

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Migratory Birds in Alaska 2023



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses can affect the health of humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. The current global HPAI outbreak has caused illness and death in domestic poultry and wild birds, including waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and birds of prey. In Alaska, the first confirmed HPAI in birds was in April, 2022, and continued surveillance has confirmed cases in wild birds and some mammals (fox, black bear, brown bear).

The Center for Disease Control believes that the public health risk from HPAI in North America is low, but Alaska hunters should exercise caution while hunting and eating migratory birds by following these steps to reduce infection risk:

- ✓ Do not harvest game that appear sick or are found dead.
- ✓ Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game.
- ✓ When done handling game, wash hands thoroughly with soap or disinfectant, and disinfect knives, equipment, and surfaces that were in contact with game.
- ✓ Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling game.
- ✓ Cook game and eggs thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.

To Report Observations and Concerns about Migratory Birds:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Avian Flu Hotline:

1-866-527-3358 or 907-229-6357 (until 10/31/23)

Local Environmental Observer Network: www.leonetwork.org

To Report sick or dead wild mammals: Please contact ADF&G at: dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov

For more information about HPAI visit:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-flu-summary.htm>
- <https://www.fws.gov/avian-influenza>
- <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/announcements/avian-influenza-outbreaks/>
- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds>
- <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>

