

# This is an official **CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus: Identification of Human Infection and Recommendations for Investigations and Response

Currently, HPAI A(H5N1) viruses are circulating among wild birds in the United States, with associated outbreaks among **poultry and backyard flocks** and sporadic infections in mammals.

The current risk these viruses pose to the public remains low. However, people with recreational exposures to infected birds, cattle, or other animals are at higher risk of infection and should take appropriate precautions outlined in [CDC Recommendations for Farmer, Poultry, Backyard Bird Flock, and Livestock Owners; and Worker Protection](#).

### Recommendations for Farmers; Poultry, **Backyard Bird Flock**, and Livestock Owners; and Worker Protection

- [To reduce the risk of HPAI A\(H5N1\) virus infection](#), poultry farmers and poultry workers, **backyard bird flock owners**, livestock farmers and workers, veterinarians and veterinary staff, and responders should wear recommended PPE (e.g., the same PPE is recommended for persons exposed to any confirmed or potentially infected animals as for exposed poultry workers; for specific recommendations see: [PPE recommended for poultry workers](#)). This includes wearing an N95™ filtering facepiece respirator, eye protection, and gloves and performing thorough hand washing after contact, when in direct physical contact, or during close exposure to sick or dead birds or other animals, carcasses, feces, unpasteurized (raw) milk, or litter from sick birds or other animals confirmed to be or potentially infected with HPAI A(H5N1) viruses.
- [Workers should receive training on using PPE](#) and demonstrate an understanding of when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to correctly put on, use, take off, dispose of, and maintain PPE, and PPE limitations.

### Recommendations for the Public

- [People should avoid being near sick or dead animals](#) or surfaces contaminated with the animal's feces, litter, raw milk, or other byproducts when not wearing respiratory or eye protection.
  - Animals in which HPAI A(H5N1) virus infection has been identified include wild birds, poultry, other domesticated birds, and other wild or domesticated animals (including livestock such as cattle and goats).
- As always, people should not prepare or eat uncooked or undercooked food or related uncooked food products, such as unpasteurized (raw) milk or raw cheeses, from animals with [suspected or confirmed](#) HPAI A(H5N1) virus infection.

### For More Information

- General Information
  - [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus in Animals: Interim Recommendations for Prevention, Monitoring, and Public Health Investigations](#)
  - [Technical Update: Summary Analysis of Genetic Sequences of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Viruses in Texas](#)
  - [Information on Bird Flu](#)
  - [Past Outbreaks of Avian Influenza in North America](#)
  - [Transmission of Avian Influenza A Viruses Between Animals and People](#)
  - [Avian Influenza in Birds](#)
  - [Reported Human Infections with Avian Influenza A Viruses](#)
  - [Bird Flu Virus Infections in Humans](#)
- Information for Farmers, Workers, and Livestock and **Poultry Owners**
  - [CDC Healthy Pets, Healthy People](#)
    - ✦ [Farm Animals | Healthy Pets, Healthy People](#)
    - ✦ [Backyard Poultry | Healthy Pets, Healthy People](#)

