

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been detected in domestic poultry and wild waterfowl in the United States. The risk to human health from this HPAI virus is very low, but it is highly contagious among birds and can affect all types of domestic poultry, causing illness and death.

On April 29, 2022 the first case of HPAI was confirmed in Alaska. Alaska's Office of the State Veterinarian is working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on a joint response.

## 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



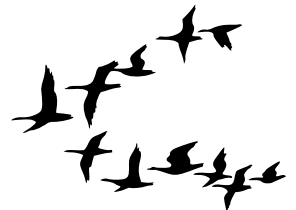
### To report observations and concerns about migratory birds:



1-866-527-3358



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