

## ATTENTION

# Hunters, gatherers, harvesters: What you need to know about bird flu in BC



Avian influenza (bird flu) is spreading among wild birds, poultry and other animals in BC. Sometimes it can spread to humans and make people sick. It's important to follow safety measures while hunting, gathering, and harvesting.

Here's what you can do to prevent the spread of bird flu:

### When hunting or gathering

#### Avoid sick wildlife

Don't touch birds or animals that appear sick or have died from unknown causes.



#### Report dead birds

Call BC's Wild Bird Reporting Line at  
**1-866-431-2473.**

### When cleaning game

#### Protect yourself

Work outdoors  
or in a space  
with good airflow.



Wear gloves  
and a mask.



#### Clean and disinfect well

Wash hands, tools,  
clothes, shoes and  
surfaces thoroughly.

Use hot soapy water and  
disinfectant (e.g., 25mL  
bleach in 2L water).

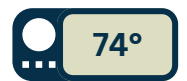
### When cooking game

#### Separate game

from other foods to  
avoid cross-  
contamination (e.g. use  
different cutting board)

#### Cook game well

Cook meat to an internal  
temperature of  
74°C (165°F) or  
higher.



Whole birds  
should reach  
82°C (180°F).



Avoid eating raw or  
undercooked eggs.



*Hunting and gathering are vital to our culture  
and way of life. It is our responsibility to protect  
wildlife, the environment and our communities.*



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

# Hunters, gatherers, harvesters: What you need to know about bird flu in BC

## What is avian influenza (bird flu)?

Avian influenza is a virus that spreads quickly among birds. Since 2022, cases have increased globally, affecting wild birds, poultry, and some mammals like skunks and foxes.

Humans can also get sick from handling infected birds or animals because the virus can survive on feathers and surfaces for weeks.

### How long the virus can survive at different temperatures:



### Signs of a sick bird

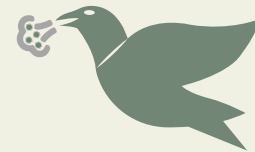
Do not touch sick or dead birds.



- Weakness or lack of movement
- Sudden death



- Swelling around the head, neck, or eyes
- Diarrhea



- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Difficulty breathing

**For more information:** [BCCDC Avian Influenza: How can I protect myself?](#)

**For general questions:** Contact the FNHA Environmental Health Team  
Email: [environmental.health@fnha.ca](mailto:environmental.health@fnha.ca)



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness