

### 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.

#### \*\*\*\*\***IMPORTANT UPDATE**\*\*\*\*\* *Maryland Request for Rabies Vaccination Delay*

Starting **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**, all requests for rabies vaccination delay must be submitted electronically via the online form available at: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/MDH3/MarylandRequestForRabiesVaccinationDelay> .

After June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Maryland Rabies Vaccination Delay Request submissions received via fax, mail, or email will no longer be reviewed. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call the Maryland Department of Health Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases at 410 767-5649.

### HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATES

#### *Human Cases U.S. vs Worldwide*

Since 2022, despite the wide geographic spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) viruses in wild birds and poultry worldwide, with sporadic spillover to mammals, only a small number of sporadic human cases of A(H5N1) have been identified. All reported human cases since 2022 were associated with recent poultry exposures, and no cases of human-to-human transmission have been identified. Currently, HPAI A(H5N1) viruses are believed to pose a low risk to the health of the public in the United States; however, people who have job-related or recreational exposures to infected birds may be at higher risk of infection and should take appropriate precautions outlined in CDC guidance. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/spotlights/2022-2023/h5n1-technical-report.htm>.

**Worldwide:** While HPAI A(H5N1) viruses are currently circulating widely in wild birds and poultry in many geographic regions, relatively few human cases of A(H5N1) have been reported in recent years. Between January 2022 and February 2023, ten sporadic human cases of A(H5N1) were reported from seven countries. All reported human cases had recent exposure to sick or dead poultry, and no cases of human-to human HPAI A(H5N1) virus transmission were identified. Five cases (3 children, 2 adults) had severe disease, and 2 died. Seven cases were associated with clade 2.3.4.4b HPAI A(H5N1) viruses, and two cases were associated with clade 2.3.2.1c HPAI A(H5N1) viruses.

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
<b>Domestic animals</b>	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>
<b>Humans</b>	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>
<b>Wildlife</b>	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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### HPAI update continued

**United States:** One human case of A(H5N1) was reported in the United States in April 2022. The individual reported fatigue without other symptoms and a low level of A(H5N1) viral RNA was detected in a single upper respiratory tract specimen. It is possible that detection of A(H5N1) viral RNA resulted from deposition of non-infectious viral material in the upper respiratory tract of the individual and did not represent true infection, similar to the environmental contamination that was attributed to the two asymptomatic cases reported to Spain.

### HPAI Detections in Domestic and Wild Animals in North America

Starting in Fall 2021, HPAI infections were detected in Canadian maritime provinces in commercial, backyard and wild birds and likely spread south through migratory waterfowl into the winter and spring of 2022. From that time HPAI spread across North America. The USGS map below represents all animal H5 and H5N1 detections (birds and mammals) through November 2022. Further updates in all species are represented in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maps as shown below.

### U.S. Domestic Birds, Wild Birds, and Mammals

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has developed a publicly available website that displays the results from nation-wide avian influenza virus (AIV) morbidity and mortality monitoring in domestic and wild bird populations and mammals. The timeline lags behind actual ongoing cases due to the backlog in diagnostic testing at National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Labs nationwide. Once detected in state NAHLN labs samples are sent to National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. If confirmed, cases are added to the USDA website:

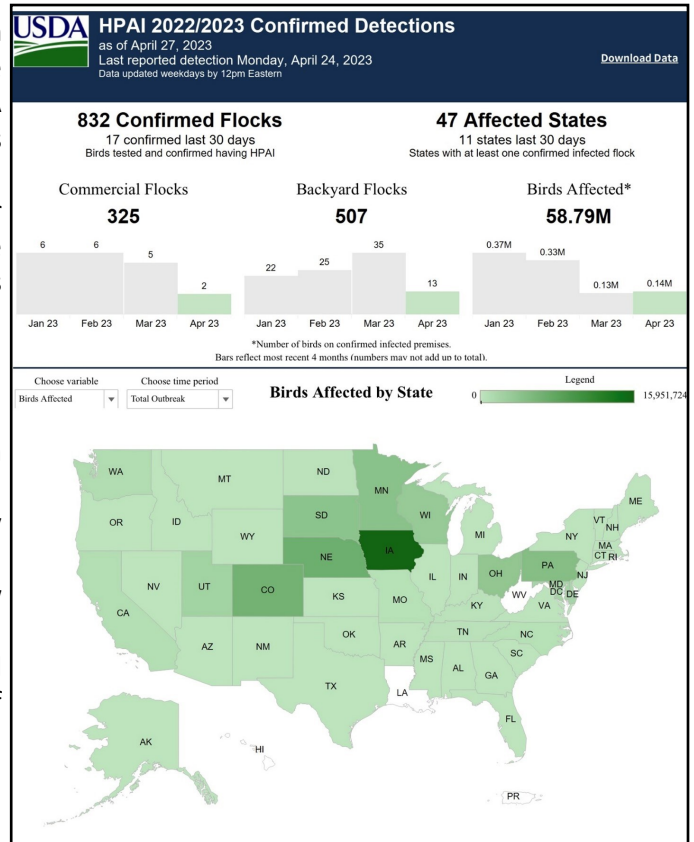
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>

### U.S. Backyard and Commercial /Domestic Birds

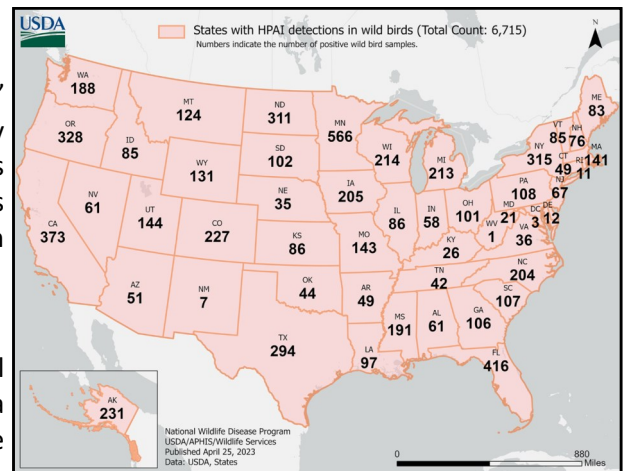
Separating out the three categories of animals into “domestic birds” – backyard and commercial poultry, turkeys, and other domestically kept birds; wild birds; and mammals. The USDA APHIS maintains data on all animal cases of HPAI. To date, domestic bird cases (backyard and commercial poultry) as of April 27, 2023, 58.79 million birds have been affected and depopulated in 47 states.

### U.S. Wild Birds

U.S. wild bird HPAI detections are present in all states and as of April 25, 2023, 6,715 have been reported. The species affected include a wide range including waterfowl (mainly from USDA WS routine yearly surveillance), gulls, hawks, golden and bald eagles, endangered California condors, black and turkey vultures, crows and others.



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

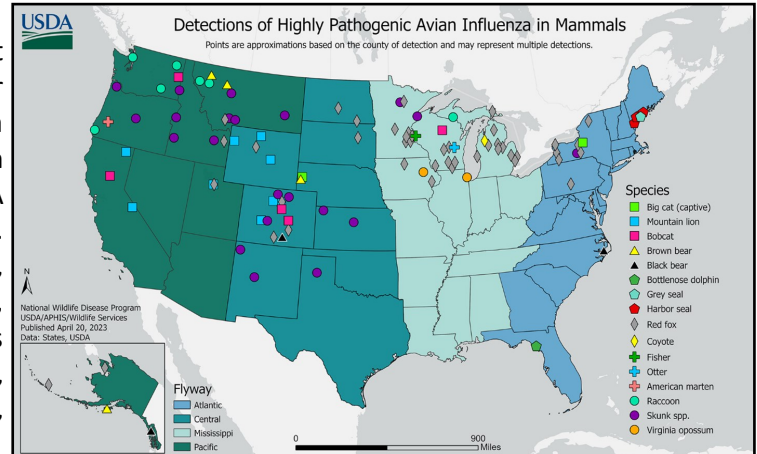


Source: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>

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### U.S. Mammals

HPAI A(H5) viruses are known to occasionally infect mammals that eat or are exposed to infected birds or poultry and mammals that are in environments with a high concentration of virus. In the United States, from May 2022 to April 20 2023, USDA APHIS reported HPAI A (H5N1) virus detections in 170 mammals in 23 states. Species have included black bears, red fox, coyotes, fishers, raccoons, skunks, seals, one bottlenose dolphin, and others. Globally, sporadic HPAI A(H5N1) virus infections have been reported in farmed mink in Spain, sea lions in Peru and Chile, and foxes in Canada, France, and other countries.



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

### Maryland Domestic and Wild Birds

During the winter-spring of 2022 after HPAI outbreaks in domestic and wild birds in Canada, our region experienced several major events. Poultry and backyard bird detections were confirmed in several counties in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Wild bird HPAI detections in Maryland black vultures (*Coragyps atrata*) began in April 2022 and over 600 MD vulture deaths were documented. Birds presented with neurologic signs and died within 24-48 hours. All captive wild bird facilities were provided with biosecurity guidance to protect staff as well as animals. The MD Departments of Health and Agriculture assisted in this effort and reviewed all guidance released to the public. The USDA, USGS, and USFWS assisted MD DNR in response and outreach efforts. Sick and dying vultures were mainly in the north central area of Maryland but the event spread into southern Maryland throughout the summer. States along the eastern seaboard also experienced black vulture mortalities. In 2023 Virginia and Pennsylvania again experienced backyard bird and commercial poultry outbreaks. Beginning March 2023 black vulture cases again were being reported. Vulture roosts in our region have experienced population declines and an effort is underway to examine and summarize the east coast mortality event. To date, HPAI has not been reported in wild mammals in Maryland.

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### Updated Reportable Diseases of Animals

Veterinarians must report any diseases on the list of reportable diseases to the State Veterinarian within 48 hours of first knowledge of disease. <https://mda.maryland.gov/animalhealth/pages/diseases.aspx>

#### To report a disease or suspected reportable disease:

During normal business hours, call the Annapolis Animal Health Headquarters: **410-841-5810**

After Hours, call the After Hours on Call Duty Veterinarian: **410-841-5971**

Please be prepared to provide a description of the animal, the name and address of the owner or person in charge of the animal, location of animal, and number of animals potentially exposed.

For additional information on animal health please visit the MDA Animal Health website:

<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>

### Fairs & Shows 2023 Updates

The 2023 Fairs and Shows season is quickly approaching. With animal diseases circulating around Maryland, please remember to check with your county or state animal offices before attending these events: 410-841-5810 and visit the MDA website for all guidance: <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/pages/fairs-shows.aspx>

## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

### ***Updates regarding dog importation guidelines***

Beginning **March 1, 2023**, all foreign-vaccinated dogs entering the United States from rabies high-risk countries must have a valid [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#). CDC will NOT accept foreign-issued pet passports or any other certificates for foreign rabies vaccinations.

Requiring importers to use the *CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record* will help ensure they are providing all required information and should result in faster permit processing times. The new form is available for importers and veterinarians to download on our at [website](#). The new form is not required for anyone who has already applied for a CDC dog import permit prior to March 1, 2023.

For dogs vaccinated in the United States, use of the *CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record* is encouraged, but not required. If importers of US-vaccinated dogs do not use the *CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record*, all of the required information must be included on the rabies vaccination certificate, which must be in English.

### ***U.S. SARS-CoV-2 Updates***

#### ***Humans***

To date there are 104,348,746 reported cases in the U.S. For more information on SARS-CoV-2 in people please visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

#### ***Animals***

The risk of spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people from animals is low. For more information on species and numbers in animals please visit the CDC and USGS websites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eesc/sars-cov-2-wildlife-and-humans>

#### ***Surveillance in Wildlife***

In November 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began sampling wild white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) for active infection of SARS-CoV-2 (SCV-2) virus and the presence of antibodies indicative of prior infection. In fall 2022, APHIS expanded disease surveillance efforts to investigate the presence of SCV-2 in other members of the deer family (cervids). This approach to monitoring and evaluation of cervid populations across the United States aligns with APHIS' American Rescue Plan Strategic Framework.

Please see the USDA Q&A Fact Sheet for more information:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/one\\_health/downloads/qa-covid-white-tailed-deer-study.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/qa-covid-white-tailed-deer-study.pdf)

The USDA APHIS is currently working with U.S. zoos and aquaria to determine which captive species are affected by the virus and plans to partner with U.S. wildlife rehabilitation facilities to understand wild species that may be affected.

For more information visit the USDA website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/one-health-sarscov2-animal-safety>

## MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2023

**Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending April 15, 2021**

Jurisdiction	Bat Total (New)	Cat Total (New)	Cow Total (New)	Dog Total (New)	Fox Total (New)	Groundhog Total (New)	Raccoon Total (New)	Skunk Total (New)	Other Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany		3			1					4
Anne Arundel	1						3			4
Baltimore		1					4			5
Baltimore City					1		1			2
Calvert							1			1
Caroline								1		1
Carroll		1	1		1					3
Cecil					1		1			2
Charles										0
Dorchester							2			2
Frederick	1				2		8	3		14
Garrett										0
Harford							5	1		6
Howard					2		1			3
Kent										0
Montgomery	1						4			5
Prince George's		2					1			3
Queen Anne's							1			1
Saint Mary's										0
Somerset										0
Talbot						1	1	1		3
Washington		1					2	1		4
Wicomico							1			1
Worcester										0
<b>Total (New)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>64</b>

Other:

For complete animal rabies data:

<https://pha.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Data-and-Statistics.aspx>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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://pha.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>