



SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW  
**Public Health Considerations**  
for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds  
(HPAI H5N1)





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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

**To:** County Agricultural Commissioners  
County Public Health Officials  
County Environmental Health Officials

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**Date:** March 30, 2007

**Subject:** Scenario-based State Agency Review:  
Public Health Considerations for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

The Asian strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza currently circulating across the globe poses a challenge to poultry, waterfowl and people. Similarly it poses a challenge to regulators and responders across the disciplines of human, animal and environmental health as well as to those working in wildlife and emergency management. California state agencies with primary responsibility in these arenas jointly developed this document to provide “current thinking” for other state and local response agencies regarding this virus in poultry and wild birds. It is important to differentiate that this is a disease of birds and not a human flu pandemic. Recognizing there are potential human health consequences if this virus enters California’s bird populations, we have specifically sought to address worker and responder safety issues as well as that of public health.

The *Scenario-based State Agency Review* focuses on state policies and responsibilities and is intended to offer an overview of issues to assist in your local planning, response and risk communication efforts. Included are suggested messaging “themes” and simplified messaging for you to consider in developing general public talking points. Please note that these materials are intended for government use and not for general public distribution.

Many state agencies contributed staff time and expertise to development of these scenarios. We are grateful for the contributions of key staff from the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, California Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security.

Knowledge regarding this virus continues to grow and evolve, and new information may be made available to you in the future. Therefore, we’d like you to view these scenarios as part of a “living document” that we will update as needed. Finally, since these scenarios don’t answer every question, we have also provided phone numbers and links to other resources for additional assistance.

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**CONTENTS**

<b>Memorandum from the Authors</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Scenario 1:</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Wild Waterfowl or Shorebirds in Natural Setting	
<b>Scenario 2:</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Semi-domesticated Waterfowl in Urban Parks and Ponds	
<b>Scenario 3:</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Backyard Poultry	
<b>Scenario 4:</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Commercial Poultry	
<b>Avian Influenza Resources</b> .....	<b>20</b>





## SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW

# Public Health Considerations

for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

## OVERVIEW

This document is intended to describe general state agency planning considerations — and current thinking on human health consequences — should the Asian strain<sup>1</sup> of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza be detected in any bird species in California. While this document does not represent our comprehensive response plan, it should serve as a common frame of reference for state and local governments as well as the commercial poultry industry.

In the case of a detection of H5N1 in birds, we hope this information is helpful for two reasons: (1) to assist with local risk communication efforts; and (2) to provide an overview of state government steps to support local planning efforts in preparation and protection of human, animal and environmental health.

State and federal agencies have heightened ongoing testing (or surveillance) programs to help with early detection of this virus. If detected in birds, state and federal agencies — aided by local governments — will work to control and eradicate the virus from domestic bird populations as quickly as possible and return California to a disease-free status. In so doing, we seek to minimize the risks to our commercial poultry industries, private poultry flocks, wild bird populations, food supply, environment and the general public.

Entry of HPAI H5N1 into our bird and poultry populations may occur through various routes. The four most likely scenarios are:

**Scenario 1:** Wild Waterfowl or Shorebirds in Natural Setting

**Scenario 2:** Semi-domesticated Waterfowl in Urban Parks and Ponds

**Scenario 3:** Backyard Poultry

**Scenario 4:** Commercial Poultry

A state-level, multi-agency working group has considered these likely routes of entry and outlined their response activities along with messaging themes and simplified messaging for local agencies.<sup>2</sup> Even though this document is focused on a detection of H5N1 in birds, special emphasis is also placed on human health considerations.

<sup>1</sup> A North American strain of H5N1 avian influenza was detected in some U.S. wild bird populations during summer of 2006. The strain detected is distinctly different from the Asian strain and is not infectious to people.

<sup>2</sup> Coordinating state agencies will periodically review and revise this document with new information and recommendations, as needed.

### WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

The highly pathogenic strain of H5N1, also commonly called “bird flu,” was first detected in Asia in 1997. It is a foreign animal disease of birds that has not yet been detected in the United States. Low pathogenic strains of avian influenza commonly occur in wild birds and typically cause no noticeable signs of disease. Low pathogenic H5N1 is very different from the more severe highly pathogenic H5N1 circulating in parts of Asia, Europe and Africa. Highly pathogenic strains of avian influenza spread rapidly and are often fatal to chickens and turkeys.

### How is avian influenza different from seasonal flu and pandemic flu?

Avian influenza is a naturally occurring viral disease spread from bird to bird. The risk of people getting avian influenza is generally low because the viruses do not usually infect humans.

**HPAI H5N1** is a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus currently circulating in Asia, Africa and Europe. This strain is fatal to most domestic birds and some wild birds. Illness and some deaths in humans have been linked to close contact with HPAI H5N1 infected birds, but the virus does not spread easily from bird to human and is not easily spread from person to person.

**Seasonal flu** is a strain of influenza virus spread from person to person and occurs annually in the late fall and winter. The illness caused by seasonal flu is usually mild, but may pose a health threat to the young, elderly and those with serious underlying health conditions. An annual flu vaccination aids in the prevention of this illness.

**Pandemic flu** is a rare occurrence caused by a new strain of influenza virus that spreads easily from person to person. Because people would have little or no immunity to this new strain of virus, and because there would not be a vaccine, pandemic flu could sweep across the country and around the world in a very short time.

## MULTI-AGENCY WORKING GROUP

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)** provides services to protect the state's agricultural industry. Services include protecting the health of California's livestock and poultry from infectious diseases and assisting to ensure the public has a safe and nutritious food supply from products of animal origin. CDFA will be the lead state agency should the virus be detected in backyard poultry or commercial poultry operations.

**California Department of Health Services (CDHS)** administers a broad range of programs designed to protect public health and provide health care services. Should the virus be detected in birds, CDHS will be the lead state agency to assess the threats to responders, industry employees and the general public. The CDHS's Occupational Health Branch will recommend mitigation measures to reduce spread and severity of the disease outbreak.

**California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)** manages the state's diverse fish, wildlife (including wild birds), and plant resources and their habitats. CDFG will be the lead state response agency should the virus be detected in wild waterfowl or shorebird populations.

**Office of Emergency Services (OES)** coordinates the state's emergency response management and mobilizes state resources for all emergency response contingencies.

**Office of Homeland Security (OHS)** gathers and disseminates criminal and terrorist information critical to protecting public and private resources throughout California. The appropriate Regional Terrorist Threat Assessment Center for an area should be contacted if an intentional introduction of a foreign animal disease is suspected. OHS is also charged with developing a comprehensive, annual statewide homeland security strategy; administering critical state, regional and local security programs; funding training and exercise programs to prepare for, prevent against, and respond to terrorism involving agriculture and food systems. This agency administers federal homeland security funding to various states and local agencies to bolster their agro-terrorism efforts.

**California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA)** within the California Department of Industrial Relations, enforces and administers California laws and regulations pertaining to workplace safety and health, and assists employers and workers with workplace safety and health issues. With detection of the virus in any bird population, Cal/OSHA, in collaboration with CDHS, will assess the risks to responders, employees and the public and ensure that adequate personal protective measures are used.

**California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)** restores, protects and enhances the environment to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality. With detection of the virus in any bird population, Cal/EPA will collaborate in disposal and decontamination efforts, including any resulting water contamination issues, to assure protection of the public and environment.

Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is a disease of birds, and a detection of this strain in birds does not signal a human influenza pandemic. The health risk to the general public from this disease in birds is low.

**California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS)** works in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.C. Davis, veterinarians and industry to provide the highest quality diagnostic laboratory support services for livestock and poultry disease control and for protection from diseases common to animals and man. Laboratory support services assist in ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin.

Backyard poultry showing any signs of illness may be submitted to the CAHFS labs for diagnostic screening tests for avian influenza at no cost to the owner.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA-VS)** aims to protect and improve the health, quality and marketability of our nation's livestock animals, animal products and veterinary biologics to prevent, as well as control and/or eliminate animal diseases, and monitors and promotes animal health and productivity. USDA is the lead federal agency for response to detection of a foreign animal disease in the United States.

## MESSAGING "THEMES" AND SIMPLIFIED MESSAGING

Messaging themes and simplified messaging, both scenario-specific and general in nature, are provided for your use. Local governments will receive many public inquiries about HPAI H5N1. Consistent messaging to these questions by the public is crucial.

## General Public Messaging Themes

Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is a disease of birds, and a detection of this strain in birds does not signal a human influenza pandemic. The health risk to the general public from this disease in birds is low.

Detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds and poultry in California will be followed with a rapid response by numerous collaborating agencies to protect all domestic poultry, our food supply and public health.

Based on experience from affected countries, most cases of highly pathogenic H5N1 in humans have resulted from very close contact with infected poultry (e.g., domesticated chickens, ducks and turkeys).

Greatest risk of exposure to highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is through direct contact with infected birds. Handling of live infected poultry through home slaughtering, defeathering and preparing for cooking increase the risk of exposure.

Poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed. There are overlapping regulatory and industry safeguarding systems in place to keep our food supply safe, including protective measures on farms, government inspection at poultry processing plants, and actions you can take at home by properly handling and cooking poultry and poultry products.

### Tips for proper handling and cooking of poultry products:

- ◆ Wash your hands before and after handling raw poultry products.
- ◆ Clean food-prep surfaces with soap and water before and after contact with raw poultry.
- ◆ Cook all parts of the poultry completely (meat is not pink and internal temperature is at least 165° F).
- ◆ Cook eggs completely (i.e., hard cooked, not runny).
- ◆ Consumption of any raw poultry product is a high-risk practice and is strongly discouraged.

People who work around sick birds, handle contaminated materials, euthanize and dispose of infected birds, and clean areas where there have been infected birds are at risk and should always exercise precaution.

Local, state and federal agencies are taking appropriate measures to minimize risks to our domestic and wild bird populations, the environment, industry workers, first responders and the general public.

Avoid direct contact with sick or dead birds. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

Recommended practices to protect backyard flocks from disease are available from the Avian Health Group at [www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian\\_health\\_program.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health_program.htm).

Detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds and poultry in California will be followed with a rapid response by numerous collaborating agencies to protect all domestic poultry, our food supply and public health.

### General Public Simplified Messaging (as of February 2007)

1. The rare strain of bird flu that has killed birds and people in Asia, known as H5N1, has not been found in the United States.
  - a. Bird flu affects mostly birds.
  - b. Finding the H5N1 strain of bird flu does not mean there is a human influenza pandemic.
  - c. California is closely watching for any signs of bird flu.
2. Most human illnesses from bird flu have come from close contact with sick birds.
  - a. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.
  - b. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
3. It is safe to eat properly cooked poultry.
  - a. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus.
  - b. The U.S. bans imports of poultry from areas with bird flu.
  - c. Overlapping food safety measures are in place to protect commercially available poultry products.



## SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW

### Public Health Considerations

for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

## SCENARIO 1:

### WILD WATERFOWL OR SHOREBIRDS IN A NATURAL SETTING

#### SCENARIO OVERVIEW

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)<sup>1</sup> is the lead state agency in response to a detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (also commonly called “bird flu”) in wild waterfowl or shorebirds. CDFG and partnering agencies will identify the size of the disease outbreak in susceptible wild bird populations and act to minimize spread to other birds, including backyard and commercial poultry, and possible public exposure.

Collaborating multi-state agencies have increased testing (surveillance) programs for diseases in wild and domestic birds. This enhanced testing will aid in early detection and rapid intervention should HPAI H5N1 be found in wild waterfowl or shorebirds.

Response agencies will strive to ensure that workers are protected from exposure during all phases of control and eradication.

#### RESPONSE MEASURES

##### California Department of Fish and Game

- ◆ Communicate with all appropriate federal, state and local governments regarding the detection of HPAI H5N1.
- ◆ Immediately assess risk to wild bird populations.
- ◆ Enhance HPAI H5N1 testing (surveillance) of susceptible species of wild birds in affected area.
- ◆ Enhance testing of wild bird deaths in affected area.
- ◆ Consider restricting access to recreational facilities based on risk assessment.
- ◆ Issue public service announcements emphasizing hunter safety information and public safety recommendations.
- ◆ Issue guidelines to hunters on the care and cleaning of hunter-harvested birds.

Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza.

- ◆ Communicate with bird rehabilitators and increase testing of wild birds in rehabilitation facilities.
- ◆ Ensure CDFG workers are familiar with health risks, proper work practices to minimize exposures, and procedures to follow in case of exposure to ill birds.

##### California Department of Food and Agriculture

- ◆ Collaborate with lead agency regarding decisive actions.
- ◆ Reevaluate ongoing domestic flock testing programs and make changes based on specifics of this detection.
- ◆ Collaborate with USDA, other state agencies, local governments, veterinarians and poultry industry to evaluate protection measures and increased testing.
- ◆ Increase public outreach about protection measures for backyard poultry and pet bird owners.
- ◆ Advertise the California Bird Flu Hotline (1-866-922-BIRD).

<sup>1</sup> Collaborating state and federal partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); California Department of Health Services (CDHS); University of California, Davis Wildlife Health Center; and USDA-APHIS' Veterinary Services and Wildlife Services.

## California Department of Health Services

The local health department is the lead public health response agency.

CDHS will:

- ◆ Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza. Guidance will also include general disease prevention strategies, such as standard methods of personal hygiene (hand washing), recommended seasonal flu immunizations and food safety practices.
- ◆ Reemphasize key public health and safety measures in multiple languages for various identified high-risk groups, including hunters, wild bird rehabilitators, responding agency employees and general public.
- ◆ Collaborate and provide public health perspective and guidance in decision-making on disposal issues and environmental health.
- ◆ Coordinate with local health department to perform public health assessment for human groups at highest risk of exposure to affected wild birds, including lead response agency employees, hunters and general public.
- ◆ Collaborate with local health department on enhanced human surveillance, epidemiologic investigation, and monitoring of individuals who came into contact with index bird flock for development of any adverse health concerns.
- ◆ Provide guidance to responding agencies regarding occupational health concerns, appropriate personal protective equipment for use in the field, recommended/approved prophylaxis measures and health monitoring of employees.
- ◆ Provide collaborative support to local public health departments in interactions with responding and support agencies and management of post-exposure surveillance.
- ◆ Provide guidance on recommended human laboratory testing and sample collection and handling.
- ◆ Provide guidance on infection control precautions and case and contact management.
- ◆ Assess risks associated with West Nile Virus dead-bird-collection protocol and prepare protocol amendments, as needed.

## California Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ Consult with CDFG on appropriate disposal of dead wild birds.
- ◆ Collaborate with other key response agencies to reinforce consistent messaging on appropriate handling and disposal of dead birds.

## Local Governmental Agencies

- ◆ Participate in unified command and provide personnel and other resources through established emergency management systems.
- ◆ Key local agencies will likely include affected operational area offices of emergency services, health departments and the county agricultural commissioner.

Detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds is the result of multiple agencies working together to protect our natural environment, our food supply and general public through ongoing testing.

## MESSAGING "THEMES"

### General Public

- ◆ Detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds is the result of multiple agencies working together to protect our natural environment, our food supply and general public through ongoing testing.
- ◆ Risk to the general public is low. This form of flu is a disease of birds and does not signal a human flu pandemic.
- ◆ Avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds.
- ◆ Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### Game Bird Hunters

- ◆ Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is spread mainly by direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact with contaminated equipment and materials. When handling game birds, you should avoid direct contact with any blood, secretions and feces.
- ◆ Store bagged wild game birds in a cool, clean, dry and washable container (ice chest).
- ◆ Wear rubber gloves when cleaning and dressing game birds, disposing of waste material and cleaning the game dressing area.
- ◆ Wash hands and utensils with soap and hot water (or disinfectant towelettes) after dressing wild game birds. Utensils should be disinfected with a bleach solution consisting of one part commercial bleach to nine parts water.

- ◆ Tips for proper handling and cooking of game birds:
  - Wash your hands before and after handling raw game birds.
  - Clean food-prep surfaces with soap and water before and after contact with game birds.
  - Cook all parts of the wild bird completely (meat is not pink and internal temperature is at least 165° F).
- ◆ Consumption of any raw wild bird or product is a high-risk practice and is strongly discouraged.
- ◆ Thoroughly clean hunting clothes, hunting boots and vehicle after hunting.
- ◆ Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### Backyard Poultry Owners

- ◆ Domestic poultry owners should observe flocks for signs of illness.
- ◆ Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### General Public Simplified Messaging

1. A rare strain of bird flu, known as H5N1, has been found in wild birds in California.
  - a. It does not mean that there is a human influenza pandemic.
  - b. Bird flu affects mostly birds.
  - c. California is closely watching for other signs of bird flu.
2. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.
  - a. Most human illnesses from bird flu have come from direct contact with sick birds.
  - b. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
  - c. Backyard poultry owners should observe their flocks daily and report any signs of sick birds.
3. It is safe to eat properly cooked store-bought poultry.
  - a. Overlapping food safety measures are in place to protect commercially available poultry products.
  - b. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus. Always fully cook poultry and egg products before eating.
  - c. Always wash your hands, food preparation surfaces and utensils before and after touching raw poultry.

It is safe to eat properly cooked poultry. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus. The U.S. bans imports of poultry from areas with bird flu.

### Game Bird Hunter Simplified Messaging

1. Contact with wild birds may expose you to a rare strain of bird flu, known as H5N1, which has killed birds and people in Asia.
  - a. Avoid contact with sick or dead wild birds in the field.
  - b. Avoid direct contact with any blood, secretions or feces from wild birds.
  - c. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
2. Store bagged wild game birds in a cool, clean, dry and washable container, such as an ice chest.
3. Wear rubber gloves when cleaning and dressing game birds, disposing of waste material and cleaning the game dressing area.
  - a. Wash hands, utensils and ice chests with soap and hot water or disinfectant towelettes after dressing wild game birds.
  - b. Utensils should be disinfected with a bleach solution consisting of one part commercial bleach to nine parts water.
  - c. Thoroughly clean hunting clothes, hunting boots and vehicle after hunting.

Additional information is available at:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/hunters.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/hunters.html)  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/index.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/index.html)  
[www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html](http://www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html)



## SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW

# Public Health Considerations

for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

## SCENARIO 2: SEMI-DOMESTICATED WATERFOWL IN URBAN PARKS AND PONDS

### SCENARIO OVERVIEW

Local agencies<sup>1</sup> with authority over urban parks and ponds are the lead agency if highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (also commonly called “bird flu”) is found in resident semi-domesticated waterfowl.<sup>2</sup> Federal and state agencies with experience in rapid suppression of infectious diseases will provide support. Immediate goals will be to contain the disease, minimize potential spread, protect susceptible populations of birds, and protect public health and safety.

Early detection of bird flu in this scenario poses a particular set of challenges. Of concern is the ability for this strain to reach susceptible wild bird populations, backyard flocks, commercial poultry operations as well as pose a potential public health threat.

If you see unusual patterns of bird sickness or death, immediately report the finding to either the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Samples from the finding should be sent immediately for testing to a California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory.

Response agencies will strive to ensure that workers are protected from exposure during all phases of control and eradication.

### RESPONSE MEASURES

#### Local Governmental Agencies

- ◆ Communicate and collaborate with:
  - ◆ CDFA and USDA for prompt assistance and intervention to suppress spread of disease and appropriately dispose of affected (index) flock and contact waterfowl.
  - ◆ CDFG for increased testing of wild birds in nearby area.
  - ◆ CDHS for public health and safety messages aimed at citizens and park employees.
  - ◆ Cal/OSHA for appropriate worker safety measures.
  - ◆ Cal/EPA for appropriate disposal and disinfection of affected premises.

<sup>1</sup>Animal control officers, or other city and county agencies.

<sup>2</sup>Definition of semi-domesticated waterfowl: Resident waterfowl that live largely in an urban environment, rely on humans for some or all of their food, and are capable of flight but are not wild and do not migrate.

Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza.

- ◆ Consider restricting access to, or temporary closure of, recreational facilities with resident populations of semi-domesticated waterfowl to prevent unintentional spread of disease.

#### California Department of Fish and Game

- ◆ Immediately assess risk to wild bird populations.
- ◆ Enhance HPAI H5N1 testing (surveillance) of susceptible species of wild birds in affected area.
- ◆ Enhance testing of wild bird deaths in affected area.
- ◆ Communicate with bird rehabilitators in area and increase testing of wild birds in rehabilitation facilities.
- ◆ Issue guidelines to hunters on the care and cleaning of hunter-harvested birds.

#### California Department of Health Services

The local health department is the lead public health response agency.

CDHS will:

- ◆ Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza. Guidance will also include general disease prevention strategies, such as standard methods of

personal hygiene (hand washing), recommended seasonal flu immunizations and food safety practices.

- ◆ Reemphasize key public health and safety messages in multiple languages for various identified high-risk groups, including park-specific visitors, park employees and employees from local government and any supporting agencies involved in infected bird response interventions.
- ◆ Collaborate and provide public health perspective and guidance in decision-making on disposal issues and environmental health.
- ◆ Coordinate with local health department to perform public health assessment for human groups at highest risk of exposure to affected semi-domesticated flock, including response workers and visitors in affected park or area.
- ◆ Collaborate with local health department on enhanced human surveillance, epidemiologic investigation, and monitoring of individuals who came into contact with index semi-domesticated bird flock for development of any adverse health concerns.
- ◆ Provide guidance to responding local governmental agencies regarding occupational health concerns, appropriate personal protective equipment for use in handling birds in index flock, recommended/approved prophylaxis measures and health monitoring of employees.
- ◆ Provide collaborative support to local public health departments in interactions with responding and support agencies and management of post exposure surveillance.
- ◆ Provide guidance on recommended human laboratory testing and sample collection and handling.
- ◆ Provide guidance on infection control precautions and case and contact management.

### California Department of Food and Agriculture

- ◆ Inform local backyard flock owners and commercial poultry producers of this scenario and provide recommendations to enhance protection measures (biosecurity).
- ◆ Restrict movement of backyard and commercial poultry flocks within area that CDFA epidemiologist determines to be at risk, if warranted.
- ◆ Enhance testing of backyard and commercial poultry operations in affected area.
- ◆ Provide support to local agencies with personnel, expertise and equipment for humane euthanasia and appropriate disposal of dead birds, if necessary.
- ◆ Evaluate risk of disease spreading to domestic poultry operations. CDFA may assume responsibility for eradication efforts if domestic poultry is at risk of becoming infected.

Early detection of bird flu in this scenario poses a particular set of challenges. Of concern is the ability for this strain to reach susceptible wild bird populations, backyard flocks, commercial poultry operations as well as pose a potential public health threat.

### California Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ Coordinate team of state and local technical advisors, including waste managers and haulers, public health officers, environmental health officers, air pollution control officers, and occupational health officials, to advise lead and support agencies on best treatment, disposal and use of approved disinfectants.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Assist lead agency in coordinating treatment, transportation and disposal services.
- ◆ Communicate with local environmental health agencies about this finding and emphasize the importance of consistent response and intervention.

### MESSAGING "THEMES"

#### General Public

- ◆ Risk to the general public is low. This form of flu is a disease of birds and does not signal a human flu pandemic.
- ◆ Enhanced testing of wild and domestic birds is ongoing; this includes park flocks within the affected area.
- ◆ Avoid contact with sick or dead waterfowl, feathers, pond water and feces in parks and ponds. Select picnic area in parks away from waterfowl and ponds.
- ◆ Use proper hand washing and personal hygiene (wash soiled clothes and shoes). These are measures to protect from unintended contact with, or transfer of, this disease.

<sup>3</sup>According to the California Health and Safety Code, no open burning will be allowed for the disposal of waste except when a public officer believes that setting or permitting such a fire is necessary for disease prevention, and where there is an immediate need for, and no reasonable alternative, to burning [HSC 41801(f)].

- ◆ Poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed. There are overlapping regulatory and industry safeguarding systems in place to keep our food supply safe, including protective measures on farms, government inspection at poultry processing plants, and actions you take at home by properly handling and cooking poultry and poultry products.
- ◆ Tips for proper handling and cooking of poultry products:
  - Wash your hands before and after handling raw poultry.
  - Clean food-prep surfaces with soap and water before and after contact with raw poultry.
  - Cook all parts of the poultry completely (meat is not pink and internal temperature is at least 165° F).
  - Cook eggs completely (i.e., hard cooked, not runny).
- ◆ Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### **General Public Simplified Messaging**

1. A rare strain of bird flu, known as H5N1, was found in wild birds in California.
  - a. It does not mean that there is a human influenza pandemic.
  - b. Bird flu affects mostly birds.
  - c. California is closely watching for other signs of bird flu.
2. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.
  - a. Most human illnesses from bird flu have come from close contact with sick birds.
  - b. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
  - c. Backyard poultry owners should observe their flocks daily and report any signs of sick birds.
3. It is safe to eat properly cooked store-bought poultry.
  - a. Overlapping food safety measures are in place to protect commercially available poultry products.
  - b. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus. Always fully cook poultry and egg products before eating.
  - c. Always wash your hands, food preparation surfaces and utensils before and after touching raw poultry.

Additional information is available at:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/parkbirds.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/parkbirds.html)  
[www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html](http://www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html)



## SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW

# Public Health Considerations

for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

## SCENARIO 3: BACKYARD POULTRY

### SCENARIO OVERVIEW

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA),<sup>1</sup> as stated in law,<sup>2</sup> is the lead agency in response to a finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (also commonly called “bird flu”) in backyard poultry. CDFA will initiate an immediate response to confine and eliminate the identified flock and suppress potential spread to other bird populations. The size and complexity of the response will be incident dependent and may involve other local, state and federal agencies.

CDFA, in collaboration with USDA-Veterinary Services, has increased testing (surveillance) efforts with commercial and backyard poultry producers. In some counties, local agencies are participating in backyard flock testing. Additionally, both CDFA and USDA-VS have veterinarians throughout California who are trained as “foreign animal disease diagnosticians.” Ongoing local, state and federal outreach programs with the various poultry groups have helped raise awareness of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. This outreach has led to increased measures to protect against introduction or spread of the disease in birds (biosecurity practices) by backyard bird owners.

Response agencies will strive to ensure that workers are protected from exposure during all phases of control and eradication.

### RESPONSE MEASURES

#### California Department of Food and Agriculture

- ◆ Establish a quarantine (issued by the state veterinarian) based on CDFA or USDA foreign animal disease diagnostician’s presumptive diagnosis or a positive test from the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory.
- ◆ Quarantine will be on the affected premises to stop the movement of birds, poultry products, materials and equipment capable of spreading the disease.

Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza.

- ◆ Establish strict quarantine biosecurity measures, including bird isolation and a decontamination area to minimize the risk of disease transmission from the affected premises and minimize human exposure.
- ◆ Send specimens for confirmation to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.
- ◆ Activate emergency animal disease management plans to meet needs of the unfolding situation. An incident command post will likely be initially set up in the Animal Health Branch District Office, but will move to a dedicated facility if initial information suggests that the disease is spreading.
- ◆ Determine need for Unified Command and a Joint Information Center while waiting for confirmation by National Veterinary Services Laboratory of HPAI H5N1 in samples from affected (index) premises.
- ◆ Determine need for a regional quarantine to restrict or prohibit the movement of birds, bird products and equipment. If the extent of the disease outbreak is unknown, the likelihood of a larger regional or state quarantine increases.
- ◆ Assess the need to ban live-bird-poultry sales, shows, auctions and bird exhibitions.
- ◆ Collaborate with Cal/OSHA on use of the most appropriate measures to ensure response-worker safety.

<sup>1</sup>Collaborating state and federal partners include the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES); California Department of Health Services (CDHS); California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG); California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA); and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA).

<sup>2</sup>California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562.

- ◆ Coordinate with CDHS and local health departments to ensure release of appropriate public health messages for workers and the general public.
- ◆ Euthanize infected and exposed birds.
- ◆ Disinfect affected premises and all associated equipment and facilities.
- ◆ Use procedures to minimize human exposure to infected birds and contaminated material.
- ◆ Oversee appropriate disposal of bird carcasses and associated wastes in coordination with Cal/EPA and local government agencies.
- ◆ Enhance testing of backyard flocks in surrounding area.
- ◆ Reinforce with commercial poultry industry the need for vigilance and consistent compliance with established biosecurity practices.
- ◆ Implement pre-established plan to sample all commercial poultry flocks within 48 hours.
- ◆ Initiate epidemiological investigation of affected premises, tracing movements of people, poultry, poultry products and equipment on and off the premises.

### California Department of Health Services

The local public health department is the lead public health response agency.

CDHS will:

- ◆ Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza. Guidance will also include general disease prevention strategies, such as standard methods of personal hygiene (hand washing), recommended seasonal flu immunizations and food safety practices.
- ◆ Reemphasize key public health and safety messages in multiple languages for various identified high-risk groups, including affected backyard bird owners and their family, neighbors and local community, agency response employees involved in disease control interventions, and the general public.
- ◆ Collaborate and provide public health perspective and guidance in decision-making on disposal issues and environmental health.
- ◆ Coordinate with local health department to perform public health assessment for human groups at highest risk of exposure to affected backyard flock. In particular, this will include affected backyard flock owners, neighbors and local community, lead and support response agency employees involved with disease control intervention activities and the general public.
- ◆ Collaborate with local public health department to establish contact with potentially exposed individuals for communication of approved methods of post-exposure monitoring and intervention. This may include the following, as needed:

Ongoing local, state and federal outreach programs with the various poultry groups have helped raise awareness of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. Backyard poultry showing any signs of illness may be submitted to the CAHFS labs for diagnostic screening tests for avian influenza at no cost to the owner.

- ◆ Communicate importance of cooperation with public health authorities as source of health information to protect themselves and their families.
- ◆ Provide description of signs and symptoms of illness (fever with flu-like symptoms) that should be related to health-monitoring personnel, if they develop.
- ◆ Collaborate with local health department on enhanced human surveillance, epidemiologic investigation, and monitoring of individuals who came into contact with index bird flock for development of any adverse health concerns.
- ◆ Provide guidance to responding agencies regarding occupational health concerns, appropriate personal protective equipment for use in the field, recommended/approved prophylaxis measures and health monitoring of employees.
- ◆ Provide collaborative support to local public health departments in interactions with responding and support agencies and management of post-exposure surveillance.
- ◆ Provide guidance on recommended human laboratory testing and sample collection and handling.
- ◆ Provide guidance on infection control precautions and case and contact management.

## California Department of Fish and Game

- ◆ Immediately assess risk to wild bird populations.
- ◆ Perform wildlife inventory in affected area.
- ◆ Enhance HPAI H5N1 testing of susceptible species of wild birds in affected area.
- ◆ Enhance testing of wild bird deaths in affected area.
- ◆ Communicate with bird rehabilitators in area and increase testing of wild birds in rehabilitation facilities.

## Local Governmental Agencies

- ◆ Participate fully in Unified Command and Joint Information Center, as prescribed by local jurisdiction and authorities.
  - ◆ Expect participation from local agricultural commissioner, environmental health, public health and other agencies, as appropriate.
  - ◆ Provide local personnel and resources to augment needs of response agencies.
  - ◆ Take actions to ensure protection of general public and occupational health.
  - ◆ Provide law enforcement authority, as needed.
  - ◆ Coordinate with CDFA, USDA, CDHS and Cal/EPA to ensure appropriate waste disposal and decontamination.
  - ◆ CDFA-designated local agencies may assist in testing of backyard flocks.
  - ◆ Communicate with the public using simplified messaging and themes.

## California Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ Coordinate team of state and local technical advisors, including waste managers and haulers, public health officers, environmental health officers, air pollution control officers, and occupational health officials, to advise lead and support agencies on best treatment, disposal and use of approved disinfectants.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Assist lead agency in coordinating treatment, transportation and disposal services.
- ◆ Communicate with local environmental health agencies about this finding and emphasize the importance of consistent response and intervention.

## MESSAGING "THEMES"

### General Public

- ◆ A finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in backyard poultry does not signal a human flu pandemic. This form of flu is a disease of birds, and risk to the general public is low.
- ◆ Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.

<sup>3</sup>According to the California Health and Safety Code, no open burning will be allowed for the disposal of waste except when a public officer believes that setting or permitting such a fire is necessary for disease prevention, and where there is an immediate need for, and no reasonable alternative, to burning [HSC 41801(f)].

- ◆ Poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed. There are overlapping regulatory and industry safeguarding systems in place to keep our food supply safe, including protective measures on farms, government inspection at poultry processing plants, and actions you can take at home by properly handling and cooking poultry and poultry products.
- ◆ Tips for proper handling and cooking of poultry products:
  - ◆ Wash your hands before and after handling raw poultry products.
  - ◆ Clean food-prep surfaces with soap and water before and after contact with raw poultry.
  - ◆ Cook all parts of the poultry completely (meat is not pink and internal temperature is at least 165° F).
  - ◆ Cook eggs completely (i.e., hard cooked, not runny).
- ◆ Greatest risk of exposure to highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is through direct contact with infected birds. Handling of live infected poultry through home slaughtering, defeathering and preparing for cooking increase the risk of exposure.
- ◆ Consumption of any raw poultry product is a high-risk practice and is strongly discouraged.
- ◆ After handling birds, if you become ill with fever and severe respiratory symptoms, contact your local health department.
- ◆ Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

## Backyard Poultry Owners

If your backyard flock is in an area designated at risk by the state veterinarian, you should:

- ◆ Observe your backyard flock daily for signs of illness. Signs of illness in birds include:
  - ◆ Sudden death.
  - ◆ Diarrhea.
  - ◆ Decreased or complete loss of egg production, soft-shelled and misshapen eggs.
  - ◆ Sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge and coughing.
  - ◆ Lack of energy and appetite.
  - ◆ Swelling of tissues around eyes and neck.
  - ◆ Purple discoloration of wattles, combs and legs.
  - ◆ Depression, muscular tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck, lack of coordination or paralysis.
- ◆ Increase biosecurity measures to protect your backyard flock, such as:
  - ◆ Isolate your birds from visitors, your neighbor's birds, and wild birds.
  - ◆ Do not share birds, equipment, or feed with other bird owners.
  - ◆ Raise your birds under a solid roof to help prevent direct contact with wild birds.

- Maintain a clean and sanitary environment for your birds by routinely removing feces, feathers and spilled feed.
  - Wash your hands with soap and water before and after contact with your birds.
  - Dedicate clothing and footwear for bird care activities. Remove all debris from your footwear, especially the soles, scrub them with soap and water, and spray with a disinfectant.
  - Consider use of a disinfectant footbath with a scrub mat at the entrance to your bird area to prevent unintentional spread of the virus. Frequently replace disinfectant solution and dispose of used product following the manufacturer's directions.
- ◆ Report all sick or dead poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### **Pet Bird Owners**

- ◆ Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is a rare disease in exotic and aviary birds. It is primarily a disease of domestic poultry and wild migratory birds.
- ◆ Protect your pet birds by keeping them indoors.
- ◆ Reduce or eliminate pet bird exposure to wild migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- ◆ Continue to practice good hygiene. Wash hands with soap and water regularly and especially after handling animals, cleaning cages, or coming in contact with animal feces or saliva.

### **Other Pet Owners**

- ◆ Likelihood of an H5N1 infection to animals other than birds is low.
- ◆ Do not feed cats or dogs raw meat, poultry, or eggs. Keep cats indoors to prevent them from eating potentially infected wild birds and/or contact with stray cats.
- ◆ Continue to practice good hygiene. Wash hands with soap and water regularly and especially after handling animals, cleaning litter boxes, or coming in contact with animal feces or saliva.

### **General Public Simplified Messaging**

1. A rare strain of bird flu, known as H5N1, has been found in backyard poultry in California.
  - a. It does not mean that there is a human influenza pandemic.
  - b. Bird flu affects mostly birds.
  - c. California is closely watching for signs of bird flu.
2. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.
  - a. Report all sick or dead birds and poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
- b. Most human illnesses from bird flu have come from close contact with sick birds.

3. It is safe to eat properly cooked store-bought poultry.
  - a. Overlapping food safety measures are in place to protect commercially available poultry products.
  - b. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus. Always fully cook poultry and egg products before eating.
  - c. Always wash your hands, food preparation surfaces and utensils before and after touching raw poultry.

### **Backyard Poultry Owner Simplified Messaging**

1. Backyard poultry owners should check their flocks daily for signs of illness.
  - a. Report all sick or dead poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.
  - b. Response agencies will take action to protect people and domestic poultry.
  - c. Do not process sick poultry for human consumption.
2. Protect your backyard poultry by isolating your birds from visitors, your neighbor's birds, and wild birds.
  - a. Do not share birds, equipment, or feed with other bird owners.
  - b. Move your birds under a solid roof to prevent exposure to wild bird droppings.
3. Keep a clean and sanitary environment for your poultry.
  - a. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after you touch your birds.
  - b. Wear the same clothes and shoes when you work with your birds, then scrub them with soap and water and spray with a disinfectant.
  - c. Routinely remove feces, feathers and spilled feed.

### **Pet Bird Owner Simplified Messaging**

1. The strain of bird flu that has killed birds and people in Asia, known as H5N1, is a rare disease in exotic and aviary birds.
  - a. It is primarily a disease of domestic poultry and wild migratory birds.
2. Protect your pet birds by keeping them indoors.
  - a. Reduce or eliminate opportunities for your pet birds to be near wild birds.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water regularly and especially after touching animals or cleaning their cages.

Additional information is available at:

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian\\_Influenza.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian_Influenza.htm)  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/backyard.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/backyard.html)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/hpai/htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/hpai/htm)  
[animalscience.ucdavis.edu/avian/sm\\_flock.htm](http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/avian/sm_flock.htm)  
[www.biosecuritycenter.org/disinfect.php](http://www.biosecuritycenter.org/disinfect.php)  
[www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INFO-PO.Sanitation.html](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INFO-PO.Sanitation.html)



## SCENARIO-BASED STATE AGENCY REVIEW

# Public Health Considerations

for Detection of Avian Influenza in Birds (HPAI H5N1)

## SCENARIO 4: COMMERCIAL POULTRY

### SCENARIO OVERVIEW

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA),<sup>1</sup> as stated in law,<sup>2</sup> is the lead agency in response to a finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (also commonly called “bird flu”) in commercial poultry. CDFA will initiate an immediate response to confine and eliminate the identified flock and suppress potential spread to other bird populations. The size and complexity of the response will be incident dependent and may involve other local, state and federal agencies.

Modern commercial poultry operations exercise numerous biosecurity measures to protect their flocks from disease, including routine testing (surveillance) for HPAI H5N1. This routine testing will aid in early detection and rapid intervention should the disease be introduced. Both CDFA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) have veterinarians throughout California who are trained as “foreign animal disease diagnosticians.”

Response agencies will work to ensure that workers are protected from exposure during all phases of control and eradication.

### RESPONSE MEASURES

#### California Department of Food and Agriculture

- ◆ Establish a quarantine (issued by the state veterinarian) based on CDFA or USDA foreign animal disease diagnostician’s presumptive diagnosis or a positive test from the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory.
- ◆ Quarantine will be on the affected premises to stop the movement of birds, poultry products, materials and equipment capable of spreading the disease.
- ◆ Establish strict quarantine biosecurity measures, including decontamination station, traffic control and restriction of

Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza.

access to minimize risk of disease transmission from the affected premises and minimize human exposure.

- ◆ Send specimens for confirmation to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.
- ◆ Activate emergency animal disease management plans, including the establishment of a unified command.
- ◆ Activate CDFA and USDA department operations centers and establish communication with appropriate federal, state and local agencies. The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) may be asked to assist in requesting a state emergency proclamation upon confirmation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory of HPAI H5N1 in samples from the index premises.
- ◆ Immediately inform other commercial poultry industry representatives to assure strict biosecurity practices.
- ◆ Implement pre-established plan to sample all commercial poultry flocks within 48 hours.
- ◆ Determine need for a regional quarantine to restrict or prohibit the movement of birds, bird products and equipment. If the extent of the disease outbreak is unknown, the likelihood of a larger regional or state quarantine increases.
- ◆ Assess the need to ban live-bird-poultry sales, shows, auctions and bird exhibitions.
- ◆ Euthanize infected and exposed birds.

<sup>1</sup>Collaborating state and federal partners include the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES); California Department of Health Services (CDHS); California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG); California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA); and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA).

<sup>2</sup>California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562.

- ◆ Collaborate with Cal/OSHA and CDHS on appropriate measures to ensure response-worker safety, especially worker training and education about safe work practices to minimize exposure to infectious diseases as well as proper use of personal protective equipment.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect affected premises and associated equipment and facilities. Use procedures that minimize human exposure to infected birds and contaminated material.
- ◆ Initiate epidemiological investigation related to affected premises, tracing movements of people, poultry, poultry products and equipment on and off the premises in order to identify other potentially infected birds.
- ◆ Oversee appropriate disposal of affected poultry, affected poultry products and materials and equipment in coordination with Cal/EPA and local government agencies.
- ◆ Coordinate with CDHS and local health departments related to the public health investigation and to ensure release of appropriate public health messages.

### California Department of Health Services

The local public health department is the lead public health response agency.

CDHS will:

- ◆ Provide guidance through public messaging and risk communication to reinforce difference between avian and pandemic influenza. Guidance will also include general disease prevention strategies, such as standard methods of personal hygiene (hand washing), recommended seasonal flu immunizations and food safety practices.
- ◆ Reemphasize key public health and safety messages in multiple languages for various identified high-risk groups, including commercial poultry employees of affected flocks and responding agency employees involved in disease control operations and the general public.
- ◆ Collaborate and provide public health perspective and guidance in decision-making on disposal issues and environmental health.
- ◆ Coordinate with local health department to perform public health assessment for human groups at highest risk of exposure to affected index commercial flock, including poultry employees who came into contact with index flock, lead and support response agency employees involved with disease control intervention activities and the general public.
- ◆ Collaborate with local public health department to establish contact with potentially exposed individuals for communication of approved methods of post-exposure monitoring and intervention. This may include the following, as needed:
  - ◆ Communicate importance of cooperation with public health authorities as source of health information to protect themselves and their families.

Modern commercial poultry operations exercise numerous biosecurity measures to protect their flocks from disease, including routine testing for HPAI H5N1. This routine testing will aid in early detection and rapid intervention should the disease be introduced.

- ◆ Provide description of signs and symptoms of illness (fever with flu-like symptoms) that should be related to health-monitoring personnel, if they develop.
- ◆ Collaborate with local health department on enhanced human surveillance, epidemiologic investigation, and monitoring of individuals who came into contact with index bird flock for development of any adverse health concerns.
- ◆ Provide guidance to responding agencies regarding occupational health concerns, appropriate personal protective equipment, recommended/approved prophylaxis measures and health monitoring of employees.
- ◆ Provide collaborative support to local public health departments in interactions with responding and support agencies and management of post-exposure surveillance.
- ◆ Provide guidance on recommended human laboratory testing and sample collection and handling.
- ◆ Provide guidance on infection control precautions and case and contact management.
- ◆ Collaborate and provide public health perspective and guidance on disposal issues related to disease control intervention activities.

## California Department of Fish and Game

- ◆ Immediately assess risk to wild bird populations.
- ◆ Perform wildlife inventory in area of affected premises.
- ◆ Enhance HPAI H5N1 testing of susceptible species of wild birds in area of the affected premises.
- ◆ Enhance testing of wild bird deaths in the area of the affected premises.
- ◆ Communicate with bird rehabilitators in area and increase testing of wild birds in rehabilitation facilities.

## Local Governmental Agencies

- ◆ Participate fully in Unified Command and Joint Information Center, as prescribed by local jurisdiction and authorities.
  - ◆ Expect participation from local agricultural commissioner, environmental health, public health and other agencies, as appropriate.
  - ◆ Provide local personnel and resources to augment needs of response agencies.
  - ◆ Take actions to ensure protection of general public and occupational health.
  - ◆ Provide law enforcement authority, as needed.
  - ◆ Coordinate with CDFA, USDA, CDHS and Cal/EPA to ensure appropriate waste disposal and decontamination.
  - ◆ Communicate with the public using simplified messaging and themes.

## California Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ Coordinate team of state and local technical advisors, including waste managers and haulers, public health officers, environmental health officers, air pollution control officers, and occupational health officials, to advise lead and support agencies on best treatment, disposal and use of approved disinfectants.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Assist lead agency in coordinating treatment, transportation and disposal services.
- ◆ Communicate with local environmental health agencies about this finding and emphasize the importance of consistent response and intervention.
- ◆ Following proclamation of a state or local emergency, coordinate with lead agency for a waiver of regulatory and procedural statutes, regulations, or rules for direct transport of carcasses to landfill when volume of waste for disposal exceeds capacity for timely treatment.

<sup>3</sup>According to the California Health and Safety Code, no open burning will be allowed for the disposal of waste except when a public officer believes that setting or permitting such a fire is necessary for disease prevention, and where there is an immediate need for, and no reasonable alternative, to burning [HSC 41801(f)].

## MESSAGING “THEMES”

### General Public

- ◆ A finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in commercial poultry does not signal a human flu pandemic. This form of flu is a disease of birds, and risk to the general public is low.
- ◆ Rapid identification of this disease in a commercial flock indicates that testing systems are working to protect our food supply and public health.
- ◆ The affected flock has been quarantined and remaining exposed birds will be humanely euthanized. No poultry or poultry products from the quarantined flock will enter the food chain.
- ◆ Poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed. There are overlapping regulatory and industry safeguarding systems in place to keep our food supply safe, including protective measures on farms, government inspection at poultry processing plants, and actions you can take at home by properly handling and cooking poultry and poultry products.
- ◆ Tips for proper handling and cooking of poultry products:
  - ◆ Wash your hands before and after handling raw poultry products.
  - ◆ Clean food-prep surfaces with soap and water before and after contact with raw poultry.
  - ◆ Cook all parts of the poultry completely (meat is not pink and internal temperature is at least 165° F).
  - ◆ Cook eggs completely (i.e., hard cooked, not runny).
- ◆ Home slaughter of sick poultry is hazardous. The greatest risk of exposure to highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is through slaughter of live infected poultry, defeathering and preparation for cooking.
- ◆ Consumption of any raw poultry product is a high-risk practice and is strongly discouraged.
- ◆ After handling sick or dead poultry, if you become ill with fever and severe respiratory symptoms, contact your local health department.
- ◆ Report sick or dead poultry to the California Bird Flu Hotline at 1-866-922-BIRD.

### Poultry Workers

- ◆ A finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in commercial poultry does not signal a human flu pandemic. This form of flu is a disease of birds.
- ◆ The affected flock has been promptly quarantined and remaining birds have been euthanized, appropriately disposed, and the facilities will be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- ◆ If you have been in contact with the affected flock, or if you become ill with fever and severe respiratory symptoms, contact your local health department. The public health officer will want to know about your health and personal contacts. You will receive information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

- ◆ If you have been in contact with the affected flock, avoid contact with any other poultry or birds.

### **General Public Simplified Messaging**

1. A rare strain of bird flu, known as H5N1, has been found in commercial poultry in California.
  - a. It does not mean that there is a human influenza pandemic.
  - b. Bird flu affects mostly birds.
  - c. California is closely watching for signs of bird flu.
2. The affected flock has been quarantined and birds that are sick or could become sick will be destroyed.
  - a. No poultry or poultry products from the quarantined flock will enter the food chain.
  - b. All commercial poultry flocks in the state are being tested.
  - c. State and local officials have enacted strict measures to prevent the spread of bird flu in poultry.
3. It is safe to eat properly cooked store-bought poultry.
  - a. Overlapping food safety measures are in place to protect commercially available poultry products.
  - b. Cooking destroys germs, including the bird flu virus. Always fully cook poultry and egg products before eating.
  - b. Always wash your hands, food preparation surfaces and utensils before and after touching raw poultry.

Additional information is available at:

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian\\_Influenza.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian_Influenza.htm)  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian\\_health\\_program.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health_program.htm)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity)  
[www.avianinfluenza.info.com](http://www.avianinfluenza.info.com)

# Avian Influenza Resources

## CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

<b>California Department of Food and Agriculture</b> <a href="http://www.cdfa.ca.gov">www.cdfa.ca.gov</a>	<b>916-654-0462</b>
<b>Animal Health and Food Safety Services</b> <a href="http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian_Influenza.htm">www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Avian_Influenza.htm</a> <a href="http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health_program.htm">www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health_program.htm</a> <a href="http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/pa/birdflu">www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/pa/birdflu</a>	<b>916-654-1447</b>
<b>California Department of Health Services</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov">www.dhs.ca.gov</a>	<b>916-445-4171</b>
<b>California Conference of Local Health Officers</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/CCLHO">www.dhs.ca.gov/CCLHO</a>	<b>916-440-7594</b>
<b>Division of Communicable Disease Control</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/dcdcindex.htm">www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/dcdcindex.htm</a>	<b>916-552-9700</b>
<b>Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/">www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/</a> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/environmental/default.htm">www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/environmental/default.htm</a>	<b>916-449-5577</b>
<b>Emergency Preparedness Office</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/epo/">www.dhs.ca.gov/epo/</a>	<b>916-650-6416</b>
<b>Occupational Health Branch</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/default.htm">www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/default.htm</a>	<b>510-620-5757</b>
<b>Surveillance for Avian Influenza (H5N1) in California</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/H5N1/Main%20Avian%20Flu%20page.htm">www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/H5N1/Main%20Avian%20Flu%20page.htm</a>	
<b>California Department of Fish and Game</b> <a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/index.html">www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/index.html</a>	<b>916-445-0411</b>
<b>Governor's Office of Emergency Services</b> <a href="http://www.oes.ca.gov">www.oes.ca.gov</a>	<b>916-845-8510</b>
<b>Governor's Office of Homeland Security</b> <a href="http://www.homeland.ca.gov/information.html">www.homeland.ca.gov/information.html</a>	<b>888-834-8200</b>
<b>Department of Industrial Relations</b>	
<b>Division of Occupational Safety and Health</b> <a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/occupational_safety.html">www.dir.ca.gov/occupational_safety.html</a>	<b>510-286-7000</b>
<b>Cal/OSHA Consultation Service Area Offices</b> <a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation_offices.html">www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation_offices.html</a>	<b>800-963-9424</b>
<b>California Environmental Protection Agency</b> <a href="http://www.calepa.ca.gov">www.calepa.ca.gov</a> <a href="http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Disaster">www.calepa.ca.gov/Disaster</a>	<b>916-551-1313</b>

## U.S. GOVERNMENT

[www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

### U.S. Department of Agriculture

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

#### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot\\_issues/avian\\_influenza/avian\\_influenza.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/avian_influenza/avian_influenza.shtml)

[www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity)

#### National Invasive Species Information Center

[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/microbes/avianflu.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/microbes/avianflu.shtml)

#### Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

[www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?navtype=SU&navid=AVIAN\\_INFLUENZA](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?navtype=SU&navid=AVIAN_INFLUENZA)

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/flu/avian](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian)

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan](http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan)

### U.S. Department of the Interior

[www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html](http://www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu.html)

### U.S. Geologic Survey

[www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease\\_information/avian\\_influenza/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp)

### U.S. Food and Drug Administration

[www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/flu.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/flu.html)

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian.htm)

### U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html)

[www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib121304.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib121304.html)

### National Biological Information Infrastructure

#### National Avian Influenza Surveillance Information

[wildlifedisease.nbi.gov/ai](http://wildlifedisease.nbi.gov/ai)

### University of California, Davis

[www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/PO-Progs.html](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/PO-Progs.html)

### U.S. Poultry Industry

[www.avianinfluenzainfo.com](http://www.avianinfluenzainfo.com)

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### World Health Organization

[www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en)

### United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

[www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/special\\_avian.html](http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/special_avian.html)

### World Organization for Animal Health

[www.oie.int/eng/en\\_index.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm)



# STATE & FEDERAL AGRICULTURE OFFICES

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS  
 AVIC: Kevin Varner, DVM  
 USDA/APHIS/VS  
 10365 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 210  
 Sacramento, 95827  
 Telephone: (916) 854-3950  
 www.usda.gov

## California Dept. of Food & Agriculture

Animal Health & Food Safety Services (AHFSS)  
 Animal Health Branch

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS  
 Chief: Kent Fowler, DVM  
 1220 N Street, Room A-107  
 Sacramento CA 95814  
 Telephone: (916) 654-1447  
 www.cdfa.ca.gov

REDDING DISTRICT  
 VIC: Charles Palmer, DVM, MPVM  
 2135 Civic Center Drive, Room 8  
 Redding, CA 96001-2794  
 Telephone: (530) 225-2140

MODESTO DISTRICT  
 VIC: David Willoughby, DVM, MPVM  
 Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
 Tuolumne Building  
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F  
 Modesto, CA 95358  
 Telephone: (209) 491-9350

TULARE DISTRICT  
 VIC: Melanie Swartz, DVM  
 18830 Road 112  
 Tulare CA 93274  
 Telephone: (559) 685-3500

ONTARIO DISTRICT  
 VIC: David Kerr, DVM, MPVM  
 1910 S. Archibald Avenue, Suite Y  
 Ontario, CA 91761  
 Telephone: (909) 947-4462

## California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System

<http://cahfs.usdavis.edu>

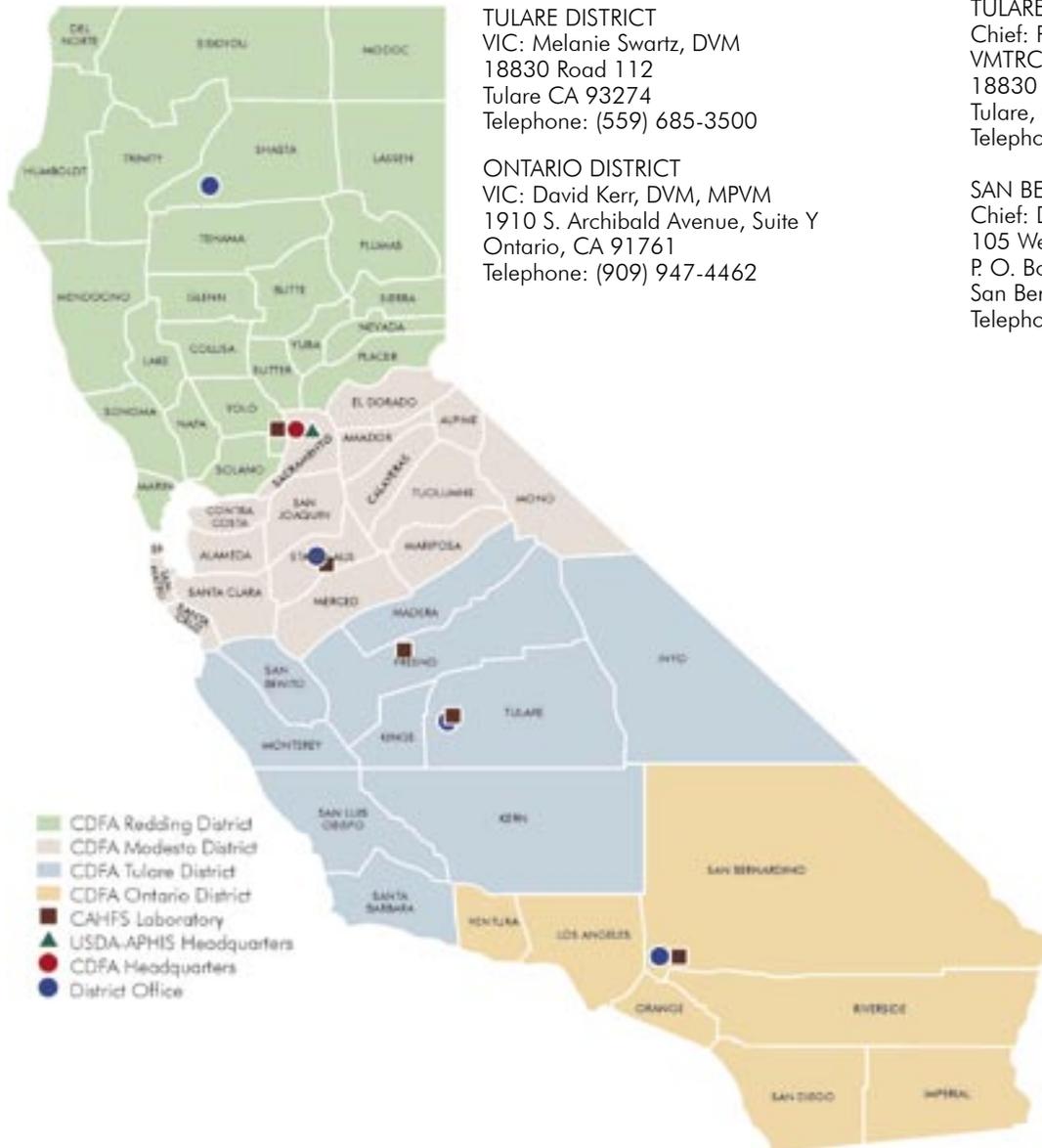
CENTRAL DAVIS LABORATORY  
 Director: Alex Ardans, DVM, MS  
 University of California  
 P. O. Box 1770  
 Davis, CA 95617-1770  
 Telephone: (530) 752-8700

TURLOCK LABORATORY  
 Chief: Bruce R. Charlton, DVM, PhD  
 1550 Soderquist Road  
 Turlock, CA 95381  
 Telephone: (209) 634-5837

FRESNO LABORATORY  
 Chief: Richard Chin, DVM, MPVM  
 2789 South Orange Avenue  
 Fresno, CA 93725  
 Telephone: (559) 498-7740

TULARE LABORATORY  
 Chief: Patricia C. Blanchard, DVM, PhD  
 VMTRC - CAHFS  
 18830 Road 112  
 Tulare, CA 93274  
 Telephone: (559) 688-7543

SAN BERNARDINO LABORATORY  
 Chief: Deryck Read, DVM, PhD  
 105 West Central Avenue  
 P. O. Box 5579  
 San Bernardino, CA 92412  
 Telephone: (909) 383-4287



**CALL  
1-866-922-BIRD**

**to report  
sick or dead birds**

Backyard poultry showing signs of illness may be submitted to the CAHFS labs for diagnostic screening of avian influenza at no cost to the owner.



# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## State Headquarters

Resources Building  
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-653-7664  
www.dfg.ca.gov

## Regional Offices

### Northern Region

601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
530-225-2300

### North Central Region

1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916-358-2900

### Bay Delta Region

7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558  
707-944-5500

### Central Region

1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
559-243-4005 x. 151

### South Coast Region

4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858-467-4201

### Inland Deserts Region

3602 Inland Empire Blvd. Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
909-484-0167

### Marine Region (along entire coast)

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive #100  
Monterey, CA 93940  
831-649-2870



**Call your regional office of the Department of Fish and Game**

if you suspect HPAI H5N1 in wild waterfowl or shorebirds.



# OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## STATE TERRORISM THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTERS

888-834-8200  
STTAC@DOJ.CA.GOV

### San Francisco Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center

866-367-8847  
moderator@ncrttac.org

### Sacramento Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center

888-884-8383  
916-808-8383  
SacRTTAC@sacsheriff.org

### Los Angeles Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center

323-980-2070  
TEW@lasd.org

### San Diego Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center

858-495-5730  
Terrorism@sdsheriff.org



**Call your regional Terrorist Threat Assessment Center**

if you suspect an intentional introduction of HPAI H5N1

# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

## HEADQUARTERS

3650 Schriever Ave.  
Mather, CA 95655  
(916) 845-8510  
[www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov)

## Coastal Regional Branch

Richard Eisner, Regional Administrator  
(510) 286-0895

## Inland Regional Branch

Charles Wynne, Regional Administrator  
(916) 845-8470

## Southern Regional Branch

Stephen Sellers, Regional Administrator  
(562) 795-2900



## The Office of Emergency Services

coordinates  
California's  
emergency response  
management.

