



WHAT TO KNOW REGARDING BIRD FLU (AVIAN INFLUENZA)

While the risk to the general public is low, it is important to take precautions to protect your health and prevent the spread of the virus.

BACKGROUND

Bird flu is a viral infection that primarily affects wild and domestic birds. It does have the potential to infect other animals and humans. Most human cases occur by direct contact with infected animals, bird or cattle, and contaminated surfaces.

The main strain of bird flu to be aware of is H5N1. The first human case of H5N1 was confirmed in April 2024. By December 2024, 66 total human cases have been confirmed in 10 states, including Wisconsin.

REPORTING

If you see multiple sick or dead birds, report to

Red Cliff Wildlife
715-779-3795

Red Cliff Warden
715-779-3732

WAYS TO STAY SAFE:



AVOID CONTACT WITH SICK OR DEAD BIRDS

- Do not touch or handle wild birds
- Report unusual bird deaths to Red Cliff Wardens and/or Wildlife Department



PRACTICE SAFE FOOD HANDLING

- Cook all meat, including wild birds and poultry, thoroughly to 165F
- Purchase pasteurized milk
- Disinfect knives, tools, and surface after processing birds
- Keep raw meat separate from other foods and use dedicated cutting boards and utensils



PROTECT PETS

- Keep pets away from wild birds and areas with bird droppings



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after being outdoors
- Disinfect surfaces that may have come into contact with the bird droppings



DO NOT FEED WILD BIRDS

- Feeding birds can encourage them to gather in large groups which can increase the risk of disease spread



MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

- If you experience flu-like symptoms after handling birds, contact your healthcare provider

RESOURCES

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/avian.htm>
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/disease/Avianinfluenza>