

REPORT SICK BIRDS

- Report die-offs or unusual sickness in domestic poultry or wild birds so incidents may be investigated. Early detection can make a difference!
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have stepped up surveillance for Avian Influenza in domestic poultry and wild birds.

Domestic Birds

Report unusual sickness or die-offs in domestic poultry to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry at 850-410-0900, or after hours 1-800-342-5869.

www.FDACS.gov/ai

Wild Birds

Report dead wild birds to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at <https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/health/mystery/> or to your local FWC Office.

Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock.
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge.
- Watery and green diarrhea.
- Lack of energy and poor appetite.
- Drop in egg production.
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement.

How to Protect Your Flock:

- Keep your distance by limiting traffic onto and off of your property.
- Keep it clean; use bleach or other disinfectant on your shoes, clothes, hands, cages, equipment and vehicle tires. Dispose of dead birds properly.
- Don't haul diseases home; if you have been around other birds follow steps above, if you have shown your birds at fairs or exhibitions keep them separated from the rest of the flock for 2 weeks after the event and new birds should be kept separated for at least 30 days.
- Know the warning signs of diseases; early detection is important to preventing the spread of disease.
- Report sick birds – domestic and/or wild.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

For Bird Handlers

- Work in well-ventilated areas when working indoors.
- Work upwind of birds to decrease risk of inhaling aerosols such as dust, feathers or dander, when working outdoors.
- When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that are disposable or can be disinfected.
- When possible, wear protective eye wear or face shield while handling birds.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds.

For Hunters and Others Handling Birds

- Precautions should include hand washing, proper food preparation and clean up, and thorough cooking.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game, and thoroughly wash hands and all knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Avian influenza viruses are destroyed by heat and not transmitted through cooked food. All fowl should be cooked thoroughly (well done or 165 degrees F).

