

What is Avian Influenza?

- Avian Influenza is a rapidly spreading viral disease that mainly affects birds.

Is it contagious, who is susceptible and how is it transmitted?

- Yes, it is contagious
- Although rare, humans and other mammals can be vulnerable to the disease
- The disease may spread through contact with infected animals or ingestion of infected food or water
- Birds are the most susceptible animal
- Exists naturally in wild birds

What are the symptoms?

- Cough
- Sneezing
- Respiratory distress
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden death

How do I avoid it or stop it from spreading?

- Notify veterinarian of any suspected disease
- Stay informed about the health of neighboring animals
- Do not move animals from farm to farm
- Keep flock away from wild birds
- Be sure the animals have no contact with contaminated animals
- Isolate new animals
- Restrict unauthorized people and vehicles from the farm
- Disinfect tires, equipment and clothing going on and off the farm
- Quarantine contaminated area and animals immediately
- Dispose of all dead animals properly
- Although there are vaccines available, there is not a vaccine that covers all 15 strains of the disease. Therefore, since there is no way to determine which strain will infect a flock, vaccines are generally not practical to prevent infection.

How is it treated?

- At this time there is no known treatment

Are there public health risks?

- Although rare, humans and other mammals can be vulnerable to the disease. If you have come in contact with the disease and are showing symptoms, report it to your physician immediately
- There have been no reported cases due to consumption of infected, cooked meat