

WORLD WIDE H5N1 UPDATE

As of 1 June 2006 there have been 224 reported cases of human H5N1 infections with 127 deaths. This is a 56.6% fatality rate, and is a reason for global concern. Most of the human cases and deaths have occurred in Asia; although there are growing numbers of cases in the Middle East. Cultural and social practices in these countries have put infected domestic poultry in close contact with humans and have resulted in human infections.



More information on avian flu is available at the following links:

USGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER:
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
<http://aphis.usda.gov>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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WHAT ABOUT MY RETRIEVER?

There have been no documented cases of HPAI H5N1 virus infecting dogs. Dogs used in retrieving waterfowl are not considered at risk of acquiring HPAI H5N1. Your vet should be consulted for more information about influenza in pets.



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Frequently asked Questions and Answers about Avian Influenza (AI)

HOW CAN INDIANA HUNTERS HELP?

Indiana waterfowl hunters can help monitor the health of the waterfowl population by reporting any die offs in their hunting area to local Indiana Department of Natural Resource Conservation Officers.

If H5N1 is identified in North America, enhanced surveillance may require that Indiana waterfowl hunters participate in the surveillance effort by allowing DNR biologists to take samples from harvested ducks and geese during the Indiana waterfowl season.

Please do your part to safeguard our waterfowl hunting heritage.

Q: Can humans catch Avian Influenza virus from wild birds?

A: There is no known case where wild birds have passed Avian Influenza virus to humans.

Q: How has the H5N1 strain of AI affected humans?

A: H5N1 has caused illness and death in people. Most human cases are thought to have been acquired through direct handling of infected poultry, eating uncooked or undercooked poultry products, or contact with virus-contaminated surfaces and materials. **DIRECT PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION OF THE H5N1 VIRUS HAS NOT OCCURRED EXCEPT FOR CLOSE FAMILY CONTACT.**

Q: How could the H5N1 strain reach North America?

A: H5N1 is most likely to reach North America through the movement of infected poultry, illegally imported birds and/or bird products, or through migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Q: How concerned should waterfowl hunters be about H5N1?

A: At this time, hunters should not be overly concerned, but should stay informed and educated on the issue. Public health organizations (local, state, federal and international) as well as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and other federal wildlife agencies will continue to provide up-to-date information on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1.

Q: How can I protect myself from the AI virus disease when handling wild birds?

A: Hunters should follow some common sense precautions when handling wild birds:

1. Never handle birds that are obviously sick or birds that are found dead.
2. Keep all harvested game birds cool, clean and dry.
3. Use nitrile or latex gloves when dressing game birds.
4. Keep your hands away from your eyes, mouth and nose after handling game birds.
5. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your game.
6. Wash hands with soap and water after cleaning birds.
7. Use waterless hand sanitizers in the field after handling game.
8. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately following dressing birds. Use hot soapy water and then disinfect with an approved sanitizing agent or a 10% bleach solution.
9. Cook all waterfowl (and poultry) to an internal temperature of 165F in order to kill any disease organisms.
- 10: Properly dispose of remains of field dressed birds.

Q: What is being done to detect HPAI H5N1 in migratory waterfowl and shore birds?

A: Some of the waterfowl that migrate through and into the U.S. intermingle with waterfowl in the areas of Eastern Siberia where cases of H5N1 have been detected in local waterfowl. State and federal scientists, public health officials and natural resource officials have developed a surveillance plan to monitor migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. One of the key surveillance sites is Alaska and the Pacific Flyway.

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WHAT HOOSIER WATERFOWLERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA (H5N1)

Bird Flu, or Avian Influenza (AI), is an infectious viral disease found in wild birds. Aquatic birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, are considered natural reservoirs of the virus.

A particularly virulent strain of AI virus has emerged in poultry and wild birds in Asia and Europe. This highly pathogenic form of the disease, HPAI H5N1, has caused death in domestic poultry and wild species of ducks, geese, swans, egrets, herons and gulls.

Highly pathogenic H5N1 has not been found in North America.

The spread of the virus into new regions in Europe and Asia raise concerns that the H5N1 virus could be carried to North America by migrating birds.

H5N1 virus has been responsible for numerous human deaths; but most cases have occurred from close contact with infected domestic poultry.

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