

Information on Avian Influenza

April 29, 2022

For Neyaashiinigmiing Residents:

As communicated previously, **one poultry flock** in Neyaashiinigmiing tested positive for Avian Influenza (AI) in early April 2022 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). AI is also known as H5N1 and the bird flu. **There are biosecurity protocols** in place around the premises where the infected poultry flock was located.

What is Avian Influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A contagious viral infection that can affect several species of food producing birds as well as pet birds and wild birds.
What is the risk to humans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The risk to humans is very low. Human infections are rare and usually transmitted through close contact of infected bird feces. If you become ill after handling birds, contact your health care provider and inform them that you have been in contact with wild or domesticated birds.
When should I suspect Avian Influenza in my birds?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sudden death• lack of energy, movement or appetite• decreased egg production• swelling around the head, neck and eyes• coughing, gasping for air or sneezing• nervous signs, tremors or lack of coordination• diarrhea
Transmission:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avian Influenza is transmitted within birds when a bird is exposed to an infected bird. It spreads quickly among domesticated poultry. Assume all wild birds, fowl, geese and ducks are infected. Not all infected birds appear sick.
Do not feed wild birds by hand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove feeders at or near poultry operations / domestic animals. Backyard bird feeders and baths should be cleaned regularly using solutions of 25ml bleach to 2L water (1:80 dilution), rinsed and let dry.
Numbers to call if birds look sick:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For sick or deceased wild birds, please call Canadian Wildlife Health -Cooperative: 1-866-673-4781.• For bird owners, please call the CFIA Surveillance and Diagnostics: 226-217-8022.
Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cook game meat and eggs thoroughly.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has **declared primary control zones (PCZ)** to prevent the spread of avian influenza (H5N1/bird flu) in Ontario. As a result of this declaration, birds, their products and by-products, as well as things exposed to birds cannot be moved into, out of, within, or through PCZ except by permission. Learn more by clicking [here](#).
 - For assistance with **permits and movement control permissions** in the PCZ call: 519-953-6658, 8 am to 6 pm (EST), or email: cfia.ontmovementlicandpermits-deplacementlicenceetpermis.acia@inspection.gc.ca
- **Reference Issue Sheet for EPHOs and Other Health Professionals:**
 - [CFIA ACIA-#16321954-v1-IndigenousServicesCanada AvianInfluenzaReference EPHOs_Eng](#)
- **Protect Your Flock from Bird Flu - Spot the Signs & Always report Sick Birds**
 - [CFIA ACIA-#16306172-v1-ON - CFIA ACIA - Reporting dead bird for backyard flocks](#)
- **Current Confirmed Detection in ON:**
 - <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/detection-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-h5n/eng/1640207916497/1640207916934>
- **Fact Sheet**
 - <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/fact-sheet/eng/1356193731667/1356193918453>
- **What to Expect if Your Birds are Infected**
 - <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/what-to-expect-if-your-animals-are-infected/eng/1334853795705/1334853885674>
- **AI and the Risk to Pets:**
 - <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/eng/1323990856863/1323991018946>
- **Eligible Compensation for Poultry Flock Lost Due to AI:**
 - <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/compensation/eng/1313712524829/1313712773700>