

H5 bird flu

Stay safe in your workplace

H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu has been detected in wildlife in Australia and has caused significant impacts in wild birds, poultry and other animals overseas.

Workers may encounter sick or dead birds or other wildlife during routine duties in parks, reserves, roadsides, public spaces and other outdoor areas. Everyone has a role to play in identifying and reporting unusual bird or wildlife deaths. If you observe multiple sick or dead animals, avoid contact, record what you see, and report it.

What you can do

AVOID - If you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife, do not touch them.

RECORD - Record your location and what you see. Take photos if safe.

REPORT - Report sick or dead wild birds or other wildlife using the online form at nt.gov.au/birdflu or if it is urgent call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Risk to humans

Infections in people are rare. Bird flu does not easily spread to people, and no infections of this strain have been reported in people in Australia.

Staying away from sick or dead birds and wildlife is the best protection. Infected animals shed the virus in secretions, faeces and other body fluids, and into the air.

Work health

To manage the risk of exposure to H5 bird flu in the workplace you must:

- have knowledge about H5 bird flu and the risks
- keep yourself updated with the latest information
- have appropriate cleaning procedures in place to minimise the risk of disease transmission
- be trained in workplace control measures
- wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Getting an annual flu vaccination is recommended.

Protect yourself - PPE

If a dead animal is found while undertaking work duties, avoid touching or moving it and keep members of the public away from the area. Report it online or to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline and follow any advice provided.

If advised that the carcass does not need to be collected or tested, and you need to move or dispose of it, protect yourself by wearing:

- waterproof disposable gloves
- P2/N95 respirator or surgical mask
- eye protection, such as safety goggles
- long-sleeved clothing
- enclosed shoes.

If possible use a shovel or tongs to remove the carcass. After handling, remove PPE carefully and wash hands thoroughly. Do not touch your face until your PPE has been removed and your hands have been cleaned.



Avoid.
Record.
Report.

For more information visit birdflu.gov.au or nt.gov.au/birdflu

