

# Global avian influenza is on the rise - so is the risk

**The global level of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus detections in wild birds in the beginning of winter 2020/2021 is similar to the winter of 2014/2015, when HPAI was detected in North American wild birds and heavily impacted domestic fowl in the United States and Canada, according to the [United States National Wildlife Health Center](#).**

Highly pathogenic H5 AI is also being reported in several areas worldwide. According to the [OIE January 2021 situation update](#), there were 215 new HPAI outbreaks reported in domestic birds in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

**The risk of HPAI is increased. Strict biosecurity measures and good hygiene are essential in protecting against disease outbreaks.**

## What can you do?

Follow the biosecurity requirements in the Canadian Hatching Egg Quality (CHEQ™) program to help minimize the risk of AI on your farm.

The [CFIA National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard](#) and the [World Organization for Animal Health](#) list the following AI prevention measures:

- Mortality management has the greatest potential for reducing risk of transmission and maintaining effective control of AI based on scientific literature.
- Have procedures for mortality management (including appropriate handling and disposal of dead poultry, manure, and litter) on each premises.

- Control access to the barn and premises by vehicles, people, and equipment by maintaining protective zones and controlled access points.
- Remove elements around your barns that may attract wild birds, such as feed.
- Clean and disinfect barns (including entryways and work areas) and equipment.
- Watch for signs of disease and report any elevated bird illnesses and deaths to your veterinarian.
- Be prepared to implement heightened biosecurity if AI is suspected or confirmed.

**Review your  
biosecurity plan  
and remain  
vigilant.**

In Canada, highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenicity H5 and H7 avian influenza viruses are considered to be Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI), which is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. All cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

To learn more, visit: [CFIA – Avian Influenza](#)