

WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian influenza is...

- » A virus that can infect several species of poultry (chickens, turkeys, quails, guinea fowl, etc.), as well as pet and wild birds.
- » Not normally found in domestic birds in Canada and eradicated when detected. Migratory waterfowl can introduce the virus to flocks.

Is avian influenza a serious risk for birds?

There are 2 classifications of avian influenza (AI) viruses based on the severity of the illness caused in birds:

- » Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). Typically causes little or no signs of illness in infected birds.
- » Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Causes severe illness and death in poultry.

HPAI is a federally reportable disease. When detected, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will attempt to contain and eliminate HPAI.

Is avian influenza a risk for humans?

Specific AI viruses can, on rare occasions, cause disease in humans. People in close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments are at greatest risk.

If you work closely with poultry take precautions.

- » Wear protective clothing such as face masks, goggles, gloves and boots.
- » Get your annual flu shot to reduce the chance of becoming infected with both human and AI strains at the same time.

More information is available at
<https://bit.ly/HealthLinkBC-AI>

MORE RESOURCES

Visit the ministry's avian influenza (AI) resources webpage for more information including:

AI activity in BC, the impact of AI infected premises on nearby flocks, health, safety, mental wellness resources, and more information on protecting your flock.



BC Premises Identification Program

Premises ID improves the ministry's ability to respond to emergencies by:

- » improving containment of animal disease outbreaks.
- » rapidly identifying potentially affected premises, and
- » facilitating natural disaster response and recovery.



There is no cost to take part in the program.

As of July 1, 2022, BC poultry and livestock owners and commingling site operators (i.e., auctions, abattoirs) must take part in Premises ID. Learn more about the program or register your premises.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the lead agency for reportable diseases, including highly pathogenic avian influenza. The CFIA website can be found at inspection.canada.ca.



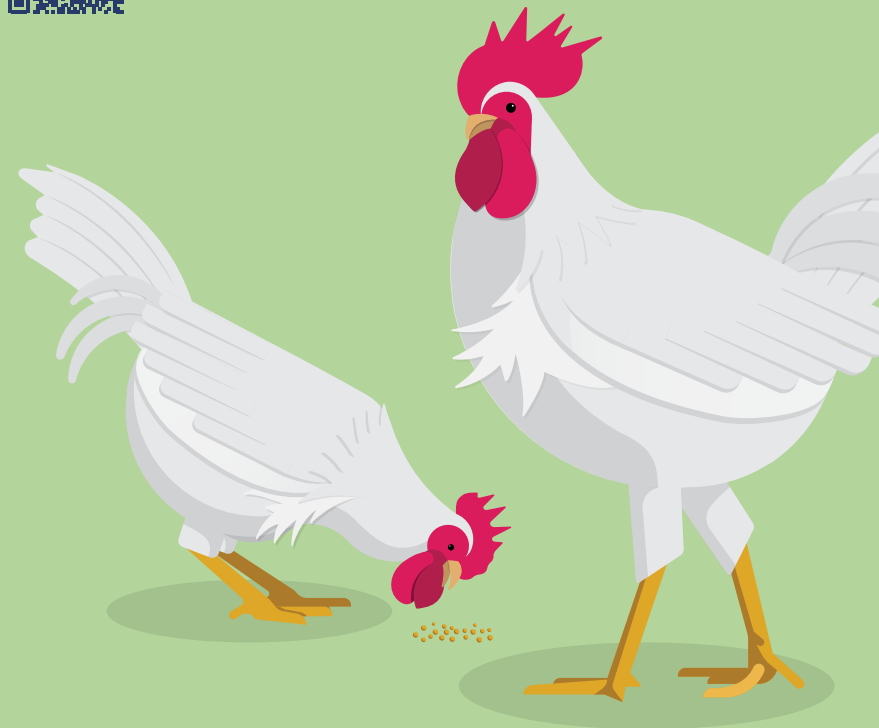
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PROTECT YOUR FLOCK from *Avian Influenza*

LEARN ABOUT
KEEPING DOMESTIC BIRDS SAFE
FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA



REINFORCE

through enhanced biosecurity

Wild waterfowl are the main source of avian influenza (AI) for domestic poultry.

Wild birds can carry the virus with them during migration but may not get sick or display symptoms. The virus is spread in their feces.

– 5 RULES OF BIOSECURITY –

- 1 Prevent contact with wild birds.**
Fence off poultry access to ground water sources like ponds and streams. Store feed and water in sealed and covered containers. Keep feeders inside the coop, and only throw out enough scratch to allow birds to clean it up.
- 2 Regular cleaning and disinfection.**
Routinely and thoroughly clean barns, cages, egg trays, tools and equipment, and water and feed containers. Promptly and safely dispose of dead birds, litter, and unused eggs.
- 3 Hygiene and sanitation.**
Always clean your hands, clothing, and footwear before and after handling birds.
- 4 Limit exposure to visitors.**
People can spread bird diseases too. If you have visitors, they should follow the same hygiene and sanitation as you before handling birds.
- 5 Keep new birds separate when entering your flock.**
Segregate and monitor new birds for at least 21 days before introducing them to your existing flock.

RECOGNIZE

the signs of avian influenza in your birds

The most common sign of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a sudden, unexplained increase in flock deaths.

Birds infected with HPAI may display one or more of the following symptoms:



NERVOUS SIGNS, TREMORS, OR LACK OF COORDINATION



NASAL DISCHARGE AND SNEEZING



SWELLING AROUND THE HEAD, NECK, AND EYES



COUGHING AND GASPING FOR AIR



DIARRHEA



DECREASED EGG PRODUCTION



LACK OF ENERGY, MOVEMENT, OR APPETITE



SUDDEN DEATH

Other poultry diseases, including Velogenic Newcastle Disease, have signs similar to HPAI.

Consult a professional if you notice a sudden and unexplained increase in sick birds.

REPORT

cases of avian influenza early to prevent the spread

If you think your birds are sick with Avian Influenza...

- » Call your veterinarian, or
- » Call your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Animal Health office, get contact information at bit.ly/CFIA-AHO.

Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as Avian Influenza.

If you spot a sick or dead wild bird...

Contact the BC Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Program
Hotline at **1-866-431-BIRD (2473)**.

Scan here to learn about the reporting, collection, and submission process.



For general flock health enquiries...

Bird owners can contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Animal Health Centre at **1-800-661-9903** or send an email to PAHB@gov.bc.ca.

The Animal Health Centre (AHC) is an accredited full-service laboratory that provides diagnostic support and outreach to small flock poultry owners. It is the leading laboratory of its kind in Western Canada. The lab offers more than 400 diagnostic tests for animal pests and disease agents. The AHC tests wild and domestic birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.