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Department of Agriculture,  
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### What is the risk to the public?

Avian influenza viruses can occasionally affect humans, and mammals, usually after close contact with infected poultry.

### What happens if AI is confirmed in Ireland?

#### Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- A 3 km Protection zone and a 10 km Surveillance zone will be placed around the infected premises for at least 21 days
- All infected poultry and captive birds will be slaughtered and eggs destroyed
- Checkpoints will be put in place to control movements of vehicles transporting poultry or poultry products
- An investigation will be carried out
- All contact flocks will be restricted and investigated
- All flocks inside zones that contain poultry will be examined at least once
- Movement of poultry, other captive birds, other animals from poultry farms, litter/manure, bird carcasses, meat and eggs will be prohibited

### What measures can you take to protect yourself and your animals?

- Prevent contact between poultry and wild birds
- Ensure houses, feed stores and shaving stores are rodent and bird-proof
- Feed and water free range birds indoors
- Prevent poultry access to ponds, lakes or rivers
- Staff and visitors should have no contact with wild birds
- Use foot dips at entrances to poultry houses
- Clean and disinfect equipment routinely

### What to do if you suspect disease?

Avian influenza is a notifiable disease, and if you suspect any bird or birds may be affected you must notify the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine immediately by contacting your local Regional Veterinary Office or by calling the National Disease Emergency Hotline 01 4928026 (out of hours). Do not move any poultry, carcasses or anything else (e.g. feed or waste) until a Department of Agriculture veterinary inspector has carried out an examination.

#### Further information

In the event of an outbreak, further information will be provided on the Department of Agriculture's website at:

[www.gov.ie/birdflu](http://www.gov.ie/birdflu)

Photo acknowledgments: Texas A&M, College of Veterinary Medicine



# AVIAN INFLUENZA

## Information Leaflet For Bird Owners

# How to recognise Avian Influenza

## Introduction

The purpose of this information leaflet is to increase public awareness about avian influenza (AI). This is a potentially very serious disease affecting food producing birds, pet birds and wild birds. The virus has also been found in humans, pigs, cats and dogs.

## What is avian influenza?

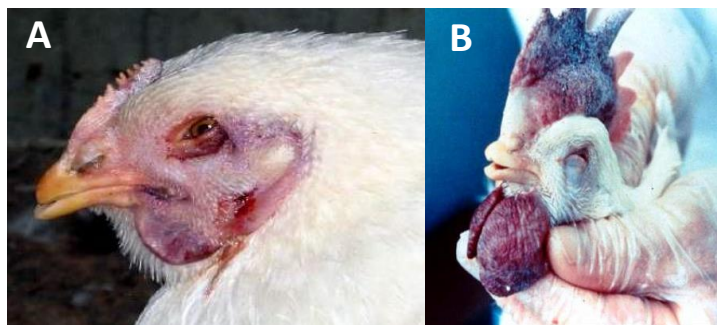
Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of many species of birds. It is caused by a Type A influenza virus. There are two types of AI virus. These are called low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI), depending on the severity of the disease that they cause in birds.

## Where is the disease found?

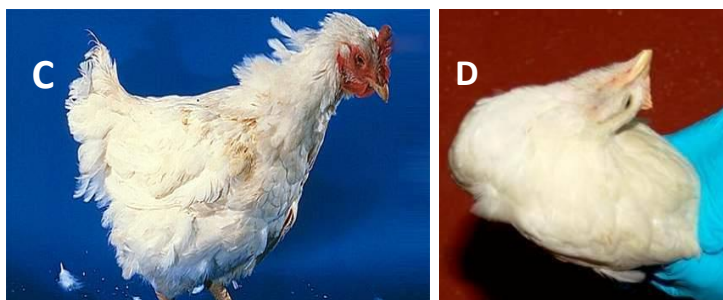
Avian influenza occurs worldwide and different strains are more prevalent in certain areas.

## How is the disease transmitted & spread?

Wild birds are considered the main source of infection, shedding virus in respiratory and digestive fluids. Subsequent contamination of water, feed and equipment allows entry of the virus into commercial poultry flocks, where high-stocking densities allow rapid spread between birds.



**A & B: Swollen head, and discharges; wattle and comb are cyanotic and necrotic**



**C: Ruffled feathers. D: Twisting of head and neck**



**E & F: Subcutaneous haemorrhage of shanks**

## Clinical signs of avian influenza

Symptoms may include any of the following:

### Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- Depression
- Loss of appetite & excessive thirst
- Cessation of egg laying
- Respiratory signs (coughing, sneezing)
- Ruffled feathers
- Nervous signs (drooping wings, dragging legs, twisting of the head and neck, circling, complete paralysis)
- Swelling and blue discoloration of combs and wattles
- Subcutaneous haemorrhage of shanks
- Diarrhoea
- Sudden death
- Mortality rates up to 100%

### Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)

- Mild respiratory disease
- Depression
- Drop in egg production