

BIRD FLU on Cape Cod KNOW THE FACTS



What is Avian Influenza?

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is caused by a virus that exists naturally in wild birds. Wild birds usually do not become sick, but they carry the virus and can pass it on to non-wild birds, such as chickens, turkeys, and ducks (fowl), which can become very sick and die.

How Does the Disease Spread?

Infected birds can shed Avian Influenza A viruses in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Birds can become infected when they have contact with the virus as it is shed by infected birds. They also can become infected through contact with surfaces that are contaminated with virus from infected birds.

What are the Symptoms in Birds?

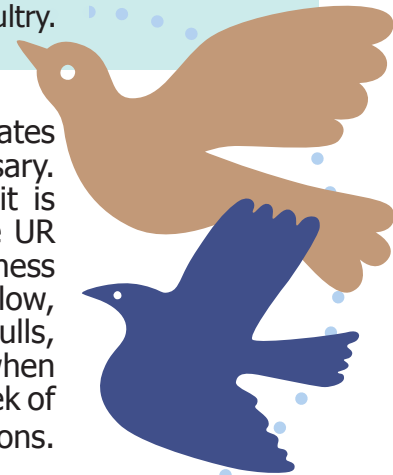
Symptoms in sick birds include lack of energy, lack of appetite, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, reduced egg production, swelling of various parts of the body, diarrhea, lack of coordination, and even sudden death.

Can People Get Bird Flu?

There has been one confirmed case of HPAI (H5N1) in humans in the United States according to the CDC. While cases of Bird Flu in people is rare, precautions are necessary. People can get bird flu if the virus gets into their eyes, nose or mouth or it is inhaled. There can be no symptoms to mild illness, conjunctivitis, mild flu-like UR symptoms, fever, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, shortness of breath. Although the risk of human cases from any outbreaks appears to be low, you should take precautions when handling wild birds, particularly waterfowl, gulls, and raptors. Fewer than 20% of wild birds will show any symptoms of illness when infected with Avian Influenza. Monitor your health for any symptoms within a week of handling wild birds and consult your health care provider if you have any questions.

HOW TO STAY SAFE when handling BIRDS

- Wear gloves, masks, and safety glasses and avoid touching your face.
- Don't drink, eat or smoke.
- Don't touch objects with gloves on.
- Wash hands thoroughly for 30 seconds after removing gloves.
- Wash field clothes each day and disinfect/wear dedicated footwear.
- Avoid visiting poultry.



Is it Safe to Have a Bird Feeder in my Yard?

Maintaining a clean bird feeder or bird bath is generally safe. It is always best to wear protective gloves when handling or cleaning these items to avoid contact with bird droppings or contaminated water in a bird bath. Always wash your hands with soap and water after coming in contact with these items. Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach mixed with nine parts water), rinse with water, and allow to air-dry.

I Have Chickens at Home. How do I Protect Them?

Keep visitors to a minimum. Wash hands and wear disposable boots. Change clothes entering and exiting. Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them. Look for signs of illness. Report sick birds. Don't wait. If your birds (poultry) are sick or dying, call a local or state veterinarian, cooperative extensive service, or the USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593.

Call Wild Care
if you see sick
or injured birds

508-240-2255

We're here to help.

EVERYDAY
9AM-5PM



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