

AVIAN INFLUENZA



What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

Avian Influenza (AI) is a viral disease that affects all species of birds. It is caused by the type “A” influenza virus. AI viruses can be classified into two categories, those that cause mild to no disease in poultry (low pathogenic avian influenza or LPAI) and those that cause severe disease (highly pathogenic avian influenza or HPAI). Waterfowl are the natural reservoirs (carriers) of AI viruses. While the viruses may cause marked illness and fatality in domestic poultry, waterfowl often show little to no signs of infection.

Does AI affect people?

Human infections with avian influenza in general are rare. The low risk of infection is limited to people in direct contact with affected birds.

Is it safe to eat chicken and/or eggs?

There is no evidence that people can acquire AI by eating poultry products. Proper cooking kills influenza viruses. As a reminder, all poultry should be handled properly and cooked to an internal temperature of 165° F.

What are the recommendations for disposing of dead birds found on my property?

- Use disposable gloves or an inverted double plastic bag to pick up the bird
- Place the dead bird in a double plastic bag and seal
- Dispose of the dead bird by securing in a plastic bag and placing in garbage
- Wash hands thoroughly:
 - Use soap and running water
 - Rub hands vigorously for 20 seconds
 - Wash all surfaces including: backs of hands, wrists, between fingers & under fingernails
 - Rinse well
 - Dry hands with paper towel
 - Turn the water off with the paper towel instead of bare hands

Should I report sick or dead birds?

As a general precaution, people should avoid wild birds and observe them only from a distance, and avoid contact with birds that appear ill or have died. To report a single dead wild bird visit: www.michigandnr.com/diseasedwildlifereporting/disease_obsreport.asp To report three or more dead wild birds, call Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at [517-336-5030](tel:517-336-5030).

If your backyard poultry flock has a high death loss or consistent pattern of death loss in a short period of time, report it to Michigan Department Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) at [800-292-3939](tel:800-292-3939); (after hours emergencies) [517-373-0440](tel:517-373-0440).

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