

How to report suspected bird flu

**BIRD
FLU**
BE READY

H5 bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza clade 2.3.4.4b) is a contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild birds. It causes severe clinical signs and high mortality rates in birds.

Clinical signs

The most obvious sign of H5 bird flu is rapid mortality among a group of birds. Other signs vary, depending on the affected bird species:

In wild birds:

- lethargy or a reluctance to move, droopy head, inability to fly or lack of co-ordination
- coughing, panting and nasal secretions
- severe diarrhoea.

In poultry:

- lethargy/reluctance to move
- eating less than normal
- droopy head
- darkened and/or swollen comb/wattle
- coughing, panting and nasal secretions
- swelling around the head and neck
- laying fewer eggs than normal
- watery or green diarrhoea
- bruises on body and legs
- a silent hen house.

Protect yourself and prevent spread – do not touch birds with suspected H5 bird flu



Photo: DOC, photographer Rod Morris

Practice good biosecurity

To help prevent the spread of disease, always practice good biosecurity and hygiene when dealing with birds in your everyday work.

- Keep sick and healthy birds separate.
- Wear disposable gloves and wash your hands after handling wild birds or poultry.
- Clean footwear and change clothes after contact with wild birds or poultry.



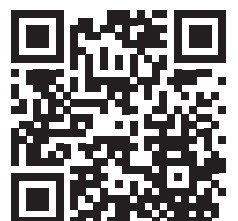
Report sick or dead wild birds in a group

If you see 3 or more sick or dead wild birds, marine mammals or other wildlife in a group, report it immediately to the exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 809 966 so we can investigate the cause. Do not handle or move the wildlife.

Provide as much detail as you can, including:

- a GPS reading or other precise location information
- photographs and videos of sick and dead birds
- species name and estimate of the numbers affected
- how many are sick or freshly dead, and the total number of birds present.

We will note the details and one of our specialist biosecurity investigators will assess the information and contact you.



For more information visit
www.mpi.govt.nz/hpai