

What you need to know about



H5N1 Avian Influenza (H5 bird flu)



What is H5 bird flu

- High pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza (H5 bird flu) is a viral disease that occurs primarily in birds.
- H5 bird flu is currently impacting all parts of the world, causing high death rates in poultry, wild birds and some mammals, particularly marine mammals.
- H5 bird flu has recently been detected for the first time in Australia in wild migratory birds on the southern coast of Australia.

What to look out for

- Small groups of sick or dead wild birds; or sick or dead chickens or pet birds.
- One or more sick or dead birds of high-risk species, including seabirds, waterbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey (e.g. eagles, hawks) or seals.
- Any other birds or marine mammals showing any signs of infection, including:
 - incoordination, tremors, swimming or moving in circles.
 - twisted necks or other strange movements or positions.
 - can't stand or fly.
 - diarrhoea.
 - hard breathing, coughing or sneezing.
 - swollen head, neck or eyes.
 - cloudiness or change in eye colour
 - sudden death.

When is the risk highest?

August to November, when migratory shorebirds arrive in large numbers. But other infected wildlife could arrive year round, so stay alert and always report anything unusual.

Can people get H5 bird flu?

- Yes – but it's rare. The current risk to people in Australia is low.
- Infection usually occurs through close contact with sick birds. Rangers, wildlife carers, hunters and anyone in contact with sick or dead birds, are most at risk.
- Visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/avianinfluenza for more information.

How to protect yourself

- If you see multiple sick or dead birds or other animals or wildlife, do not touch them.
- Do not feed wild birds or other wildlife.
- Keep children and pets away from wildlife, including preventing cats from roaming and keeping dogs on leads in wildlife areas.
- Always use gloves, P2 surgical masks and eye protection if handling sick or dead birds or other animals or wildlife.
- Wash your hands and utensils after handling animals, eggs or raw meat.

What to do

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead birds or other animals.
- **RECORD** time, date, location, and take photos or videos if safe.
- **REPORT** immediately: any unusual sickness or multiple deaths in birds or wildlife via the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

Stay up to date:



EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE HOTLINE
1800 675 888

www.dbird.nsw.gov.au/ai