

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:

MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: ahops.mda@maryland.gov, 410-841-5810

MDH - Maryland Department of Health, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov, 410-767-5649

MD DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 410-226-5193

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) receives reports of wildlife disease cases via the 24/7 toll-free MD Natural Resources Police Call Center:

1-800-628-9944, the USDA/MD DNR Call Center: 1-877-463-6497, or the MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service office in Annapolis 1-410-260-8540.

Ongoing Response to Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza on Delmarva Peninsula

The Maryland Department of Agriculture continues working in a Unified Command with the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in response to multiple confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), subtype H5N1, on the Delmarva Peninsula. HPAI is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of all poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 ° F is recommended as a general food safety precaution. The region’s first poultry case was confirmed on February 23 in a commercial poultry operation located in New Castle County, Del. Since then, state and federal officials have confirmed cases in the following counties:

- March 5 - Cecil County, Md., egg layer operation
- March 9 - Queen Anne’s County, Md, broiler farm; New Castle County, Del., pullet farm;
- March 17 - Kent County, Del., broiler farm
- March 18 - Cecil County, Md., pullet farm

In addition to poultry farms, HPAI subtype H5N1 has been detected in a wild duck (Lesser Scaup) in Kent County on February 2, 2022, and black vultures in Harford County on April 21, 2022. Updates and more information on Avian Influenza in poultry and wild birds nationwide are provided online through USDA-APHIS, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
Domestic animals	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx
Humans	MDH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx
Wildlife	MD DNR/USDA Call Center 877-463-6497 https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/default.aspx

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Ongoing Response to Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza on Delmarva Peninsula (continued)

Surveillance is a critical component of our regional response to this outbreak. Sick birds should be reported immediately to MDA's State Veterinarian's office by email: md.birdflu@maryland.gov or phone (410)-841-5810. State animal health officials have compiled the attached document, *Collection of Avian Influenza Samples in Backyard Flocks and Clinics*, with instructions on properly collecting and submitting samples from sick birds.

Veterinarians are also urged to educate their clients, who are small flock owners, on the importance of practicing strict biosecurity on their premises. Resources and information on biosecurity are available on the MDA [website](#) and via the USDA's [Defend the Flock Program](#).

Biosecurity Measures for MD Wild Birds in Veterinary Facilities

Facility biosecurity:

-Always obtain a detailed history on the phone *before the patient arrives if possible* (location, date, name, contact information for the person delivering the bird as well as species, signs, etc.).

-If possible, conduct triage /admission examinations outdoors (or away from the facility). If a bird has neurologic signs that cannot be explained by head trauma, or other causes consider euthanasia (especially for raptors, scavengers, and waterfowl).

-If an HPAI-suspect bird mortality occurs; double-bag, label, disinfect outer bag and refrigerate.

-*Biosecurity is essential to preventing disease.* If a bird in your facility tests HPAI positive and you have additional birds - your facility may be placed under a quarantine order and closed for a 3-4 week quarantine period – thus strict biosecurity measures should be followed to *prevent* infections and closures.

RESOURCES

[NWHC Wildlife Health Bulletin - HPAI](#)

EPA & USDA Disinfectants

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label-claims-avian-influenza>

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/ai-virus-table.pdf

USDA - Current Locations of HPAI in Domestic and Wild Birds

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>

USDA WS/ MD DNR Call Center to report illness or death in HPAI suspect free-ranging wild birds

USDA WS in Maryland: 877-463-6497

To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx>

National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:

<https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/PHPSA.aspx>

U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Influenza Report:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>