

What is bird flu?

Avian influenza (AI), or “bird flu,” is a virus that infects domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese, and wild birds such as shorebirds and waterfowl.

AI viruses are divided into two groups—highly pathogenic (HPAI) and low pathogenic (LPAI)—based on the ability of the virus to produce disease and the severity of the illness it can cause. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds. LPAI causes only minor illness and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl.

There are many strains of avian influenza, many of which show little or no visible signs of illness and pose no threat to public health. Each year new strains of AI may appear throughout the world.



How does bird flu spread?

HPAI spreads quickly by direct, bird-to-bird contact. The disease can also spread indirectly, for example, when birds come in contact with contaminated surfaces or materials.

Wild waterfowl are a reservoir for avian influenza and shed the virus through their feces. If susceptible birds come in contact with infected feces, or other infected secretions, influenza particles enter the bird's respiratory tract, causing the virus to spread.

If you find a sick or dying bird, don't touch it, report it.

Domestic birds

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Program

635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon, USA
97301-2532

1-800-347-7028
www.oregon.gov/ODA

Wild birds

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

1-866-968-2600



Fencing your bird area can help keep your flock safe from other birds that could spread disease

*Some of the photos and icons used in this brochure are courtesy of USDA/APHIS.
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Oregon
Department
of Agriculture



AVIAN
INFLUENZA
AND
BIOSECURITY

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Program



You are the best protection your birds have.

Practicing “backyard biosecurity” minimizes the chance of bringing diseases

into your flock and prevents you from carrying disease to other flocks. Migratory waterfowl, the movement of poultry, poultry equipment, and people are potential sources for introducing the disease to domestic birds.

6 ways to protect your birds

1. Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.

2. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment. Wear clean clothes and scrub your shoes with disinfectant.



3. Buy birds from reputable sources and keep new birds separated for at least 30 days.

4. Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you must borrow, disinfect it first.



5. Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease. Check your birds frequently. If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it.

6. Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call ODA at 1-800-347-7028.



Wash your hands before and after bird handling

What are the signs of bird flu?

H5N1 can strike quickly and spread rapidly without any warning. When infected birds do show signs, here's what to look for:

- Lack of energy or appetite
- Decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Runny nose, coughing, sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs



How ODA is prepared for AI

ODA conducts periodic trainings and drills to maintain readiness of staff and emergency response teams.

ODA's comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan has been in place since 2004. The program involves:

- Multi-agency coordination.
- AI surveillance testing of poultry from flocks across the state.
- AI testing of all birds and poultry submitted for examination at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic lab.
- Meetings with poultry producers to update and improve the ability to respond appropriately to any type of AI event.

ODA conducts weekly AI testing of birds sold at the state's only live bird market.



Can poultry be safely consumed?

Eating poultry that has been prepared properly is safe. Cooking poultry products to an internal temperature of 165 degrees ensures safety. Proper handling and preparation of poultry products destroys avian influenza, as well as other disease microbes.