

## 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](mailto:ahops.mda@maryland.gov), 410-841-5810

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

MD DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 877-463-6497

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.

### **High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Wild Birds**

In Maryland in 2022, wild birds were clinically affected by HPAI. Over 500 black vultures were found dead throughout Maryland. Nationally 2,930 wild birds have been detected through state/ regional agencies and confirmed through USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). With migratory bird season this fall, wild birds may again move HPAI throughout the U.S. flyways. Vigilance and biosecurity are essential for all wild bird captive facilities as well as anyone handling wild birds - such as biologists, wildlife rehabilitators, falconers, retriever groups, and hunters. All suggested methods are key to prevent disease spread to other sites.

Specifically:

- Wear disposable gloves, masks and wash hands frequently/use hand sanitizers, .
- Disinfect tools, boots, pencils, etc., *after* removing bulk mud and fecal material. Additional information regarding disinfectants effective against influenza is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/antimicrobial-products-registered-disinfection-use-against-avian-influenza>
- Keep vehicles/ boats clean and spray boots (e.g. - with Lysol) before entering from field sites.
- Consider getting a seasonal flu shot.
- If collecting carcasses for diagnostics, double-bag/ label with date, location and I.D. number and keep a record of the carcasses. Spray outer bag surface before freezing (animal carcasses should not be placed in a freezer/refrigerator used for the storage of food for human consumption). Keep a record of all suspect birds.
- For captive wild birds follow all biosecurity methods and consider keeping birds indoors

US: over 47.5 million HPAI positive domestic birds (commercial and backyard poultry) have been depopulated in 2022.

The USDA websites contain information on biosecurity outreach:

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

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

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### *High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Wild Birds (continued)*

-To follow USDA **domestic bird HPAI** confirmations visit the USDA website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-commercial-backyard-flocks>

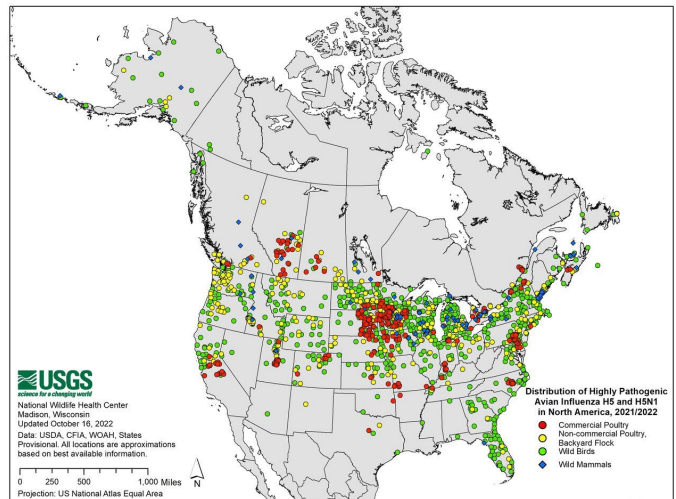
-To follow USDA/ NVSL confirmed **wild bird HPAI** confirmations - visit the USDA HPAI website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds>

**High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a U.S. Foreign Animal Disease and must be reported to the office of the State Veterinarian/ MD Department of Agriculture. For HPAI suspect birds contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture by phone: 410-841-5810 M-F, 8-4:30; 410-841-5971 after hours; or via email: [Birdflu@maryland.gov](mailto:Birdflu@maryland.gov)**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture website contains information and links on HPAI: <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/AvianFlu.aspx>

To report Maryland wild bird morbidity / mortality events, find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or obtain wildlife information – contact the MD DNR/ USDA Wildlife Services Call Center: 877-463-6497.

The **USGS/ National Wildlife Health Center** provides wild bird disease information: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>



<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>

### ***It's fall - GO OUTSIDE!! - But take precautions!***

*Disease awareness and prevention for outdoor enthusiasts*

Maryland temperatures are cooling down, leaves are starting to turn, and everyone is enjoying our wonderful state during the fall months. Outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, bird watching, and hunting, can result in close contact with wild animals and exposure to diseases transmitted through direct contact, by arthropod vectors, and contaminated soil and water. Anyone enjoying the Maryland great outdoors may be at an increased risk of zoonotic diseases, including rabies, brucellosis, and tularemia.

Outdoor enthusiasts are especially vulnerable to tick-borne diseases because of time spent in tick habitat. Preventing tick bites is the single most important step in preventing tick-borne diseases. For information related to tick-borne disease prevention, tick identification, and proper removal of ticks, visit: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx>

In general, wildlife should be enjoyed from a distance. Wild animals can be dangerous, orphaned, sick or injured. Wildlife should only be dealt with by trained professionals. In situations where contact with wild animals cannot be avoided, individuals should take the necessary precautions. For example, any dead animals brought home by household pets should be handled with gloves and disposed of properly.

For questions regarding wildlife, contact a MD licensed wildlife rehabilitator or nuisance wildlife cooperator by consulting the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) website: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/>

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### ***It's fall - GO OUTSIDE!! - But take precautions! (continued)***

[plants\\_wildlife/wildlifeproblems.aspx](#) or by calling the MD DNR/ USDA hotline at 1-877-463-6497.

Hunters/trappers handling harvested wildlife and their tissues should follow *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for safety*:

- Do not handle or harvest wildlife that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Wear gloves when field dressing and preparing game - outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- When done handling game, wash hands thoroughly with soap or disinfectant and clean knives, equipment, and surfaces that came in contact with the game.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.
- Cook all game to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.
- Avoid cross-contamination. Keep uncooked game in a separate container, away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods.

#### **Resources:**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Wildlife & Heritage Service website (information on wildlife diseases): <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/default.aspx>

USDA Wildlife Services [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/SA\\_Program\\_Overview](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/SA_Program_Overview)

Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases (CZVBD)

Lyme disease website: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/lyme-disease.aspx>.

Fact sheets for Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Tularemia, found at: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/fact-sheets.aspx>

To order brochures and posters send an email to [mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov)

Maryland Get Ticked Off brochures and posters for the general public.

Looking for a bull's eye rash? Look again - erythema migrans can take many forms poster.

Tick Identification Service: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/Tick-Identification.aspx>

### ***Merck Announces Fluralaner Indicated in Treatment and Control of Asian Longhorned Tick Infestations in Cats***

Merck Animal Health has announced the new label indication for both fluralaner topical solution (Bravecto) and fluralaner and moxidectin topical solution (Bravecto Plus) for the [treatment and control of Asian longhorned tick infestations in cats](#).

Both products are the first US products labeled for both the treatment and control of Asian longhorned tick infestations.

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**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:**