

Bird Flu and You

What to do if you see a dead bird!



Many people are asking what to do if they see a dead bird. That's because they have heard about a severe form of bird flu called "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1" that causes many bird deaths. It is also referred to as HPAI H5N1. In parts of the world where this bird flu is present, some people have gotten sick after touching sick or dead birds with bare hands. Others have gotten sick who live in areas where there are lots of droppings from sick birds. Right now, this form of bird flu has not been found in the United States. But it may come to this country sometime in the future.

It is important to know that this bird flu is not easy for people to catch. It does not easily infect people.

It's also important that you know what to do with a dead bird. Many diseases can cause birds to become sick. Birds carry germs that can make us sick. Because it is difficult to tell why a bird died just by looking at it, it is best not to touch it. Here are some other things that you can do:

If you find a dead crow, call 1-866-537-BIRD.

- Dead crows help track another disease that kills birds, the West Nile virus.
- Report all dead crows, whether it is only one crow or a group of them.

If you find many dead birds, other than crows, in the same place, call your regional office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

- DEC will decide if the dead birds need to be picked up and tested. This may be based on what kinds of birds you have found.
- The bird flu usually involves ducks and geese, not backyard birds.
- You do not need to report dead birds, other than crows, **unless** there are many dead birds in the same place.

If you must dispose of a dead bird, wear gloves and pick it up with a shovel.

- Put the dead bird in one bag and put that bag in a second bag.
- Then, throw it out in the trash. Or bury it away from a stream or water source.
- Wash your hands and tools with soap and hot water immediately.

Don't get worried when you see a dead bird. Get the facts!

To learn more about bird flu, visit
www.nyhealth.gov



H5N1 Avian Influenza