

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](#)