

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Basics

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## What is HPAI?

HPAI is an extremely contagious virus found in many bird species (most often in migratory waterfowl like ducks, geese, and swans) and can be transmitted to domestic birds (such as chickens and turkeys).

## Does HPAI present any food safety concerns?

No poultry products (meat or eggs) from HPAI-positive flocks enter the food chain. It is safe to eat properly handled and cooked poultry products in the United States.

## How is HPAI spread?

HPAI is spread directly through the droppings, saliva, and nasal discharges of infected birds as well as indirectly through any equipment, feed/feed ingredients, water sources, bedding, and/or clothing and shoes of caretakers that may have been exposed to infected birds.

## Why is HPAI a concern?

Domestic birds are very susceptible to HPAI, causing high death loss in flocks. These losses can lead to significant economic impacts.

## What is the best way to protect Michigan's domestic birds?

Taking any action necessary to prevent domestic birds from having contact with wild birds and the germs this wildlife could be carrying. This is known as biosecurity.

## What are the main signs of HPAI in domestic birds?

Look for multiple unusual deaths within a 24-hour period, a drop in egg production, a significant decrease in water consumption, and/or multiple sick birds. HPAI is NOT evidenced by one dead bird or one sick bird in a flock while the rest are healthy.

## What should people do if they see sick birds?

**For domestic birds:** Call the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours).

**For wild birds:** Call the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at 517-336-5030.

## Can people catch HPAI?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern; and at this time, there have been no human cases in the United States.