

Avian Influenza (bird flu)

A highly infectious virus that infects domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and pheasants, and wild birds such as geese and ducks.



6 ways to protect your birds

1 Keep your distance

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

2 Keep it clean

Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment.

3 Don't haul disease home

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

4 Don't borrow disease

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

5 Know the warning signs

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

6 Report sick birds

Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call your veterinarian or notify the state veterinarian at 701-328-2655.

Bird flu spreads quickly by direct bird-to-bird contact. Viruses can be carried by manure, tools, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, clothing and shoes. Migratory waterfowl can also carry the disease.

What are the signs of bird flu?

- 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

State Board of Animal Health
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