



Animal Health and Assurance Branch  
Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian  
#912 OS Longman Building  
6909 – 116 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2  
Telephone: 780-427-3448  
Fax: 780-415-0810  
[www.alberta.ca/animal-health.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/animal-health.aspx)

May 9, 2022

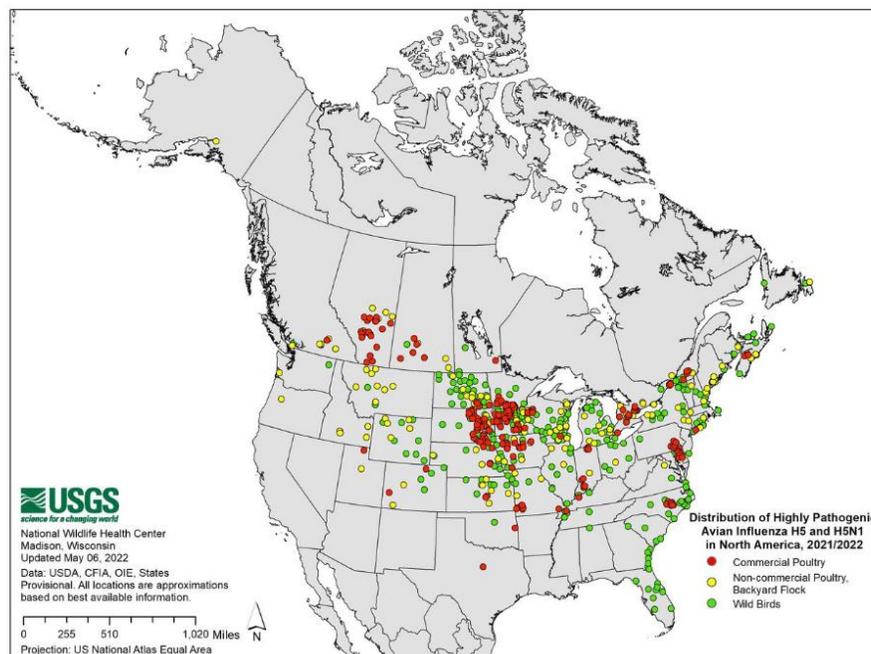
**From: Dr. Keith Lehman**  
Chief Provincial Veterinarian

**To: Alberta Backyard/Small-Flock Poultry Keepers**

**Re: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Update #3**

- **The federally reportable disease, HPAI, has now been confirmed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in at least 24 Alberta premises (at time of writing). Cases include commercial poultry operations, small flocks, and wild birds.**
- Control zones around infected premises have been established by the CFIA. Be aware of restrictions that may apply to those within these [control zones](#)
- We continue to be in a period of high migratory wild bird activity
- Events where poultry from different locations may congregate such as swaps/sales, auctions, fairs, or shows are currently prohibited. <https://www.alberta.ca/avian-influenza-in-domestic-birds-updates.aspx>

May 6, 2022 - AI situation in North America, courtesy of United States Geological Survey – National Wildlife Health Center. <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/distribution-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-north-america-20212022>



Sources/Usage: Public Domain.

Distribution of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 and H5N1 in North America, 2021/2022. Updated May 06, 2022.

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

### It is now critical to protect your flock and neighboring small flocks.

- Be aware of your flock's environment and health.
- Maintain a high level of biosecurity until the risk of HPAI declines
- Report signs of illness and/or sudden deaths in your flock to at least one of the following: your flock veterinarian (if you have one), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and/or Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development

### Increased biosecurity is your best defense.

- Restrict visitors to your flock, and avoid visiting other premises that keep poultry.
- Poultry swaps, fairs, shows, and other activities where birds from multiple locations may come together are currently prohibited across Alberta.
- Do not bring new poultry into an established flock (especially adult birds).
- Have dedicated farm boots/footwear (and ideally, dedicated clothing such as coveralls) for accessing your coop. Do not wear these outside your coop/run, especially to areas where wild birds may congregate such as open fields or the shores of water bodies. Keep them separate from your other footwear/clothing.
- Minimize the number of people that have access to your flock
- Prevent free-ranging during the migration season.
- Swine can also be infected with avian and human influenza strains, which can increase the risk to both poultry and public health. If you keep pigs as well as poultry, maintain effective biosecurity between these species by managing them separately.
- Wash hands before and after attending to any poultry

## How do I find out if my flock is located in a Primary Control Zone?

At the federal level, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has declared primary control zones (PCZ) to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) in Canada. As a result of this declaration, birds, their products and by-products, as well as things exposed to birds cannot be moved into, out of, within, or through PCZ except by permission. [Follow this link for more information on restrictions within control zones.](#)

### What happens if you suspect your flock may have Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza?

Contact your flock veterinarian and at least one of the following:

- The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian: 1-780-427-3448 or 1-800-524-0051
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Sick Bird Line: 403-338-5225

For further information on avian influenza in Canada and the latest updates, you can visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at [www.inspection.gc.ca/avian-influenza](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/avian-influenza) and/or the Government of Alberta website at <https://www.alberta.ca/avian-influenza-reportable.aspx>

If you have questions regarding this notice, please feel free to 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.