

December 21, 2023

## Public Health Considerations Regarding Avian Influenza Detected in Poultry Flocks in Ohio.

**The Ohio Department of Health and State Agriculture Partners Are Responding  
to Prevent Spread of Avian Influenza to Humans and Other Poultry Populations.**

### What's New

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been recently detected in poultry in surrounding counties and across the U.S. Human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred most often after unprotected contact with infected birds or surfaces contaminated with bird flu viruses. Public health efforts to monitor influenza in the United States is to actively monitor people who have been exposed to birds or poultry infected with avian influenza.

### Background

Human infections with bird flu viruses can happen when the virus gets into a person's eyes, nose or mouth, or is inhaled. This can happen when a virus is in the air (in droplets or possibly dust) and a person breathes it in, or possibly when a person touches something that has virus on it then touches their mouth, eyes or nose.

### Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms range from no symptoms or mild illness [such as eye redness (conjunctivitis) or mild flu-like upper respiratory symptoms], to severe (such as pneumonia requiring hospitalization) and included fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) or feeling feverish\*, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

### Prevention

Healthcare providers who have a patient showing **signs and symptoms** of flu and a history of recent **contact with ill birds** should report the case to the Delaware Public Health District Disease Control and Response Unit (DCRU). DCRU can be reached by phone at **(740) 203-2040** via secure fax at **(740) 203-2044** or by email at **DCRU@delawarehealth.org**.

*This health alert was developed using information and guidance obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Infectious Diseases team released on December 8, 2023.*