

Avian Influenza and Small Flock Health

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) would like to provide the following information and resources for small flock owners following the recent detections of Avian Influenza (AI) in B.C., as well as other provinces in Canada and the United States.

Commingling of birds restricted

The Ministry has released a General Order for Avian Influenza as per the *Animal Health Act* (AHA), restricting the commingling of birds during events that include poultry swaps, auctions, flea markets, bird shows, fairs, public displays or competitions where birds from multiple sources would be present. The order can be found here: [General Order: April 19, 2022: Avian Influenza \(Commingling\)](#) (PDF, 286 KB)

The ministry strongly requests and recommends that all small lot and backyard flock poultry and domestic waterfowl producers avoid commingling events. Protecting people and birds from avian influenza requires the cooperation and effort of everyone.

Bird species included in the order are: chicken, turkeys, doves, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, peafowl, pheasants, pigeons, quails, and ratites.

If a flock is suffering from any unexplained clinical signs or increased mortality, bird owners should contact a professional for help and sampling. **Do not take sick birds off the property.**

If a bird owner suspects their flock is infected

To receive assistance or to report any unexplained poultry illness or mortality contact:

- your private veterinarian, OR
- call the nearest Canada Food Inspection Agency Office, find the number here: <https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/contact-a-cfia-office-by-telephone/eng/1313255382836/1313256130232>
- the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Animal Health Centre at 1-800-661-9903
- Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as bird flu.

If a deceased wild bird is found:

In B.C., the Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Program hotline, 1-866-431-2473, enables members of the public to report sightings of dead wild birds. If the report is assessed to require further investigation a biologist may retrieve the carcass for further testing.



Information about AI and response efforts are available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-health/reportable-notifiable-diseases/avian-influenza-ai>

Permits and Movement Control Permissions

The Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has declared a primary control zones (PCZ) in BC to prevent the spread of avian influenza. See the Avian Influenza Zone Maps located here: <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/response-to-detections-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-ai-zones/eng/1648851134912/1648851359195>

A PCZ is an area where the disease has been identified. All transporters of birds, their products and by-products cannot be moved into, out of, within, or through the PCZ without a valid permit.

The restrictions in a PCZ applies to small flocks as well.

For further information on movement control and permitting, please visit:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/response-to-detections-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-/movement-control-permissions/eng/1648871137667/1648871138011>

Be aware of the following requirements for small flocks:

- For small holdings, including birds of any age, it is **prohibited** to move live birds into and out of the Primary Control Zones, including both infected zone and restricted zone.
- Small flock ungraded eggs (farm gate sales) require a **specific permit**.
- A **general permit** is required to move feed into a Primary Control Zone.

For more information on movement control and permitting call the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Avian Influenza hotline at **604-855-8255**. The support line is available every day (including holidays) from 8:30am to 6pm (PDT).