

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly.

Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect all domestic poultry - small and backyard flocks, as well as commercial industries.

**Poultry with HPAI do not survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.**

## Signs and Symptoms

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death
- Quietness among the flock

## Biosecurity Guidelines

### Keep your Distance

- Restrict visitor access to your birds
- Prevent contact with wild birds (especially waterfowl)
- Refrain from visiting other poultry operation locations

### Keep it Clean

- Have dedicated clothing and footwear when working with your birds
- Disinfect footwear before entering your barn or coop
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling your birds

### Wildlife Control

- Reduce availability of food, water and any potential nesting areas for wild birds
- Fix holes in roofs, screens and walls of poultry barns or coops

### Don't Haul the Virus Home

- Clean and disinfect all wheels on vehicles that have visited a poultry farm
- Clean and disinfect all equipment borrowed from other poultry producers

### Know the Symptoms

- Watch for signs and symptoms listed above.

**DON'T WAIT TO REPORT SICK BIRDS.**

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VETERINARIAN  
OR THE OKLAHOMA STATE VET'S OFFICE at 405.522.6141**

