



## IT COULD LAND HERE

Wild birds flying overhead may be pretty to look at, but don't be fooled.

Migratory birds like ducks and geese can carry a new and deadly kind of bird flu.

It entered the United States late in 2014 and it can wipe out your flock in a few days. This virus is currently infecting flocks in the Pacific Northwest.

Even if your birds never come into direct contact with wild birds, they can still pick up this deadly disease.

*No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States, Canada, or internationally, and there continues to be no public health concern.*



**Find out what steps you can take NOW to protect your birds before it's too late.**



Maryland Department of Agriculture  
ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
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## PROTECT YOUR FLOCK NOW

**A deadly new strain of bird flu is in the U.S. Protect your birds before it's too late.**



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## CLEAN RIGOROUSLY!

- Wear clean clothes, scrub your shoes with disinfectant, and wash your hands thoroughly before entering your bird area.
- Clean cages daily
- Change food and water daily.
- Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings, including cages and tools. Remove manure before disinfecting.
- If you have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect your car and truck tires, poultry cages, and equipment before going home.



## 2 START OUT RIGHT!

Buy new birds from reputable hatcheries. Keep them separate from your flock for **at least 21 days**. Start with healthy birds and keep them healthy!

## 3 RESTRICT EXPOSURE!

Restrict access to your property and your birds. Consider **fencing off the area** where you keep your birds to better control the spread of germs.

## 4 REDUCE RISK!

If you show birds at exhibitions, be sure to have them tested first, and keep these birds separate from your flock for at least **three full weeks** after.

## 5 REGISTER!

**Register your flock** with MDA. If there is a bird flu outbreak in your area, we will let you know and tell you how you can protect your birds. To register, visit [www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov) or call 410-841-5810.

## 6 REPORT!

**Report sick birds** to MDA at 410-841-5810. We can help you find out if your birds have the flu and tell you what your options are if they do.

## Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases

*Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.*



- Sudden increase in deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production, soft, thin-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement



**This new strain of bird flu is extremely dangerous. Follow these steps to protect your flock. IMMEDIATELY REPORT SICK BIRDS TO MDA. 410-841-5810 • [www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)**