



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

September 6, 2022

From: Dr. Keith Lehman
Chief Provincial Veterinarian

To: Alberta Backyard/Small-Flock Poultry Keepers

Re: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Update #5

Summary:

- **Since spring there have been 35 Alberta premises infected with the federally and provincially reportable disease, HPAI. Cases included 22 commercial poultry operations, 12 small/backyard poultry flocks, and 1 commercial game bird flock.**
- There were no new cases between June 2 and July 28, but 4 new cases since, so a resurgence of cases in conjunction with the upcoming fall migration is becoming apparent..
- Primary control zones around infected premises were established by the CFIA. At this time, the majority of primary [control zones](#) have been lifted, but new ones are being put into place.
- Cases have involved premises with ALL levels of biosecurity.
- Migratory wild birds as well as some wild mammalian species also tested positive for HPAI during this outbreak. Please visit [Avian Influenza in wild birds](#) for more information on HPAI in wild birds.
- The virus can survive in the environment for extended periods in the right conditions. A high viral load in the environment near your flock poses a significant risk.
- Events where poultry from different locations may commingle, such as swaps/sales, auctions, fairs, or shows, carry a risk of transmission of poultry diseases.
- **Good biosecurity and increased vigilance are still your best defense against HPAI.**

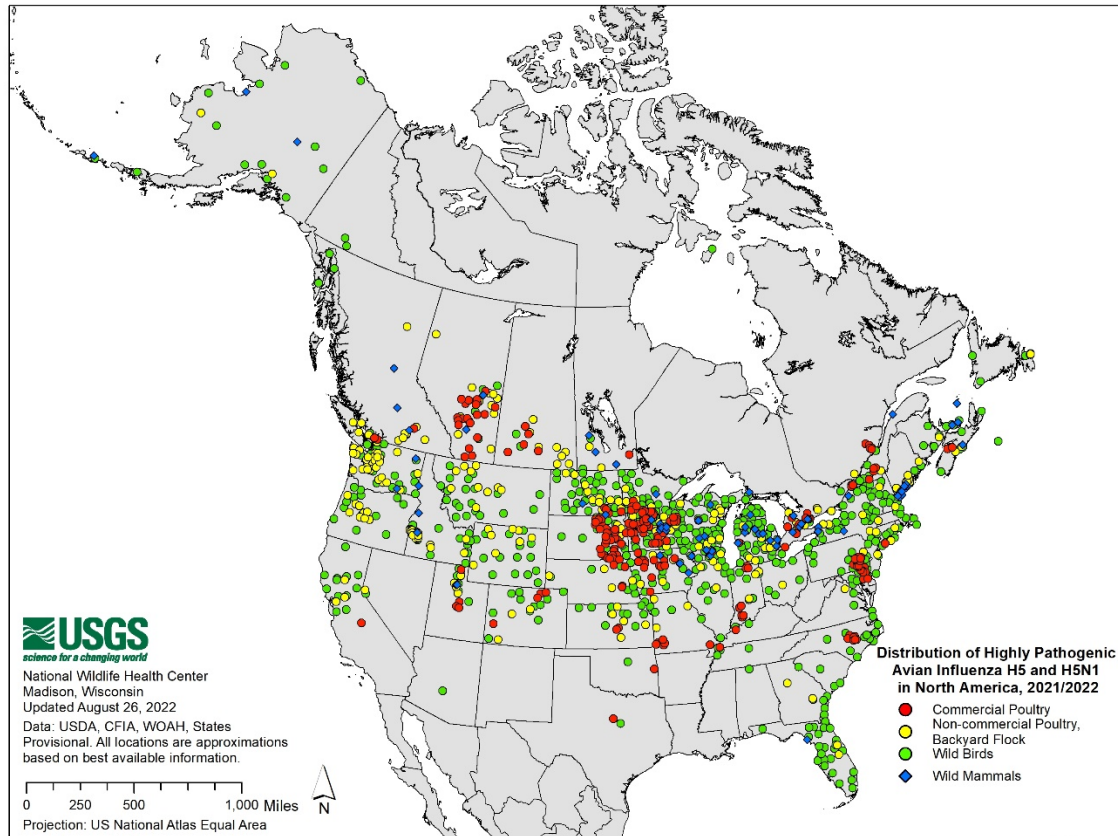
What should you do if you suspect your flock may have HPAI?

**Contact your flock veterinarian and/or
The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV): 1-780-427-3448**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED) also has an ongoing Non-Quota, Non-Commercial Disease Investigation Poultry Program to help small-flock poultry owners and their veterinarians (for flocks with symptoms that meet specific criteria). Please visit [Non-quota or non-commercial poultry disease investigations](#) for more information about this program.

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 and/or the Government of Alberta website at <https://www.alberta.ca/avian-influenza-reportable.aspx>

August 26, 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>



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

Continue to take a pro-active approach to protecting your flock

- Be aware of your flock's environment and health.
- Think of ways to manage your flock should HPAI cases increase again during fall migration.
- Be mindful of the fact that HPAI may still be in your surrounding environment
- Continue to report signs of illness and sudden deaths in your flock to your flock veterinarian and/or the OCPV.

Increased biosecurity is still your best defense (against ALL poultry diseases).

- Please continue to be mindful about the visitors you choose to allow near your flock.
- Avoid visiting other premises that keep poultry.
- Have a separate coop at least 30 feet from your main coop. House and monitor new additions there for a minimum of 30 days before introducing them to your flock.
- Have dedicated footwear and dedicated clothing for accessing your coop. Do not wear these outside your coop/run. Keep them separate from your other footwear/clothing.
- Consider the risk of free-ranging the flock; rather, keep your flock indoors during migration.
- Wash hands before and after attending to any poultry

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian by email at chief.prov.vet@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-3448. (Toll Free 1-800-524-0051)