

# FACT SHEET

## Bird Flu across the Métis Homeland (Avian Influenza Virus , Avian Flu, AI, AIV)



MÉTIS NATION

### TRANSMISSION

Avian Flu is typically an influenza virus A, carried primarily by waterfowl. Transmission among birds requires direct contact with fecal or respiratory secretions from infected birds or contaminated material.

**Transmission from birds to humans is relatively rare** and occurs mostly in people working closely with domestic poultry and contaminated material. Transmission could occur with prolonged and direct contact with sick birds and/or contaminated material.

*There have been no human cases of Bird Flu resulting from exposure to wild birds in North America.*

*Practice good hygiene if handling wild birds, wash your hands and avoid contact with your face.*

### HOW TO DECONTAMINATE AFTER CONTACT WITH WILD BIRDS

- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water before and after cleaning clothes.
- Outside or in a well-ventilated area while wearing gloves and glasses, remove all organic material from footwear and other contaminated clothes and equipment.
- Scrub using a solution of 25ml of bleach in 2L of water or hot water and a disinfectant following the label directions.
- Let items stand until surface is dry.
- If possible, decontaminate when travelling between different bird communities during harvest activities. At minimum remove organic material from boots and clothing between areas.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR CONSUMING WILD WATERFOWL

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while de-feathering or handling raw game products.
- Cook meat thoroughly, to an internal temperature of 74°C (165°F) and whole birds to 82°C (180°F).
- Wash hands and keep game products separate from other food.
- Thoroughly clean contaminated surfaces in work area, tools and clothing.



### SAFETY TIPS FOR COLLECTING EGGS

- Avoid harvesting eggs in areas where sick or dead birds have been found.
- Wear gloves (vinyl, latex, rubber, etc.) if possible, when collecting.
- Always wash your hands before and after handling eggs, use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Avoid touching face or eyes. Don't eat, drink or smoke while collecting.
- Try to collect clean eggs only. Avoid cracked or dirty eggs.





## GOING OUT WITH YOUR PETS

- Keep pets away from sick or dead wild birds and their feces.
- Avoid feeding pets any raw meat from game birds.

## SIGNS OF SICK BIRDS AND REPORTING

Signs of Avian Flu include:

- lack of movement,
- tremors,
- lack of coordination,
- swelling around neck and eyes, and
- coughing, gasping for air or sneezing.

If sick or dead birds are found, please report them to the following authority for tracking and public safety purposes:

**Alberta:** Alberta Environment and Parks Office at 310-0000

**B.C.:** Wild Bird Reporting Line at 1-866-431-2473

**Ontario:** Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781

**Saskatchewan:** Ministry of Environment at 1-800-567-4224

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-800-567-2033 also has an online reporting tool.

## For More information, Check Out:

Government of Canada Avian influenza in Wild Birds

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/avian-influenza-wild-birds.html>

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Avian Influenzas Fact Sheet

<http://www.cwhc-rccsf.ca/publications.php>

Government of Saskatchewan avian Influenza in Wild Birds

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/fish-and-wildlife-diseases/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds>

