



# Report Avian Influenza

Avian influenza (AI) is a contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild birds. The AI virus of concern for New Zealand is high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI). HPAI causes severe clinical signs and high mortality rates in birds. New Zealand has never had a case of HPAI. If HPAI arrived here, it could severely impact a variety of bird species, including our native birds.

## Clinical signs

The most obvious sign of HPAI is several dead birds. Other signs vary, depending on the affected bird species. These include:

### In wild birds:

- lethargy or a reluctance to move, droopy head, paralysis, or incoordination (neurological signs);
- coughing, panting, and nasal secretions;
- severe diarrhoea.



### In poultry:

- unusual or unexpected drop in egg production;
- reduced appetite;
- darkened and/or swollen comb/wattle;
- lethargy;
- severe diarrhoea.



## Report it

If three or more birds in a group are sick or dying, report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline: **0800 80 99 66**. This is operated 24 hours, 7 days a week. Your call will be answered by our experienced call centre staff, who will take some details from you. One of our incursion investigators will then assess your notification and contact you.

## Do not touch birds with suspected HPAI

Ensure you wait for instructions from one of our incursion investigators before handling any sick or dead birds.

For backyard poultry that are unwell or dying, the public should first contact their veterinarian to rule out more common diseases.

## Practice good biosecurity

To help prevent the spread of disease, always practice good biosecurity and hygiene when dealing with birds in your everyday work.

- Keep sick and healthy birds separate in poultry.
- Protect yourself: Wear disposable gloves and wash your hands after handling wild birds and/or poultry.
- Clean footwear and change clothes after contact with wild birds and/or poultry.
- Have good pest management around poultry.



-  **1** Record the precise location of birds, e.g. address or GPS coordinates
-  **2** Record the estimated numbers affected, those unaffected and possible species.
-  **3** Take clear photos or videos of sick and dead birds
-  **4** Call **0800 80 99 66**

Read more here:



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**0800 80 99 66**

KO TĀTŌU THIS IS US