



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 23, 2024

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Chief Medical Executive
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Public Health recommends postponing all educational visits to dairy and poultry farms due to influenza A (H5N1) activity

Across the United States, influenza A (H5N1) has been spreading among wild birds. Influenza A (H5N1) outbreaks have also occurred in many domestic dairy and poultry farms in the U.S – including farms in a number of [Michigan counties](#).

Since 2022, there have been [three confirmed human cases](#) of influenza A (H5) related to bird and dairy exposure in the U.S., including one human case recently identified in [Michigan](#).

Health officials stress that the current risks to the general public [are low](#). However, to reduce the spread of this disease between farms and to prevent additional infections in humans, the United States Department of Agriculture and [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development \(MDARD\)](#) recommend that dairy and poultry farms [delay or stop non-essential visitors](#) from entering farms.

To align with these recommendations, MDHHS advises that schools, day cares and summer educational programs **postpone field trips to dairies and poultry farms in Michigan** until further notice.

If travel to a dairy or poultry farm has occurred, we urge programs to ask visitors to monitor themselves for any influenza-like symptoms (below) for 10 days after that visit and report any symptoms back to the program leader. If symptoms occur, the program needs to contact the local health department in their area (find your local health department, [here](#)). Your

local health department will ask for details about the farm and activities that took place during the visit to determine next steps.

Influenza-like symptoms in humans include fever, cough, sore throat, congestion, difficulty breathing, conjunctivitis (red, irritated eyes), sneezing, fatigue, body aches, headaches, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, seizures and/or rash.

To learn more, visit MDARD's H5N1 [webpage](#) or contact your [local health department](#).

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

CC: Nonpublic Schools
Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments