Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Plant and Animal Health Branch
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Animal Health Act - General Order AIV2026-03

Person(s) and Place Subject to Order
The following classes of persons are subject to this order 1. All persons responsible for Birds, where the Birds are located in the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District ("Lower Mainland Operators"); 2. All persons responsible for Birds, where the Birds are located outside of the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District ("Other Operators"). 3. All persons attending a Commingling Event (defined below). In this order, "Birds" means any of the following types of birds: (a) chickens and turkeys; (b) doves; (c) ducks; (d) geese; (e) guinea fowl, peafowl, pheasants, pigeons and quail; and (f) ratites.
Contact information:
Location of premises this order relates to, if applicable:
Premises identification account number(s): **Premises identification number(s):**
Contact information of owner of premises, if different from above:

Date this order is issued: November 23, 2026 **Date this order takes effect, if different: _____, 20_____**
Reference Number: AIV2026-03

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ON THIS FORM IS COLLECTED AND MAY BE DISCLOSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF PART 2 AND 3 OF THE *ANIMAL HEALTH ACT*.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLECTION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.

THE PERSON(S) SUBJECT TO THIS ORDER MUST COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER.

Reason for Order

The Chief Veterinarian reasonably believes the following: This order and the actions listed are believed necessary under s. 39(1)(c)(i) of the *Animal Health Act* to address a condition that presents a significant risk of causing a threat to animal health, specifically: to prevent the occurrence and spread of highly pathogenic H5 and H7 avian influenza A virus. Based on the current risks associated with the detection of avian influenza A on poultry premises in the Province since October 21, 2024, there is a need to modify management practices.

Background information:

The highly pathogenic H5 and H7 avian influenza A viruses are reportable diseases under the federal *Health of Animals Act* and reportable and notifiable diseases under the provincial *Animal Health Act*. Currently there are multiple Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza cases in British Columbia. In addition, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) has been detected in B.C. this fall in wetland sediments, indicating widespread environmental contamination. Wild birds (in particular waterfowl) are considered the main source of this virus.

There are heightened transmission opportunities during the time of wild bird migration.

This Order is in Respect of the Following

Animal(s) (specific):

Identification #	Age	Sex	Species	Description

Type of animal(s) generally:

Birds

Premises:

Animal products/ by-products:

Things:

Actions which Must be Taken

Action: Lower Mainland Operators must not take Birds to the following commingling events where Birds from multiple sources will be present (each a "Commingling Event"):

poultry swaps, auctions, flea markets, Bird shows, fairs, public displays, and competitions.

Other Operators must not take Birds to a Commingling Event that takes place in the Fraser Valley Regional District or Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Other Operators may take their Birds to a Commingling Event that takes place outside of the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District if the following conditions are met:

1. For 10 days preceding the Commingling Event:
   a. the Birds are maintained in a closed flock;
   b. clean, dedicated boots, gloves and over-clothing must be donned and doffed at the entrance to the closed flock housing area by all persons who enter and exit the closed area;
   c. equipment movement into the closed flock housing area must be minimized, and any required equipment must be clean and dry before it is moved into the closed flock housing area;
   d. wild birds are excluded from the flock area; and
   e. the closed flock shows no signs of illness.

2. At the Commingling Event:
   a. all **Other Operators** must not permit any person, other than persons who live or work on the premises of origin of the Birds, to handle and provide care to the Birds, with the exception of purchasers, who may handle any purchased Birds but only in order to remove them from the Commingling Event;
   b. all **Other Operators** must maintain a distance of 2 metres between Birds from different premises, and between Birds and the public; and
   c. **all persons attending a Commingling Event** must use boot wash and hand sanitizer before entering and before exiting the Commingling Event.

The Following are not Commingling Events:

1. licensed slaughter facilities;
2. research facilities;
3. hatcheries that supply chicks, ducklings or goslings via mail order or to retail outlets;
4. facilities where live wildlife are kept pursuant to a permit issued under the *Wildlife Act*;
5. zoos, including petting zoos;
6. pet stores or other permanent retail locations where Birds are bought or sold; or
7. retail outlets or similar facilities that sell or distribute Birds.

Date by which action must be complete, if applicable:

Completed? Y/N	**Inspector Initial and Date**
Notes:	

Other Conditions

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Additional Comments

This order does not affect any federal rules or restrictions in place in British Columbia in relation to avian influenza.

Authority for Order

This order is issued pursuant to sections 39, 40 and 41 of the *Animal Health Act.*

Termination of Order

This Order terminates on the following date or in the following circumstances: refer to section 50(a) of the *Animal Health Act*. See Appendix A.

Contact Information

Name and contact information of inspector making order:

Theresa Burns, Chief Veterinarian
Theresa.Burns@gov.bc.ca

Veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory contacted:

Chief Veterinarian

November 23, 2026
Date

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Orders

You have been issued an order. Failure to comply with an order is an offense under s. 81 of the *Animal Health Act*. If this order is posted, you must not remove, alter, or deface it. If an inspector believes that you are not adequately complying with this order, an inspector is authorized to enter into the place described in this document and take action to ensure this order is carried out. You are liable for all costs of any work that the inspector authorizes to be carried out to ensure compliance with this order.

You may request reassessment, reconsideration, or review of this order. A request must be in the form and manner required by the Chief Veterinarian.

Reassessment

You may request the issuing inspector to reassess the circumstances under which this order was made, assess the extent to which it has been complied with, and determine if it continues to be necessary. The inspector may decide to confirm, vary, or terminate this order.

Reconsideration

If you have additional relevant information which was not available when the inspector made the order you may request the issuing inspector to reconsider this order. The inspector may

- Vary, confirm, or rescind this order;
- Delay the date the order takes effect or suspend the order, if this will not be a risk to animal or public health; or,
- Reject your request if the information is not new or not relevant.

This order continues to be in effect while the inspector reconsiders it unless the inspector agrees in writing to suspend it. You will receive written reasons for the reconsideration decision. You may not request a second reconsideration.

Review

If you have completed a request for reconsideration you may request a review of this order. This review will be based on the existing record. The reviewer may

- Vary, confirm or rescind the order; or
- Delay the date the order takes effect or suspend the order, if this will not be a risk to animal or public health; or,
- Refer the matter back to the person who made the order, with or without directions.

The order continues to be in effect during the review. You will receive written reasons for this decision. You may not request further review under the *Animal Health Act*, but may have other recourse.

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Appendix A

Section 50 of the *Animal Health Act* states

50 An order ceases to have effect on the date or in the circumstances stated in the order, or if no date or circumstances are stated, as follows:

(a) If an order is served by posting the order, or notice of the order, in or on a place, on the date the order or notice is removed from the place by the minister or the inspector who made the order, or by a person acting under the direction of either of them;

(b) If an order is served by publishing the order, or notice of the order, on the date the inspector who made the order publishes a notice that the order has been terminated;

(c) If an order is made under section 41 (m) *[general orders]*, on the date the person subject to the order provides evidence of compliance as required by the order;

(d) In any other case, on the date the inspector who made the order provides notice by any means to the person subject to the order that the order is terminated.