

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.

6 Report sick birds

Don't wait. Report significant, unexplained deaths to your flock veterinarian or DATCP. Contact the Wisconsin DNR to report wild bird deaths.

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, and sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs



Domestic birds: WI DATCP Division of Animal Health
(608) 224-4872

Wild birds: WI Department of Natural Resources
(608) 267-0866



Scan this code with your smartphone for more info

Need more information?

datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AvianInfluenza.aspx
aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock

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