

H5 Bird Flu – Latest information

3 July 2026

Current situation

As of 3 July 2026, there are no H5 bird flu detections in Victorian wildlife or in poultry.

Australia has had five cases of H5 bird flu in wild migratory seabirds confirmed by CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP). There are four confirmed cases in Western Australia (WA) and one in South Australia (SA). There is a further suspect detection in WA and New South Wales (NSW) is currently responding to a suspected positive case of H5 bird flu.

At this stage, there is no evidence that the virus has spread beyond migratory seabirds and no evidence of mass mortality in wildlife or other animals.

There have been no detections in poultry in Australia.

The current risk of bird flu to people in Australia is low. Bird flu is not a food safety risk for chicken meat and eggs if they are handled and cooked correctly.

As we have seen the global spread of the H5 bird flu virus, Victoria has been focusing on preparedness and is well-advanced to support early detection, assessment and response. If you see something unusual, don't ignore it.

Thank you for your reports

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to report sick or dead birds and wildlife. Community reports play a vital role in Victoria's animal disease surveillance system and help us detect and respond to potential biosecurity threats quickly.

What happens when a report is received?

Every report is assessed by animal health and wildlife experts. This includes information such as the location, species, number of animals and whether symptoms are consistent with H5 bird flu. This helps us determine the level of risk and whether further investigation and/or testing is required.

If a report suggests a possible case of H5 bird flu, it may be escalated for a field investigation. Samples may be collected and taken to our diagnostics team at AgriBio in Bundoora and, where required, CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) in Geelong. The results help inform our response and any management actions.

View wildlife reports across Victoria

[You can view these reports on our interactive map.](#)

This map shows reports of sick or dead birds in Victoria, including wild birds and marine mammals. This map is updated daily. Data is also added from DEECA's bird flu wildlife surveillance program.

Signs of bird flu

Keep watch for signs of bird flu.

Wild birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can't stand, walk, or fly properly• Droopy or puffed-up appearance• Breathing problems (panting or sneezing)• Unusual head or neck posture• Sudden death (especially in large numbers)
Poultry (chickens, ducks, etc.)	<p>The first sign of bird flu may be the sudden death of some poultry. Other signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• rapid drop in feed intake• drop in egg production• typical 'sick bird' signs - ruffled feathers, depression, closed eyes• diarrhoea• birds having trouble breathing, coughing or sneezing• swelling around the head, neck and eyes• discharge from the eyes (conjunctivitis)• twisted necks or unusual posture.

What can you do

For poultry:

If you suspect avian influenza in **poultry**, please call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](tel:1800675888).

For birds and wildlife:

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead birds, wildlife or their environment
- **RECORD** what you see
- **REPORT** wildlife sickness or deaths to DEECA using the [online form](#) or call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](tel:1800675888).

Report clusters of 5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

Report even one sick or dead:

- wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey.
- marine mammal (e.g. seal, sea lion, dolphin).

Following a report, DEECA will assess each report and decide if testing is needed.

Protect your backyard poultry

Bird flu can affect pet and farmed poultry and good biosecurity is the key to protecting them.

Put in place good biosecurity measures to keep wild birds away from your poultry's food and water. These may include:

- keeping domesticated poultry away from open ponds, lakes, creeks or other watercourses used by wild birds
- separating poultry and their food and water from wild birds (for example, by using netting)
- making poultry enclosures wild bird and rodent-proof
- storing litter and feed securely to avoid contamination by wild birds

Other good biosecurity practices include:

- practising good hygiene at all times, such as handwashing before and after contact with birds
- keep your poultry sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean
- quarantining new birds or birds returning from a bird show until you are comfortable they are disease-free. This should be for at least 14 days
- purchasing poultry and birds, litter and feed from accredited sources
- not permitting visitors access to areas where poultry are kept
- using good biosecurity practices between and within properties. Clean your boots, vehicles and equipment before entering areas where poultry are kept.

Poultry should not share water from sources that wild birds frequent, as they can become contaminated and a source of infection. The safest water sources are::

- Treated (chlorinated) mains water
- Bore water that has been tested and is suitable quality for poultry (poultry have a low tolerance for saline water)

Talk to your vet for more advice on biosecurity measures for your backyard poultry.

For more information visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/H5N1-avian-influenza-H5-bird-flu/avian-influenza-information-for-backyard-poultry-owners

For commercial producers a range of resources are available at: agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/biosecurity-for-poultry-producers

Key links

Victoria

- [Agriculture Victoria website](#) for advice for landholders and wildlife carers
- [Agriculture Victoria Facebook](#)
- Advice about [managing dead birds on your land](#)
- Advice about [backyard poultry](#).

National

- [DAFF website](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [Bird flu \(avian influenza\) | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)

National resources

- [H5 Bird Flu Nature Poster January 2025 \(PDF 449 KB\)](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu Pet Birds Chickens Poster January 2025 \(PDF 3.0 MB\)](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu Veterinarians Office Postcard January 2025 \(PDF 574 KB\)](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu Nature Postcard January 2025 \(PDF 461 KB\)](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu Backyard Chicken Owner Poster January 2025 \(PDF 279 KB\)](#)

Wildlife carers

- [Avian influenza \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#)
- [National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines \(PDF 679 KB\)](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia HPAI Information and Resources](#)
- [National Avian Influenza Wild Bird \(NAIWB\) surveillance program](#)