

HIGH PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA - HPAI H5N1

Watching for H5N1 Avian Influenza (bird flu) in Australia

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), works closely with Agriculture Victoria, Department of Health, Birdlife Australia, Wildlife Health Australia and other agencies to prepare for any detection across Australia

About HPAI H5N1

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is a highly infectious disease that can cause severe illness and death in poultry - the new strain, HPAI H5N1 not only causes mortality in poultry but it can also cause deaths of large number of wild birds and some mammals.

Migratory shorebirds, that move through infected regions, are at risk and could be carrier of the disease.

HPAI STRAIN H5N1 HAS NOT BEEN DETECTED IN ANIMALS IN AUSTRALIA TO DATE.

What are the symptoms of bird flu

Numerous dead birds in one location, could be a sign that H5N1 has infected a population and should be reported.

Warning signs to look for:

- a lack of coordination, tremors, swimming in circles
- twisted neck or other abnormal posture
- inability to stand or fly
- diarrhoea
- difficulty breathing, coughing or sneezing
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes
- cloudiness or change in colour of the eyes
- sudden death

What to do if you find sick or injured birds

If you find sick or dead wild birds or wildlife with signs of HPAI H5N1, **avoid** contact with them and their environment, **record** what you see and **report** by phoning: **DEECA on 136 186.**

Poultry farmers and veterinarians should report suspect disease by phoning the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

Please report clusters (5 or more) of sick or dead wild birds or mammals of any species, anywhere in Victoria. Also report fewer than 5 sick or dead species of the following:

- sick or dead penguin or pelican (seabirds, shorebirds)
- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles)
- sick or dead Australian Black Swan or other waterbirds
- sick or dead marine mammals (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins)