



What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza (AI), commonly known as "bird flu". It is a Type A influenza virus that affects various birds, including chickens, turkeys, quails, and wild birds. It can also affect many other mammals such as cats, dogs, raccoons, skunks, foxes, bears, ocean (seals, sea lions) and farm animals (cows, goats).

Types of Bird Flu

There are two main types of Avian Influenza:

- Low Pathogenic AI (LPAI), which typically causes mild illness or no symptoms,
- Highly Pathogenic AI (HPAI), which can lead to severe illness and death.

**Pathogenic is a term that refers to viruses, bacteria, and other germs that can cause disease.*



Traveler Tips to Prevent AI Spread

Travelers should avoid contact with live birds and areas where birds congregate, especially in regions with outbreaks. Upon returning home, it's important to wash clothes, disinfect footwear, and avoid farms or wildlife for a period to prevent the potential spread of the virus.

More information

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/>

<https://cdc.gov/bird-flu/virus-transmission/avian-in-other-animals.html>

This event's information is for general purposes only and not a substitute for professional advice. Always consult your healthcare provider or veterinarian. The organizers and speakers are not responsible for actions taken based on this information. In an emergency, seek immediate help.

Understanding Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)



Avian Influenza in Pets

Bird flu cases in pets are rare but have recently been reported in cats in Canada and the USA. Infected pets can become very sick or die. To protect them, keep cats indoors, leash dogs, and prevent contact with birds or wildlife. Avoid letting pets eat or play with dead birds or consume raw poultry or game meat.

Signs of Avian Influenza in Animals

Infected birds may lay fewer eggs, have diarrhea, swollen eyes, low energy, appetite loss, nasal discharge, coughing, and face a high risk of death. Infected pets may present fever, reduced appetite, lethargy, eye irritation, breathing issues, or nervous symptoms like tremors or seizures, and in severe cases, they can die. If your pet shows these signs after contact with a sick bird or wildlife, contact your veterinarian.

Avian Influenza in Humans

While rare, people can get the bird flu from close contact with infected birds (e.g., litter, poop, saliva, body fluids) or contaminated environments. Those who work with potentially infected poultry or dead birds should wear protective clothing, like masks, gloves, and boots. There have been no cases of person-to-person spread of the bird flu. The risk of getting bird flu from an infected cat or dog is extremely low.

How Avian Influenza Spreads

Wild birds are natural carriers of this virus and can spread it to domestic birds and other mammals through direct contact or contaminated environments.

Survival Time of the Virus

The AI virus can survive longer in cooler temperatures and on various surfaces, making thorough cleaning and disinfection essential to control its spread.

Global Presence of Avian Influenza

AI is found worldwide, including in Canada. Ongoing monitoring and reporting help track and manage outbreaks.

