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September 10, 2025

**From: Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian**

**To: Alberta Small-Flock (Non-Quota) Poultry Keepers**

**Re: Continued Risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

**Summary:**

- **Four cases of HPAI in Alberta domestic poultry flocks have been confirmed to-date in 2025. One case was in a small-flock in May, and three cases (one commercial flock and two small-flocks) were recently confirmed between September 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.**
- 2024 Summary: there were 6 cases identified in domestic poultry flocks (two in February and 4 in November).
- 2025 Wild bird HPAI detections to date: two wild geese tested positive for HPAI in late July, followed by a wild duck in August, indicating that **the virus continues to circulate and may be present anywhere that migratory waterfowl live/congregate**. Click [this link](#) for more information on HPAI in wild birds.
- **Considering these recent detections, the possibility of a resurgence of domestic poultry cases in conjunction with the upcoming fall migration is a concern.**
- Primary control zones around infected premises are established by the CFIA. Click [this link](#) for the status of ongoing influenza cases in Alberta.
- Many wild mammalian species found in Alberta such as skunks, minks, and foxes are susceptible to HPAI infection.
- Many domestic mammalian species including dairy cattle, domestic cats with outdoor access, and pigs are susceptible to HPAI infection. Information regarding active surveillance in dairy cattle is available on the CFIA website [here](#).
- The virus can survive in the environment for extended periods in the right conditions (e.g. cold, wet conditions). The virus often survives for longer in the environment during winter.
- Events where poultry from different locations may commingle, such as swaps/sales, auctions, fairs, or shows, carry a risk of transmission of poultry diseases.
- Cases have involved premises with ALL levels of biosecurity. **However, 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 and Irrigation (AGI) 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](#) and/or the [Government of Alberta website](#) (click H5N1 avian influenza in Alberta for the latest updates)**

## What does this mean for small flock poultry keepers?

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

- Be aware of your flock's environment and health.
- Think of ways to manage your flock assuming that the HPAI virus is in your local environment.
- Continue to report signs of illness and sudden deaths in your flock to your flock veterinarian and/or the OCPV.

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

- Ensure that your feed and water sources are not accessible to wild birds/animals.
- Have dedicated footwear and dedicated clothing for accessing your coop. Do not wear these outside your coop/run. Keep them separate from your other footwear/clothing.
- Wash hands before and after attending to any poultry.
- Consider the risk of free ranging the flock, and if possible, keep your flock indoors during the fall migration.
- 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. Wear separate clothing and footwear from your other coop(s).
- Avoid visiting other premises that keep poultry.
- Be mindful about the visitors you choose to allow near your flock, and have all visitors follow your biosecurity protocols.
- Maintain effective biosecurity between your birds and other susceptible species such as swine, dairy cattle, and domestic cats with outdoor access. Additional guidance on biosecurity is available [here](#). Contact your veterinarian should you have health concerns with any species on your premises.

### Premises Identification (PID) Program

You have received this update because you are a poultry owner who has registered your land location in Alberta's Premises Identification (PID) Program. It is important that your information in the system is accurate and up to date to ensure effective and timely communication. To check if your information (e.g. contact information, location, species listed at the location etc.) is current or if you would like to make a change, please visit our [traceability website](#) or call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276).

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](mailto:chief.prov.vet@gov.ab.ca) or by telephone at 780-427-3448.