head, wattles, or combs), discolored or bruised comb, wattles, or legs, stumbling/falling or twisted neck. If your flock experiences any unusual/suspicious illness or deaths, call your veterinarian or the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) [Sick Bird Hotline](#) at 866-922-2473.

Avoid touching or handling any injured, sick, or dead wild birds unless necessary. Do not let pets such as cats and dogs consume any wild birds. Sick and injured wild birds should be reported to your local animal control office. Report any usual deaths (groups of 5 or more) in wild birds, or any deaths in endangered, threatened, and/or protected wild bird species to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) at 916-358-2790 or online at [bit.ly/CDFWReporting](http://bit.ly/CDFWReporting) (year-round reporting). If a wild bird MUST be handled, wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as disposable mask and gloves and wash your hands with soap and water. If needing to dispose of a deceased bird, place into a leak proof plastic bag, seal, spray with a disinfectant known to kill the avian influenza virus, and place into a

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