

# H5 bird flu information for poultry producers

October 2026



## Protect your flock from H5 bird flu

**Strong biosecurity provides the best protection against H5 bird flu and other poultry diseases.**

All poultry producers have a role to play in protecting their birds, including through strong biosecurity practices and by remaining alert for signs of H5 bird flu.

To read this information in full and access industry resources, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu) or scan the QR code.



### Use a farm-specific biosecurity plan

Strong biosecurity is the best way to protect your flock. A farm-specific biosecurity plan helps identify how disease could enter or spread on your farm and sets out the measures needed to manage those risks.

Producers should work with their poultry veterinarian and use relevant industry-led guidance to develop, implement and regularly review biosecurity practices suited to their property and production system.

### How diseases can spread between poultry flocks

Diseases can spread in many ways, including through:

- contaminated equipment and vehicles moving between farms
- contaminated clothing and footwear worn by workers or visitors
- infected animals, including wild birds, insects, rodents and pets
- environmental contamination from wild bird droppings, including around sheds, on roofs and near areas where wild birds congregate
- feed or stored water contaminated by wild bird droppings or other organic matter, including through roof leaks
- untreated or inadequately sanitised water used for drinking or cooling.

### Manage people, vehicles and equipment

People, vehicles and equipment can transfer disease onto and between poultry properties.

To reduce risk:

- fence poultry areas and display signs at entry points to restrict access
- restrict visitors to essential visits only and maintain a stand down period for visits to different poultry premises provide clean boots and coveralls for essential visitors
- require workers and visitors to wash or sanitise hands before entering and after leaving poultry areas
- effective use of barriers between inside and outside areas including footbaths
- keep a record of all visitors to the property
- clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment before they enter poultry areas or move between properties.



## Prevent contact with wild birds, pests and other animals

Wild birds, pets, rodents and insects can contaminate poultry areas.

To reduce risk:

- prevent poultry from having contact with wild birds, pet birds and other animals
- secure poultry houses and ranges to prevent wild birds accessing birds, feed and water
- ensure water is adequately sanitised, particularly where source water may be accessed by waterfowl
- regularly clean areas around poultry houses to prevent wild bird droppings or other organic matter from being carried inside
- keep feed and water within protected poultry areas and avoid feeding poultry where wild birds can gain access
- maintain effective rodent and insect control programs
- do not allow pets inside poultry areas.

## Keep facilities clean

Keeping poultry facilities and surrounding areas clean helps reduce pests and disease.

To reduce risk:

- appropriately treat and manage wastewater and effluent
- appropriately store and safely dispose of waste and packaging from poultry facilities
- cut grass and control weeds around poultry areas
- remove unused equipment and rubbish that may provide shelter for pests
- clean up spilled feed promptly
- regularly clean and disinfect poultry houses, feeders, drinkers and equipment
- where applicable, use all-in, all-out management and thoroughly clean and disinfect poultry houses between batches or before introducing new birds.

## Manage dead birds appropriately

To reduce risk:

- remove dead birds from poultry areas at least daily
- store carcasses securely until disposal
- dispose of carcasses promptly using an approved method
- do not stockpile dead birds inside poultry houses
- report unusual illness or deaths immediately.

## Consider additional risk-based precautions

Depending on the risks at their property, producers should consider additional temporary measures to reduce contact between poultry and wild birds. These measures should complement, rather than replace, other biosecurity practices.

Any temporary housing or range restrictions should be implemented with appropriate management to maintain bird health and welfare. Producers should seek advice from their poultry veterinarian and refer to relevant industry guidance to determine appropriate biosecurity practices for their property and production system.

### Report suspected avian influenza immediately

If you notice unusual illness or deaths or changes in production in your birds, or suspect avian influenza, contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on **1800 675 888** immediately.

**[agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu)**



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