

STOP THE SPREAD OF BIRD FLU

You can take some basic precautions to help prevent the spread of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu. The disease, which can be carried by migrating waterfowl, has been found in Kentucky. It can sicken or kill other birds, including chickens.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers the risk of human infection as low. Still, if you experience flu-like symptoms after handling birds, let your healthcare provider know.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends some simple steps to help stop the spread of this disease.



GUIDELINES for the GENERAL PUBLIC

PROTECT YOUR DOMESTIC BIRDS

You can pass the disease onto your chickens and domestic birds, so don't wear your hunting clothes and boots around your domestic birds. If you suspect avian influenza in your domestic or farm birds, call the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Sick Bird Hotline: 866-536-7593.

DISPOSE OF CARCASSES PROPERLY

Double bag carcasses for pickup in your garbage or bury them deeply enough that animals will not dig them up.

REPORT CLUSTERS OF BIRD CARCASSES OR WATERFOWL ACTING STRANGELY

Do not handle carcasses of birds found already dead. Avoid harvesting game birds that appear sick. Diseased birds may appear unsteady or act strangely. Report clusters of dead or sick birds through the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online reporting system. Go to fw.ky.gov, then search under the keywords, "avian influenza."

GUIDELINES for HUNTERS

FIELD DRESS BIRDS OUTSIDE OR IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA

Infected birds spread the virus through saliva, mucous and feces. Wear gloves when processing birds and avoid handling entrails. **Don't feed carcasses to your dog or let your dog handle a bird beyond carrying it back to you.** Breasting out your birds is the safest way to prepare your ducks and geese. Remember that if you transport waterfowl, each bird must retain a wing or head for identification purposes.

KEEP IT CLEAN

You can transmit the disease by handling carcasses. Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game. Wash hands with soap and warm water after handling wild birds. Disinfect any surfaces (knives, equipment and tables) that contact dead birds. Use dedicated tools for cleaning game.

COOK UNTIL DONE

Thoroughly cook all game to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Properly cooked game is safe to eat.



REPORT DEAD OR DISEASED BIRDS:
fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/AvianInfluenza.aspx

