

## 7 things to know about Avian Influenza:

- 1 Avian influenza is a virus that is highly contagious to domestic poultry.
- 2 A major outbreak of this disease in North America in late 2014 and early 2015 resulted in the loss of millions of chickens, turkeys and game birds in the U.S.
- 3 The virus was introduced into Washington State by migrating wild waterfowl.
- 4 As migratory waterfowl return to our area each fall, they bring the risk of new outbreaks among domestic poultry flocks, gamebirds, falcons and raptors.
- 5 Bird owners should protect their flocks by keeping them separate from other domestic poultry and all wild waterfowl.
- 6 No human illnesses have been reported anywhere in the U.S. during recent outbreaks.
- 7 It is safe to eat properly handled and cooked poultry products, including meat and eggs.

*Keep them safe - keep them separate!*

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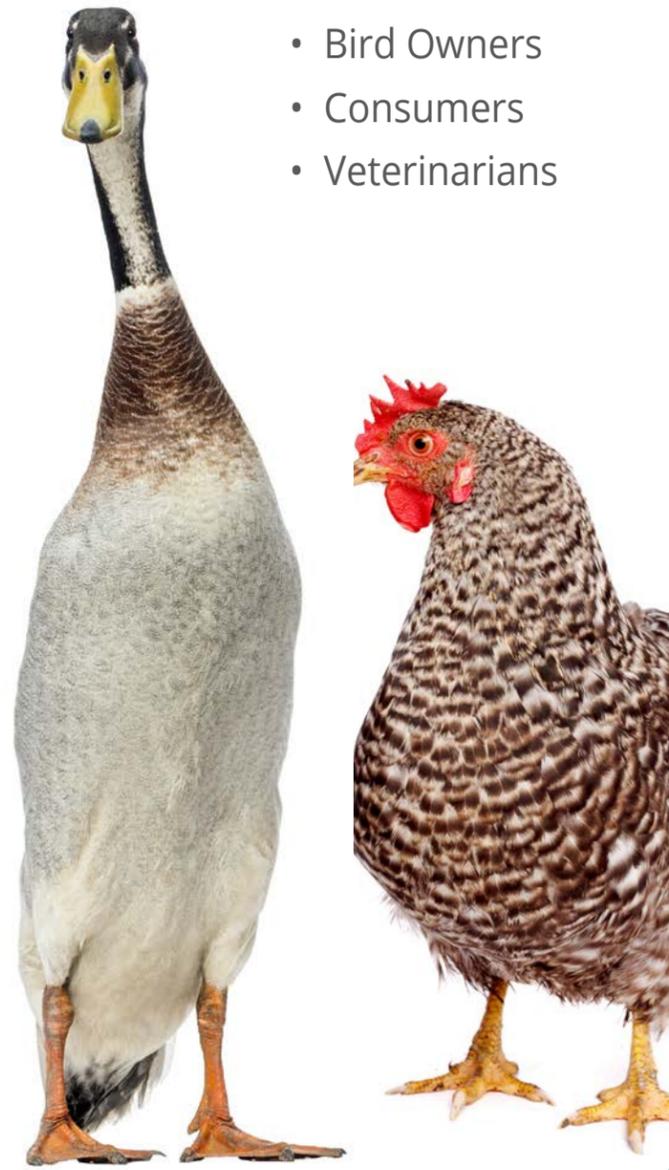
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# AVIAN INFLUENZA

## SPREAD THE WORD, PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

### Information for:

- Bird Owners
- Consumers
- Veterinarians



### What is avian influenza?

Strains of the avian influenza virus are called low pathogenic avian influenza, or LPAI, and highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI. The terms refer to how severely the illness affects birds, with the highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, causing the most illnesses and deaths in domesticated poultry.

Avian influenza is highly contagious to chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, and many wild birds. Wild waterfowl, like ducks and geese, can carry the virus without showing symptoms.

The virus can be in the feces, saliva, and respiratory secretions of infected birds. Other birds can become infected through direct contact with infected birds, contaminated equipment, and even through the air over short distances.

No one in the U.S. has become ill from an infected bird, though there have been cases in other parts of the world. It is safe to eat properly prepared poultry products, including meat and eggs.

### How did highly pathogenic avian influenza get to North America?

Highly pathogenic avian influenza reached the Pacific Northwest in December 2014, when it appeared in British Columbia, Canada. The virus moved into Washington and infected some falcons and several backyard flocks. In 2015, birds in many other states were likewise infected, affecting numerous commercial flocks. This historic outbreak resulted in the loss of millions of turkeys and chickens.

Migratory waterfowl may carry HPAI from Europe and Asia to North America. As these birds begin their annual migratory cycle, they bring the risk of another HPAI outbreak in Washington.

### What precautions can I take? Who can I contact?

- Don't touch sick or dead poultry or any wild waterfowl.
- If you do contact such birds, wash your hands and change into clean clothes before touching healthy domestic poultry or birds.
- If you see sick birds, call the WSDA Avian Program at 1-800-606-3056.
- If you are concerned because you or your family member becomes sick after having contact with birds, call the Washington State Department of Health at 1-800-525-0127.

### Chickens, turkeys and other poultry with avian influenza can show many signs they are sick, such as:

- Eating less, huddling, or closing their eyes.
- Ruffled feathers or twisting their neck.
- Coughing or sneezing.
- Laying fewer eggs, diarrhea, and excessive thirst.
- Having swollen, discolored wattles and combs.
- Even sudden death, sometimes in large numbers within a flock.

### Where can I learn more about avian influenza?

Visit [agr.wa.gov/birdflu](http://agr.wa.gov/birdflu) for more information and links to other resources.

*Don't fowl up,  
keep them safe!*



# BIRD OWNERS

## FAST FACTS:

1. Protect your flock by keeping it away from other domestic poultry and all wild waterfowl.
2. Learn about biosecurity and take steps on your property to keep your birds healthy.
3. Monitor your birds closely and contact your veterinarian and WSDA immediately if you suspect illness.

### Biosecurity is key

All flock owners, regardless of the size of their flock, should develop and follow biosecurity practices that can reduce the potential for introducing avian influenza.

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to keep diseases out of flocks. "Bio" refers to life, and "security" indicates protection -- it is the key to keeping your poultry healthy.

## What can flock owners do?

Protect your flock by following these biosecurity measures:

- Limit and record movement of people, vehicles, or animals coming on and off your farm.
- Keep new birds separate from your flock for at least 30 days.
- Keep your flock away from wild or migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Isolate sick birds and contact your veterinarian or WSDA.
- If you must handle sick birds, wear protective clothing such as disposable gloves, masks, coveralls, and boots.
- Wash and disinfect items going on and off your farm, such as footwear, vehicles and equipment.

*Don't chicken out, help prevent avian flu!*



If you see sick domestic birds, call the WSDA Avian Health Program at 1-800-606-3056.

# FOOD SAFETY

## How can I be sure chicken and poultry products are safe to eat?

Chicken and other poultry is safe to eat when it is properly handled and cooked.

Follow these steps for safer food

- Wash hands; clean and sanitize work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not wash raw poultry.
- Separate raw and cooked meat to avoid cross-contamination.
- Cook meat thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep raw poultry stored at 40 F or below or, if in the freezer, at 0 F or below.

The response plans created by government agencies and the poultry industry to handle an outbreak of the avian influenza are in place to protect the nation's poultry supply.

Avian flu response plans typically include:

- Establishing quarantine zones in areas with infected poultry flocks and prohibiting the movement of poultry and poultry products, like eggs, from quarantine zones without an official movement permit.
- Extensive testing of birds in the surrounding area to ensure the virus has not spread.

Worth knowing:

- Look for the USDA label on poultry products you purchase – this means the meat has been inspected to ensure it is safe.
- Commercial grocery stores sell only federally inspected poultry.

## Who can I contact?

### Food safety questions:

WSDA Food Safety Program, 360-902-1876

### Report sick domestic birds:

WSDA Avian Health Program, 800-606-3056

### Report dead wild birds:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 800-606-8768

### For concerns if you or a family member becomes sick:

Washington State Department of Health, 800-525-0127

# VETERINARIANS

## FAST FACTS:

1. Follow strict biosecurity measures when going on and off premises where poultry are housed.
2. If you visit a farm and suspect birds are infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, contact WSDA immediately and remain on the farm for further instructions.
3. Educate your clients on the risks of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

### What's biosecurity?

"Bio" refers to life, and "security" indicates protection -- it is the key to keeping poultry healthy.

Biosecurity is a term that refers to practices anyone can take to make sure they do not carry disease into or out of an area housing poultry.

Examples of biosecurity measures include washing and sanitizing footwear before entering and upon leaving a chicken coop, sanitizing equipment used around poultry and wearing clean protective clothing around birds.

## What can veterinarians do?

Follow these biosecurity practices when treating birds and visiting farms:

- Limit and record your movements and the movement of vehicles onto farms.
- Wear protective clothing such as disposable gloves, a mask, coveralls, and boots. Change protective clothing between farms.
- Wash and disinfect items going on and off farms, such as footwear, vehicles and equipment.
- Contact WSDA if you suspect HPAI.
- Educate your clients about the risks of HPAI and related issues, such as the importance of good biosecurity, avoiding contact with wild birds, hunting risks, and food safety.



Visit [agr.wa.gov/birdflu](http://agr.wa.gov/birdflu) for more information and links to other resources.