



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

On November 9, 2024, British Columbia reported the **first domestically acquired human case of HPAI H5N1** in Canada and the exposure is undetermined. To date, there have been no detections of HPAI in cattle or other livestock species in Ontario or Canada, in contrast to the United States where there have been many reported cases.

Veterinarians and Veterinary clinics are reminded to screen animals that are showing signs of illness of HPAI, and that may have had exposure to birds or wildlife infected with HPAI. If avian influenza is suspected, contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency ([CFIA District Office](#)) to determine next steps for testing. For Durham Region, contact the CFIA office in Port Perry at 905-985-1870.

### Clinical Signs of HPAI in Birds:

Signs typically develop within 2-14 days after exposure and may vary between species. Some birds may be infected and remain asymptomatic. Other signs include:

- Decrease in food and/or water consumption
- Decrease in egg production
- Depression or quietness
- Diarrhea
- Breathing difficulties
- Swollen or congested wattles/combs
- Swelling of the skin under the eyes
- Sudden unexplained death

### Clinical signs of HPAI in Dairy Cattle:

- Sudden reduced milk production
- Thickened or colostrum-like milk
- Decrease in feed consumption and/or drop in rumen motility
- Dry manure or constipation, rarely diarrhea
- Low grade fever

### Clinical Signs of HPAI in Other Mammals:

- Decrease in appetite
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Conjunctivitis
- Breathing difficulties
- Neurological signs (tremors, seizures)

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



# Reporting

In accordance with the [Communicable Diseases – General, RRO 1990, Reg. 557](#), a veterinarian or director of a laboratory **who knows or suspects** that one or more animals is infected with avian influenza shall notify the Medical Officer of Health within one business day.

**To report** suspect and confirmed cases of avian influenza in animals, please call:

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 (press option 2)
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-1833
- After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

[The Animal Disease Reporting Form for Veterinarians](#) can be accessed on the Durham Region Health Care Professional webpage (or [durham.ca/hcp](http://durham.ca/hcp), Forms, Reporting, Animal Disease Reporting Form for Veterinarians).

## Please Remind Animal Owners to:

- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds.
- Keep cats indoors and dogs on a leash when out for a walk.
- Do not feed pets any raw meat from wild birds or poultry.
- Limit access of their domestic birds to the outdoors and ponds or bodies of water used by wild birds.
- Minimize contact between their small flocks and wild birds.

## Other Resources for More Information:

- [Durham Region Health Department - Avian Influenza](#)
- [HPAI: Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics](#)
- [CFIA - HPAI in Cattle: Guidance for private veterinarians](#)
- [CFIA - HPAI monitoring dashboard](#)
- [Government of Canada - Status of ongoing avian influenza response by province](#)
- [Ontario Animal Health Update: highly pathogenic avian influenza \(September 17, 2024\)](#)
- [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\) Avian Influenza Webpage](#)

December 2, 2024