

# Avian Flu (Bird Flu)

Naat'a'igii bits'aadoo Ts'iihniidooh naalniih

Navajo Nation Veterinary and Livestock Program



## History of Bird Flu (Asian Strain)



Since December of 2003, at least eight Asian, more than five European and several African countries have had Bird Flu outbreaks. In February 2004, a different type of Bird Flu was found in a small farm in Texas and was quickly contained & eradicated. In 1983 and 1984, the last major Bird Flu outbreak was in Pennsylvania and cost the United States 60 million dollars to eradicate.

## What is Bird Flu?

Bird Flu (Asian Strain) is a contagious viral disease that can infect domestic and wild birds. In domestic birds, Bird Flu may cause a highly, contagious disease (HPAI) in chickens. The (LPAI) form of the disease can change into (HPAI). Bird Flu disease can affect: chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pheasant, quail, gulls and shorebirds. Wild birds can carry the virus, but usually do not get sick. Asian strain (H5N1) can spread in waterfowl and chickens.

## How does Bird Flu spread in Birds?

The virus can survive for long periods of time in secretions and fecal material. It can be spread by people, contaminated equipment and infected birds. Migrating water fowl have been the most frequent source of the disease. The disease can spread from bird to bird by contact. It can spread by manure, equipment, vehicles, egg flats/crates and people whose clothing or shoes have contacted the virus. A growing concern for the United States is the international movement of poultry and that people propose the risk of introducing Bird Flu (Asian Strain) into US poultry industry.

## Signs and symptoms of birds with Bird Flu:

The disease can range from no visible signs of infection to sudden death in birds. After exposed to the disease, signs & symptoms show within 3-5 days. This includes:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Sudden Death   | Depression               |
| Decrease feed and water consumption                                  | Decreased egg production |
| Diarrhea   | Soft eggs                |
| Respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing and sneezing)           |                          |
| Swollen heads, eyelids, combs and feet                               |                          |
| Hemorrhage (purple discoloration) of the comb, wattles, feet or legs |                          |
| Nervous conditions (lack coordination/balance)                       |                          |

Contact a local Navajo Nation veterinary clinic for any additional questions.

## United States is on the watch for Bird Flu in domestic and wild birds:

The Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program and the Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department request that the Navajo public also be on the watch for Bird Flu.

## What should I do if I see dead or sick birds?

- ❖ Notify your chapter, the grazing official and CHR
- ❖ Report the location to Fish & Wildlife (928) 871-6451, Resource Enforcement Office (928) 871-6701, Division of Emergency Management (928) 871-6892, or Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program (928) 871-6615

## Report suspect bird cases domestic and wild birds:

- ❖ Notify your chapter and the grazing official
- ❖ The Fish & Wildlife (928) 871-6451, Resource Enforcement Office (928) 871-6701, or Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program (928) 871-6615 and anyone of its Agency Veterinary Clinics (Chinle – (928) 674-2069, Shiprock (928) 368-1007 or Window Rock – (928) 871-6615)