



## WHAT IS BIRD FLU?

Bird flu, also known as avian flu or H5N1, is a virus that spreads easily among birds causing many bird deaths. While rare, humans have been known to become infected with bird flu. Usually this occurs through very close contact with a sick bird.

Scientists predict that bird flu may change to become a new virus that can spread easily from human to human, causing a flu pandemic. But, pandemic flu does not have to come from bird flu.

### Wisconsin Bird Flu Efforts

- Wisconsin is monitoring and testing wild and domestic birds for signs of the disease.
- If necessary, Wisconsin will humanely destroy birds that have been exposed to the disease.
- Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources are working with Wisconsin health departments in case bird flu becomes an illness that could spread from person to person.

### Protect Yourself from Bird Flu

- Know the signs and symptoms of bird flu in birds: coughing, sneezing, respiratory distress, decreased egg production, and sudden death.  
Be careful when coming in contact with both wild and domestic birds.
- Cook poultry products to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit—this will kill the flu virus and other disease-causing viruses and bacteria.

### Protect Your Flocks from Bird Flu

There are several measures farmers or bird markets can take to protect their flocks.

- Watch your flocks for signs of the disease.
- Keep your flock away from wild birds.
- Keep all new birds away from your flock for at least one week—until you know that the new birds are healthy and will not infect your current flock with any diseases.
- Wash all equipment before and after use.
- Do not share equipment with others who raise birds.
- Limit access on and off your property.