



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade  
and Consumer Protection  
Division of Animal Health



## AVIAN INFLUENZA INFORMATION SHEET

### Avian Influenza and Human Health

#### FAST FACTS:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a highly infectious disease of chickens and turkeys and frequently results in sudden death.
- There are no apparent risks with this particular strain (H5N2) to human health from domestic poultry or domestic poultry products at this time.
- HPAI primarily spreads through direct contact with infected birds or through contact with contaminated bedding, feed or water.
- Several thousand workers have worked with and among HPAI infected birds, but no human cases of infection with this strain have been detected in the United States or other countries.
- Some other strains of avian influenza have infected people causing mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, aches and red, itchy eyes.
- Influenza viruses can be unpredictable, therefore response workers are given the option to take anti-viral medications, but it is not mandatory.
- Personal protective equipment and respirators are worn by response workers to protect them from dirt, dust, manure and other materials found in chicken barns.
- All poultry, poultry products and wild birds are safe to eat as long as they are properly handled and cooked to a temperature of 165°F.

**For more information about all aspects of avian influenza, visit [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov).**

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

**Domestic birds:** Wisconsin DATCP—Division of Animal Health  
**1-800-572-8981**

**Wild birds:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**1-800-433-1610**

