



# What you need to know about avian influenza (bird flu)



There are currently outbreaks of avian influenza in certain parts of Australia, caused by the high pathogenicity avian influenza H7 strain.

Australia remains free of the H5 strain that has caused deaths of poultry, wild birds and wild mammals overseas.

Regardless of where you are in Australia use the simple steps below to protect your birds and check them regularly for signs of disease.

## Bird flu signs:

- Sudden death
- Lethargy or reluctance to walk, eat or drink
- Droopy appearance or ruffled feathers
- Head or limb swelling
- Bruising of the wattle, comb, feet or skin
- Respiratory signs such as panting, nasal discharge or sneezing
- Diarrhoea
- Unusual head or neck posture, incoordination, inability to walk or stand
- Unusual decrease in egg production.

## How to protect your birds and chickens:

- Use housing or netting to restrict contact between your birds and wild birds
- Don't allow wild birds to access your bird's feed and water
- Keep equipment and your poultry yard or aviary clean – wash with detergent before applying a disinfectant
- Quarantine new birds before introducing them to your flock
- Limit visitor access to your birds
- Always wash your hands before and after handling birds and eggs
- Practice good hygiene at bird shows and comply with the event's biosecurity requirements.

## Reporting sick and dead birds

If you think your chooks or pet birds may have avian influenza contact your vet. In Australia, avian influenza is a notifiable disease which means, it must be reported to biosecurity authorities through the

**Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Find out more at [agriculture.gov.au/birdflu](https://agriculture.gov.au/birdflu)

