

**Animal Health Update: Updated Numbers, Guidance, and Reporting Form
for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
10.31.2022**

Key Points

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been detected in nine wild birds (8 confirmed and 1 suspect) in Los Angeles County.
- Updated guidance for animal control/shelter/veterinary staff and the public is available.
- An HPAI-specific reporting form is available. Please use this form when reporting suspect HPAI cases to VPH.

Dear Veterinary Colleagues:

As of October 28, 2022, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) Eurasian strain H5N1 has been detected in nine wild birds in Los Angeles County. This includes three Canada Geese and a Black-crowned Night Heron in Long Beach, three Canada Geese in the City of Los Angeles, a Canada Goose in Cerritos, and another suspect Canada Goose south of downtown Los Angeles. These cases are part of the ongoing nationwide bird flu outbreak.

Currently, the risk of transmission of HPAI H5N1 to humans is considered low. However, there is evidence that H5N1 may infect humans in rare instances. As such, VPH has updated its guidance for shelters and veterinary clinics on how to keep animal control/shelter/veterinary staff healthy. VPH makes the following recommendations, which can also be found in the attached flyer:

- Avoid unprotected direct physical contact with sick birds, carcasses, bird feces or litter, and surfaces or water that might be contaminated with bird feces (buckets, kennels, cages, bowls).
- Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) when in direct contact with birds, carcasses, or equipment that may be contaminated with bird feces.
- Recommended PPE includes: Respirator (e.g. N-95), disposable gloves, properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles, boots or boot covers, disposable fluid-resistant gown or coveralls, and disposable head cover or hair cover. Put on and take off PPE in separate clean areas.
- Reusable PPE (e.g. rubber boots) should be cleaned until visible dirt is removed, and then disinfected with an EPA-approved [disinfectant](#) that has label claims against Influenza A viruses according to manufacturer instructions.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth after touching any contaminated material while wearing PPE.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, or use the bathroom while wearing PPE.
- Wash hands well with soap and water after removing PPE or use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not immediately available.
- Shower at the end of the work shift and leave all contaminated clothing and equipment at work. Never wear contaminated clothing or equipment outside of the work area.

- Self-monitor for symptoms of illness for 10 days after the last exposure to potentially infected poultry or contaminated materials, even if contact was minimal and PPE was worn.
- Report exposure to potentially infected birds or contaminated materials to VPH by completing this form and emailing to vet@ph.lacounty.gov or by calling 213-288-7060.

VPH has also developed a flyer with information for the public on how to protect birds and themselves from HPAI (attached). VPH encourages you to print this out and post at your clinic.

Additionally, VPH has created an HPAI-specific reporting form to help us better track this outbreak. Please use this form when reporting suspect HPAI cases to VPH. The completed form can be emailed to vet@ph.lacounty.gov, and please remember you are always welcome to call VPH at 213-288-7060.

As always, thank you for the work you do keeping animals and humans in Los Angeles County healthy.

Additional resources:

[2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#) – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

[2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information Sheet](#) – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

[Avian Influenza Updates](#) – California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

[Bird Flu Current Situation Summary](#) – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[Influenza \(Flu\) – Information on Bird Flu](#) – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[Avian Influenza \(AI\) or Bird Flu](#) – Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health (VPH)

Sincerely,

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Please email vet@ph.lacounty.gov if you wish to unsubscribe or need other AHAN-related assistance.
To sign up for future Animal Health Alerts or to view previously released AHANs, please visit
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/AHAN.htm>.