Updated February 09, 2023

HPAI Guidance for Poultry Shows, Swaps, and Commingling Events

# Current Situation

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus was detected in the United States in the wild bird population in January 2022 and in the domestic poultry population in early February of 2022. It has since been confirmed in 755 flocks across 47 states impacting more than 58.3 million domestic birds nationwide. HPAI is a highly contagious and fatal foreign animal disease in domestic poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, and guinea fowl). Wild waterfowl and shorebirds serve as a reservoir for influenza viruses and can spread the virus to domestic poultry. There is no vaccination or treatment for this disease; the only control method is depopulation of affected flocks. Some strains of HPAI can also be zoonotic (transmitted to people).

Since spring of 2022, HPAI has been confirmed in 21 domestic poultry flocks in Colorado impacting more than 6.2 million poultry across the state. Disease detection has been confirmed in both wild and domestic birds in 34 counties across Colorado. Updates on detections in Colorado can be found at: [ag.colorado.gov/HPAI](https://ag.colorado.gov/HPAI)

As this outbreak is ongoing and dynamic, the current guidance may be subject to change.

# What Flock Owners Can Do

**Increase Biosecurity:** At this time, we are asking all poultry owners to increase biosecurity measures to keep their birds healthy. The most important biosecurity practices that flock owners can take include limiting exposure of their birds to wild birds and other poultry flocks and limiting introduction of new birds into their flocks. The [USDA Defend the Flock](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources) [website](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources) has helpful resources for keeping poultry healthy in any operation.

**Monitor For Illness:** Monitor your flock for [clinical signs of HPAI](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/bfb-photo-gallery/photo-gallery), including production parameters (decreased feed and water consumption, egg production) and increased mortality. Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases. Contact your veterinarian if illness is noticed in your flock.

**Report Sick Birds:** Don’t wait. Report suspicious disease events in domestic poultry to the State Veterinarian’s Office at

(303) 869-9130 or the CSU Avian Health line (970) 297-4008.

# Poultry Event Guidance

Commingling of birds presents a risk for disease introduction and transmission of this highly fatal disease. The decision to postpone or cancel poultry shows, sales, swaps and events is up to the local event organizers, except in the case of quarantine, health order, or movement restriction – whether all-state or site-specific. If shows and events take place, the State Veterinarian's office strongly recommends that event organizers implement extra precautionary measures to minimize the risk of transmission of HPAI.

**Prior To Event:** Flock owners should monitor the health status of their flocks prior to the event. Any flock showing signs of illness or mortality should not be permitted to enter the event. As a reminder, all poultry entering Colorado from out-of-state must meet the [poultry import requirements](https://ag.colorado.gov/poultry).

**During Event:** Event organizers should develop site and event specific biosecurity and monitoring plans. If birds become ill during the event, those birds should be isolated and reported to the State Veterinarian’s Office. The CFSPH toolkit “[Bring](https://bluenotflu.org/) [Home the Blue, not the Flu](https://bluenotflu.org/)” is a helpful resource for event participants on implementing biosecurity and limiting disease spread during events.

**Post Event:** Flock owners should isolate their birds for 14 days and monitor for signs of illness. This can help prevent introduction of disease to the rest of the birds at home. Equipment and cages used at the event should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use at home.

