



Bird Flu Spreads Through

- Direct contact with infected animals.
- Contaminated surfaces such as, clothing, shoes, tools, or vehicles.

Look for Signs of Bird Flu in Wildlife

- Lack of energy or unusual behavior.
- Swimming or walking in circles, head tilting, shaking, or seizures.
- Swollen eyes or nasal discharge.
- Difficulty flying or sudden unexplained death.

Remember to Report

- Report sick or dead wildlife to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) **1-833-PGC-WILD**.
- Report domestic birds suspected to have HPAI to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) **1-717-772-2852, option 1**.

Special Guidance for Hunters With Backyard Birds

Clean tools, equipment, and shoes thoroughly after handling wild game.

Dress game in the field whenever possible. If not, do it far away from your flock.

Use dedicated tools and footwear for game processing and never use them near any flocks.

Double-bag carcass remains and dispose of them in secure trash bins, inaccessible to animals or poultry.

If your backyard birds show signs of being sick or start dying, notify the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) at **1-717-772-2852** option **1** immediately.

Special Guidance for Hunters When Around Commercial Poultry or Dairy Operations

Check with owner/manager about facility procedures to follow before and after hunting. **All clothes or shoes worn hunting should NOT be worn around domestic animals,** including commercial poultry or dairy facilities.

BIRD FLU GUIDANCE FOR HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS IN PENNSYLVANIA




Protect Yourself, Your Community, Your Dogs, Wildlife, and Backyard Birds from Bird Flu

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), also known as bird flu, is a contagious virus that affects wild birds, poultry, and sometimes mammals.

Pennsylvania Wild Animals at Higher Risk of Getting Bird Flu

 Waterfowl geese, ducks, and other water birds.	 Wild Poultry wild turkeys and grouse.	 Scavenger Birds Crows, gulls, ravens, and vultures.	 Predatory Birds Eagles and hawks.	 Mammals: Foxes, skunks, raccoons, bobcats, bears, and other predators.
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Safety Guidelines for Hunters and Trappers

Before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Pack disposable gloves, well-fitting masks, eye protection, and cleaning supplies. Pack both soap and water for cleaning and a bleach solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water for disinfecting. • Get a Flu Vaccine: Protect yourself from seasonal flu before heading out.
During	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch or harvest animals that are sick or found dead. • Prevent dogs from interacting with sick or dead animals. • Dress game in a well-ventilated area while wearing PPE. • Avoid eating, drinking, smoking, or touching your face while handling game. • Keep it clean by washing hands thoroughly with soap and water often.
After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After hunting or dressing game, clean and disinfect shoes, tools, and surfaces first with soap and water, then with a bleach solution. • Wash clothes in hot water with detergent and dry on high heat. • Bathe dogs with pet shampoo to remove any potential contamination. • Cook all game meat thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165°F. • Never use raw meat, organs, or carcass parts to feed dogs or other animals.
Look for Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Hunter and Trappers: Watch for symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, eye redness or irritation, or breathing trouble for 10 days after contact with game.  Dogs: Monitor their health and seek veterinary care immediately if they show signs of being sick.  NOTE: If symptoms appear, call 1-877-PA-HEALTH. Call ahead before seeing a health care provider or veterinarian to let them know about a possible bird flu exposure.

Stay Vigilant

By following these precautions, you can protect yourself, your dogs, and Pennsylvania's wildlife from the spread of HPAI.

For more information, visit:

- [PA Game Commission Wildlife Health Resources](#)
- [PA Department of Agriculture HPAI Resources](#)
- [PA Department of Health](#)