



# H5N1 BIRD FLU: INTERACTING WITH WILDLIFE



H5N1 bird flu is caused by a virus that can lead to serious illness and death in birds and mammals. While human infection from bird flu viruses is rare, it is possible and can lead to severe illness and even death.

## Symptoms of H5N1 Bird Flu in Humans

- Coughing
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Eye tearing, redness or irritation
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Diarrhea
- Muscle aches
- Pneumonia
- Seizures
- Fever

## Pennsylvania Wild Animals at Higher Risk of Getting Bird Flu



**Geese**  
(including snow geese and Canada geese), ducks, and other waterfowl



**Wild poultry**  
including wild turkey and grouse



**Scavenger birds**  
including crows, gulls, ravens, and vultures



**Predatory birds**  
including eagles, and hawks



**Medium-sized mammals**  
including foxes, raccoons, and skunks



**Large predators**  
including bobcats, and bears

## If You Have Contact with a Bird or Animal that is Acting Sick or is Dead:

- 1 Report.** Dead wild birds and mammals may be reported to the Pennsylvania Game Commission through the online [Wildlife Health Survey](#) or by calling **1-833-PGC-WILD**. If you are part of a wildlife rehabilitation effort, notify your supervisor and organization's veterinarian immediately.
- 2 Reach Out.** Call the Pennsylvania Department of Health at **1-877-PA-HEALTH** (1-877-724-3258) to get more information about your risk and what you should do next.
- 3 Monitor.** Watch for H5N1 symptoms for **10 days** after you have contact with a sick or dead bird or animal and alert your health care provider **and** the Pennsylvania Department of Health right away if you develop symptoms. Tell your medical provider about your contact with sick or dead wildlife.
- 4 Avoid Other Birds.** Avoid contact with any other birds, especially domestic poultry (including backyard chickens), for at least 5 days after having contact with a sick or dead animal.

## Reduce Your Risk of Getting H5N1 Bird Flu

People who work or have recreational contact with infected birds or mammals are at higher risk of getting bird flu and should **consider the following prevention measures:**

<b>Use personal protective equipment (PPE)</b> when handling wildlife that could be infected with bird flu, including a quality <b>face mask, eye protection, and, disposable gloves.</b>	<b>Work outdoors</b> or in well-ventilated indoor environments.	<b>Wear dedicated clothing and footwear.</b> Launder, sanitize, and keep away from people.	<b>Change clothes and footwear and shower</b> after having contact with sick or dead birds.	<b>Wash hands after contact</b> with sick or dead birds or their environments and before taking breaks or eating and drinking.	<b>Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth</b> with unwashed hands.	<b>Closely follow guidelines</b> from the <a href="#">Pennsylvania Game Commission</a> if authorities ask you to dispose of a carcass.
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★ **More information** about H5N1 bird flu in people can be found on the [Avian Flu Fact Sheet](#).