

## Avian Flu FAQ

1. Can I catch it?
  - a. Bird flu viruses do not typically infect people and no human infections in NY state have been reported, but there have been rare cases of human infection in the U.S. Farm workers, persons working with wild bird populations, and owners of chickens, ducks, geese, and other birds may be a higher risk of contracting the disease. There are multiple strains of avian flu, and they can be classified as highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenicity avian influenza. Humans can be infected with the disease if they are exposed to bodily fluids from an infected animal, but only 4 human infections have ever been identified in the United States and all cases were with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)\* A(H7N2) viruses and resulted in mild to moderate illness.
2. Avian flu symptoms?
  - a. Symptoms in birds include lack of energy or appetite, decreased egg production, swollen tissue, loss of balance, diarrhea, congestion, and respiratory distress.
  - b. Cats, which can contract bird flu by eating infected birds, drinking raw milk, and being around other infected animals, present with congestion, respiratory distress, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and abnormal behavior.
3. What do I do if I find a sick bird, or my birds are sick?
  - a. All groups of infected or dead birds should be reported immediately. If you suspect avian flu if you have poultry call 518-457-3502 for the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, if you have wild birds call the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at 718-482-4992 or at 518-478-2203, and please call 311 with any additional animal related concerns.
4. Can I still buy eggs?
  - a. Yes, you can still purchase eggs. As long as poultry and eggs are safely handled and cooked to 165 degrees Fahrenheit, they are safe to eat.

### Resources

1. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/avian-flu.page>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/inhumans.html>
3. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza>

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