

June 16, 2022

Case of Avian Influenza Detected in the Regional District of Nanaimo

On Wednesday, June 15, 2022, a backyard poultry premises in the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) was confirmed positive for Notifiable Avian Influenza (AI) by the BC Animal Health Centre. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food continue to implement response measures to address the situation.

Notifiable Avian Influenza is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. All cases must be reported to the CFIA. Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as bird flu. Do not take sick birds off the property. If a flock is suffering from any unexplained clinical signs or increased mortality, bird owners should contact a professional for help and sampling.

To receive assistance or to report any unexplained poultry illness or mortality contact:

- your private veterinarian, or
- call the nearest [Canada Food Inspection Agency Office](#)


For non-influenza and general flock health enquiries, bird owners in the RDN can contact the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Animal Health Centre at 1-800-661-9903. Information about the AI and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food's and CFIA's response is available: [Avian Influenza \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) or [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#).


Please refer to the following pages for the notification from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food as well as additional resources for bird owners.

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For more information, please contact:

Regional District of Nanaimo
Emergency Services

 250-390-4111

 emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!



June 16, 2022

DISEASE NOTIFICATION:

Avian influenza Infected Premises in the Regional District of Nanaimo

On Wednesday, June 15, 2022, a backyard poultry premises in the Regional District of Nanaimo was confirmed positive for Notifiable Avian Influenza (AI).

AI viruses can be classified into 2 categories: low pathogenicity (LPAI) and high pathogenicity (HPAI) viruses, based on the severity of the illness caused in birds. In Canada, highly pathogenic avian influenza (subtypes H5 and H7) viruses are considered to be Notifiable Avian Influenza, which is a [reportable disease](#) under the *Health of Animals Act*. All cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Disease Containment Measures Taken: The premises was placed under quarantine by the CFIA on Saturday, April 23rd after initial identification as a Suspect Premises. The CFIA and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food continue to implement additional response measures to address the situation.

Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as bird flu. Do not take sick birds off the property. If a flock is suffering from any unexplained clinical signs or increased mortality, bird owners should contact a professional for help and sampling.

Signs of AI:

- high mortality and sudden death
- decreased food consumption
- huddling, depression, closed eyes
- respiratory signs (coughing and sneezing)
- decreased egg production
- watery greenish diarrhea
- excessive thirst
- swollen wattles and combs

If a bird owner suspects their flock is infected

To receive assistance or to report any unexplained poultry illness or mortality contact:

- your private veterinarian, OR
- call the nearest Canada Food Inspection Agency Office, find the number here:
<https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/contact-a-cfia-office-by-telephone/eng/1313255382836/1313256130232>

If a deceased wild bird is found:

In B.C., the Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Program hotline, 1-866-431-2473, enables members of the public to report sightings of dead wild birds. If the report is assessed to require further investigation a biologist may retrieve the carcass for further testing.

For non-influenza and general flock health enquiries, bird owners can contact the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Animal Health Centre at **1-800-661-9903**.

More information about the AI and the Ministry's and CFIA's response is available: [Avian Influenza \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) or [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) would like to provide the following resources for bird owners regarding restrictions to bird movement put in place to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza (AI). AI has been detected in B.C., as well as other provinces in Canada and the United States.

Commingling of birds restricted

The Ministry has released a General Order for Avian Influenza as per the *Animal Health Act* (AHA), restricting the commingling of birds during events that include poultry swaps, auctions, flea markets, bird shows, fairs, public displays, or competitions where birds from multiple sources would be present. The order can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-health/reportable-notifiable-diseases/avian-influenza-ai#generalorders>

This order applies province-wide to all backyard, small flock, and commercial bird producers. Bird types included in the order are: chicken, turkeys, doves, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, peafowl, pheasants, pigeons, quails, and ratites. Protecting people and birds from avian influenza requires the cooperation and effort of everyone.

Is your flock in a Primary Control Zone (PCZ)?

When a location has infected birds, it is declared to be an infected premises and placed under quarantine. Additionally, the CFIA may create a Primary Control Zone (PCZ) to restrict the movement of poultry and poultry related products and equipment in a 10 km radius around the infected premises.

- A. You can find the status of flocks in Canada where AI has been detected on the CFIA web site: <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/hpai-in-canada/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response-by-prov/eng/1640207916497/1640207916934>
- B. The CFIA has created PCZs related to infected premises in BC. You can see the location of active PCZs on the CFIA web site using the interactive Avian Influenza Zone Map: <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/hpai-in-canada/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response-by-prov/ai-zones/eng/1648851134912/1648851359195> .

How do PCZ movement restrictions impact me?

These movement restrictions apply to movement in and out of the PCZ and for transit through the PCZ. The PCZ will have little or no impact on individuals that do not own birds, but in some cases there may be a need for a general permit which can be downloaded from the CFIA web site to use for with low risk movements.

More information is available at CFIA's Avian influenza – permits and conditions webpage at <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian->

[influenza/hpai-in-canada/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response-by-prov/permits-and-conditions/eng/1648871137667/1648871138011](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/industry/food_safety/avian_influenza/hpai-in-canada/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response-by-prov/permits-and-conditions/eng/1648871137667/1648871138011)

If your flock is in a PCZ, you will need a permit to move your birds, their products, and by-products.

All transporters of birds, their products, and by-products cannot be moved into, out of, within, or through the PCZ without a valid permit. *The restrictions in a PCZ apply to small flocks as well.*

Small flock owners should be aware of the following requirements:

- If there are circumstances where the birds need to move outside of the PCZ, such as transport for slaughter or relocation to another coop or home, a CFIA permit would be required.
- For small holdings, including birds of any age, it is **prohibited** to move live birds into and out of the PCZs, including both infected zone and restricted zone.
- Small flock ungraded eggs (farm gate sales) require a **specific permit**.
- A **general permit** is required to move feed into a Primary Control Zone.

For more information on movement control and permitting please visit [CFIA's Avian influenza – permits and conditions webpage](#), or call the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Avian Influenza hotline at **604-855-8255**. The support line is available Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm (PDT).

How can I report a sick or dead bird? What signs should I look out for in my birds?

If a flock is suffering from any unexplained clinical signs or increased mortality, bird owners should contact a professional for help and sampling. **Do not take sick birds off the property.** Some or all of the following clinical signs are evident in infected birds:

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

If you suspect your birds have Avian Influenza

To receive assistance or to report any unexplained poultry illness or mortality contact:

- your private veterinarian, OR

- call the nearest Canada Food Inspection Agency Office, find the number here:
<https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/contact-a-cfia-office-by-telephone/eng/1313255382836/1313256130232>

Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as bird flu.

If you spot a sick or dead wild bird

In B.C., the Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Program hotline, **1-866-431-2473**, enables members of the public to report sightings of dead wild birds. Be prepared to submit details like where you found the bird or discuss options for carcass submission to allow them to gather information about the health of wild populations.

If the report is assessed to require further investigation a biologist may retrieve the carcass for further testing.

For non-influenza and general flock health enquiries, bird owners can contact the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Animal Health Centre at **1-800-661-9903**.

More information about AI and the Ministry's and CFIA's response is available here: [Avian Influenza \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://AvianInfluenza.gov.bc.ca) or [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](http://AvianInfluenza(birdflu)-CanadianFoodInspectionAgency(canada.ca)).