

# Avian Influenza



## Background:

Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 is a form of Bird Flu which is a highly contagious viral disease which occurs primarily in poultry and wild birds and shore birds.

## Recognizing HPAI

No specific signs– pay attention to **CONTEXT!**



## Assessing the Risk of infection:

- Are migratory waterfowl present?
- Is there a flock confirmed with HPAI near by?
- How close is the nearest poultry farm?
- Do farm employees have contact with other poultry?
- Do birds from this flock have access to outdoors?
- How close is the nearest pond to the barn?
- Does anyone on the farm have contact with wild waterfowl?
- Do wild birds enter the barn and eat from feeders?
- Who has access to the farm?
- What pest control measures are in place?
- Are bedding materials stored in a way that prevents contamination?

## Why HPAI is a risk:

### Economic:

- High death rate especially turkeys and chickens.
- Rapid spread between farms/ flocks if strict biosecurity is not in place.
- Serious production loss, loss of income

### Food:

- Not a food safety risk

### Human:

- Low risk to general public but can spread to humans in direct contact with live birds.

### Other:

- Migratory birds increase risk during spring/fall global migrations.
- Pigs are susceptible to AI viruses.



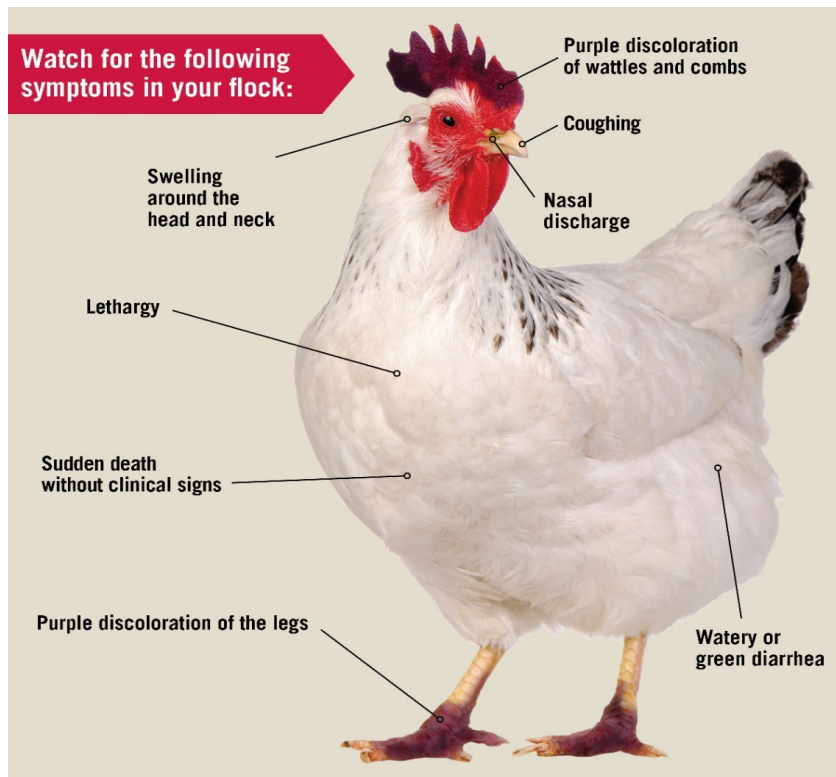
# IAPO

First Nations Farm & Business Financing

## Clinical Signs of HPAI

Some or all of the following clinical signs are evident in infected birds:

- high and sudden death rate
- quietness and extreme depression
- a drop in production of eggs, many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less
- diarrhea
- haemorrhages on the hock
- swelling of the skin under the eyes
- wattles and combs become swollen and congested



## What can you do?

- Keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild birds.
- Make sure equipment is cleaned and disinfected before taking it into poultry houses.
- Do not keep bird feeders or create duck ponds close to poultry barns.
- Maintain the highest sanitation standards.
- Change footwear when entering the Restricted Area and prevent wearing contaminated clothing and equipment in production areas.
- Keep mortalities in secure, covered containers until they are moved to the disposal area or transported off-farm.
- Place waste entering the public collection system in a sealed, waterproof bag with the exterior disinfected.
- Wash and disinfect vehicles at entry and at exit, paying special attention to wheels and wheel wells.
- IMPORTANT: Limit access to your farm to essential visitors only. Avoid going to other chicken farms.**

## If you suspect HPAI, from clinical signs and/or the high risk context:

Contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) or call the CFIA 24/7 hotline:

**1(877) 814 - 2342**

If you spot a sick or dead wild bird is contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC # 1-866-673- 4781)

→ **DO NOT TOUCH**

Sources:

<https://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/downloads/avian-influenza-cfia-dr-cynthia-philippe.pdf>

[https://www.ontariochicken.ca/getattachment/1a50cc54-4ba5-4c87-8abf-713cd2c2b2c4/attachment.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1SVIigyNEcBv-AozzcbH5k\\_fbkGjj5U3R0GAUccGtWJ\\_\\_tiV1khC530Ug](https://www.ontariochicken.ca/getattachment/1a50cc54-4ba5-4c87-8abf-713cd2c2b2c4/attachment.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1SVIigyNEcBv-AozzcbH5k_fbkGjj5U3R0GAUccGtWJ__tiV1khC530Ug)

<https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/animal-production/poultry-eggs/avian-flu.html>