



#### Bird Flu Spreads Through:

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

#### 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.



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

## 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](#).

### Safety Guidelines for Hunters and Trappers

#### Before

- **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

- **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

- **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



**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.

#### Scan a code for more information



Pennsylvania  
Department  
of Health Bird  
flu Resources



Pennsylvania  
Department  
of Agriculture  
HPAI  
Resources



Pennsylvania  
Game  
Commission  
Wildlife Health  
Resources