



Animal Health and Assurance Branch
Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
#912 OS Longman Building
6909 – 116 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2
Telephone: 780-427-3448
Fax: 780-415-0810
www.alberta.ca/animal-health.aspx

July 22, 2022

From: Dr. Keith Lehman
Chief Provincial Veterinarian

To: Alberta Backyard/Small-Flock Poultry Keepers

Re: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Update #4

Summary:

- **During this spring season, there were 31 Alberta premises infected with the federally and provincially reportable disease, HPAI. Cases included 18 commercial poultry operations, 12 small/backyard poultry flocks, and 1 commercial game bird flock. There have been no new cases in Alberta since June 2, 2022.**
- Primary control zones around infected premises were established by the CFIA. At the time of this writing, the majority of primary [control zones](#) have been lifted, with only 3 remaining.
- Cases have involved premises with ALL levels of biosecurity.
- Migratory wild birds as well as some wild mammal species also tested positive for HPAI during this outbreak. Click [this link](#) for more information on HPAI in wild birds.
- Although environmental conditions (primarily hot, sunny weather) and decreased numbers of migratory birds have led to a decline in the overall risk level, the virus can survive in the environment for extended periods in the right conditions. If the viral load in the environment near your flock is high, your birds may be infected.
- Events where poultry from different locations may congregate such as swaps/sales, auctions, fairs, or shows are no longer prohibited as of June 20, 2022, however, these activities still carry a risk of transmission of poultry diseases.
- There is some uncertainty surrounding the future risk of HPAI to Alberta poultry flocks, however, a resurgence of cases in conjunction with the upcoming fall migration remains a concern.
- **Good biosecurity and increased vigilance are still your best defense against HPAI.**

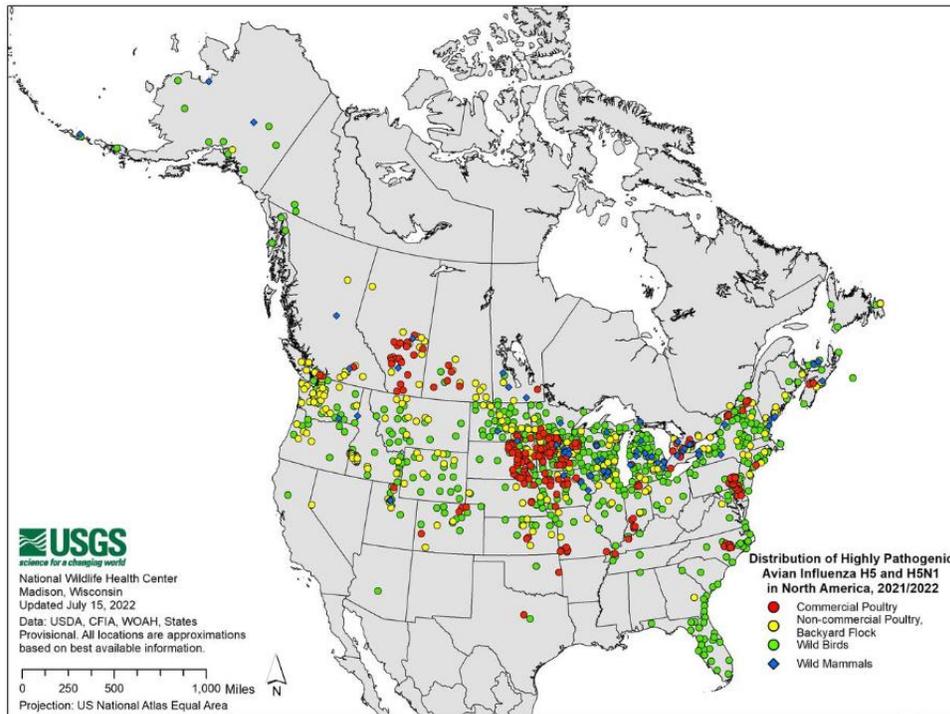
What should you do if you suspect your flock may have HPAI?

**Contact your flock veterinarian and/or
The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV): 1-780-427-3448**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED) also has an ongoing Non-Quota, Non-Commercial Disease Investigation Poultry Program to help small-flock poultry owners and their veterinarians (for flocks with symptoms that meet specific criteria). Please [click on this link](#) for more information about this program.

For further information on avian influenza in Canada and the latest updates, you can visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at www.inspection.gc.ca/avian-influenza and/or the Government of Alberta website at <https://www.alberta.ca/avian-influenza-reportable.aspx>

July 15, 2022 - AI situation in North America, courtesy of United States Geological Survey – National Wildlife Health Center. <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>



Sources/Usage: Public Domain.

Distribution of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 and H5N1 in North America, 2021/2022. Updated July 15, 2022.

What does this mean for backyard/small flock poultry keepers?

Continue to take a pro-active approach to protecting your flock

- Be aware of your flock's environment and health.
- **Be mindful of the fact that HPAI may still be in your surrounding environment**, particularly if you are located in a region that had a high number of cases this year. Think of ways to manage/house your flock should HPAI cases increase again this coming fall and during subsequent migration seasons.
- Continue to report signs of illness and/or sudden deaths in your flock to your flock veterinarian and/or the OCPV.

Increased biosecurity is still your best defense (against ALL poultry diseases).

- Please continue to be mindful about the visitors you choose to allow near your flock.
- Avoid visiting other premises that keep poultry.
- Have a separate coop at least 30 feet from your main coop. House and monitor new additions there for a minimum of 30 days before introducing them to your flock.
- Have dedicated footwear (and ideally, dedicated clothing such as coveralls) for accessing your coop. Do not wear these outside your coop/run, especially to areas where wild birds may congregate such as open fields or the shores of water bodies. Keep them separate from your other footwear/clothing.
- Consider the risk when free-ranging your flock. The best practice is to keep your flock indoors during the migration season.
- Wash hands before and after attending to any poultry

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian by email at chief.prov.vet@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-3448.