



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

June 15, 2022

Dear Washington Fairs and Poultry Exhibitions,

To date, the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) confirmed the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 372 premises in 36 states. Since May 5, 2022, Washington has had cases in 19 backyard, non-commercial premises in 10 counties. The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) continues to report increasing numbers of cases in wild birds, including Canada geese, bald eagles, snow geese, sandhill cranes, red tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, great horned owls, and mallard ducks. U.S. Wildlife Services reports that over 60 different species of wild birds have been confirmed positive this year.

While the risk of avian influenza is always present from interactions with wild waterfowl in the Pacific flyway, unseasonably cold, wet conditions are changing migration patterns and the virus continues to persist in the environment. The most common risk factor we have seen in Washington is proximity to water sources or ponds where wild waterfowl congregate, increasing the amount of virus in the environment and risk of transmission.

WSDA strongly recommends temporarily suspending poultry shows, exhibitions, or swap meets until [30 days after the last detection of HPAI](#) in the state. Commingling birds from many farms is extremely high-risk for disease transmission and has potential to create a superspreader event.

[Enhanced biosecurity](#) is critical to [protecting poultry flocks](#) from the accidental introduction of HPAI into your fairs. Please consider these additional biosecurity precautions to prevent infection as you resume exhibitions:

- Stagger show times and days for gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl) and waterfowl (geese, ducks, swans).
- Show the vulnerable species first (gallinaceous) for first few days, send them home, clean and disinfect the cages, and then bring in waterfowl for exhibition the second half.
- Avoid commingling of birds AT ALL TIMES.
- Sick birds should be denied entry, sent home, and the State Veterinarian should be notified on the sick bird hotline 1-800-606-3056.

- Allow adequate space between cages and avoid direct contact between birds from different exhibitors.
- Do not share equipment, feed bowls, etc., between flocks from a different premises.
- Handling birds should be avoided, including judges whenever possible.
- Ask owners to quarantine birds away from their flocks for 30 days after returning from the fair or exhibition.

Visit our website for additional HPAI resources and table including the last detection [here: Bird Flu 2022 | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) and Fair Biosecurity and species specific guidance [here: Fairs and Exhibitions | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)

If you have questions, please contact me at aitle@agr.wa.gov or (360) 961-4129.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber J. Itle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Amber Itle WA State Veterinarian