



## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Backyard Poultry Flock in NJ

Date: May 19, 2022

**Public Health Message Type:**  Alert  Advisory  Update  Information

**Intended Audience:**  All public health partners  Healthcare providers  Infection preventionists  
 Local health departments  Schools/Childcare centers  ACOs  
 Animal health professionals  Other

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) confirmed the state's first Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) case in a Monmouth County non-commercial backyard poultry flock. NJDA issued a press release on May 18<sup>th</sup> which can be found [here](#).

HPAI is caused by an influenza type A virus (H5N1) which can infect domestic poultry and wild birds. HPAI strains are "highly pathogenic" because they are extremely infectious among domestic poultry and can spread rapidly from flock to flock. HPAI has been detected in domestic poultry in 35 states to date. Risk to the public from these detections of HPAI remains low.

### **For Local Health Departments**

If local health departments receive questions about HPAI in poultry, NJDA has resources for veterinarians and poultry owners on their website: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/>. Sick or unexplained bird deaths in domestic poultry should be reported immediately to NJDA at 609-671-6400 or [state.veterinarian@ag.nj.gov](mailto:state.veterinarian@ag.nj.gov).

While overall risk to the public is low, it is recommended that persons who are directly exposed to infected domestic poultry monitor themselves for symptoms for ten days following last exposure to infected birds. NJDOH will provide guidance to LHDs with individuals in their jurisdiction that may have been exposed.

### **For Clinicians**

Clinicians are reminded to report any confirmed or suspect cases of novel influenza in people immediately to the local health department by telephone. Resources on novel influenza can be found on the NJDOH website: [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/novel\\_flu.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/novel_flu.shtml)

### **Resources**

- **NJDA:** [Department of Agriculture | Animal Health \(nj.gov\)](#)
  - [2022 HPAI Letter to Veterinarians.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)
  - [2022 HPAI Letter to Poultry Owners.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)
- **USDA:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>
- **NJDOH:** [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/novel\\_flu.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/novel_flu.shtml)
- **CDC:** [Bird Flu Current Situation Summary | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)