



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) first reported on January 2, 2025, that avian influenza was suspected to have caused the death of wild waterfowl, specifically snow geese, discovered in northeastern Pennsylvania. Testing confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). While HPAI does not appear to significantly impact wild bird populations, it is particularly contagious and lethal to domestic poultry. Since this discovery, PGC has been working with our partners to address sick and dead birds reported on the landscape.

To best protect the health of wildlife, domestic animals, and humans, we are asking the public to assist us in this effort by doing the following:

- Those encountering other sick or dead wild birds can report them to the Pennsylvania Game Commission by calling **1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453)**, by emailing pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov or by using the online [Wildlife Health Survey](#) tool.
- If you have a dead wild bird on your property and haven't heard back from the Game Commission within 24 hours, you may wish to dispose of the carcass. Disposal via burial or commercial/residential trash is appropriate and will protect scavenging wildlife. If electing to dispose of the carcass, the following guidance is provided:
 - Before picking up the wild bird carcass, put on either disposable or washable gloves. If gloves are unavailable, a plastic bag can be used as a makeshift glove.
 - If performing on-site burial, a burial hole at least 2 feet deep will discourage scavenging. Do not bury the carcass in an area that could contaminate a water supply.
 - If disposing of the carcass in commercial/residential trash, place the carcass in a plastic bag along with any disposal gloves that were used, then place everything in a second plastic bag before disposal.
 - Once disposal is complete, immediately wash your hands and any non-disposable gloves that were used.

Avian influenza has impacts that extend far beyond wildlife, as such, we are working closely with the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to keep the public and animals safe.

- Any sick or dead domestic birds should be reported to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at **717-772-2852**.
- If you have had contact with sick or dead birds and are not feeling well, contact your primary care physician or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at **877-724-3258**.

Continue to monitor our website and social media platforms for the most current information.

Please reach out to our legislative team with any questions:

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