

Avian Influenza (AI) Factsheet

Can you get AI from eating poultry or eggs?

- AI is not a food-borne illness in the U.S. Any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) infected poultry would not be allowed entry into the food chain. Any infected flock would be destroyed.
- Properly prepared poultry meat and eggs are safe to eat. Cook poultry to an internal temperature of 165 F.

What type of poultry monitoring is being done?

- AI has been a concern to the poultry industry long before the HP H5N1 strain appeared. Monitoring in the U.S. for AI is routine and will be continued.
- In New Hampshire, the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory conducts AI testing on commercial and backyard poultry. Wild waterfowl and other wild bird testing is coordinated by NH Fish & Game and USDA Wildlife Services. Animal necropsies are performed on poultry and wild waterfowl samples submitted to the laboratory by state or federal officials.
- Many flocks, commercial and small scale, are tested as part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan which includes AI surveillance.
- State regulation requires testing prior to importing, selling, or exhibiting poultry.



What is the risk to domestic birds from wild waterfowl with H5N1?

- No one knows if, when, or where transmission might occur.
- Domestic poultry kept sheltered and separated from wild birds are at low risk of direct transmission.
- Strict biosecurity is the best way for all poultry growers (commercial and backyard) to protect their flocks from all diseases, including AI.

Where do I find more information about biosecurity?

- [USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Resource Center](#)
- Also, USDA APHIS is hosting a **free webinar on Thursday, March 3rd at 2:30pm ET** for new or small flock owners. Experts from USDA APHIS and CDC will share tips for starting or growing flocks and how to keep birds and people healthy from Salmonella and other infectious diseases. Register here: bit.ly/APHISWebinar_March2022. Updates about the webinar can be found on Defend the Flock's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Does NH have a plan to deal with Avian Flu?

- Yes, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food (DAMF) has a State Response and Containment Plan for Avian Influenza. This plan would partner with USDA's national response plan.
- DAMF would collaborate with a number of state and federal entities in response to identification of HPAI in domestic birds.