

# BIOSECURITY BUSINESS PLEDGE

It takes all of us to  
protect what we've got

Biosecurity  
*Awareness*  
Month

High pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 is a highly contagious viral infection primarily affecting birds. It has infected many bird species and even mammals since it emerged in 2020. If it arrives in New Zealand via wild birds, it could spread to other wildlife or poultry by direct contact between infected and healthy birds, or through contaminated equipment, water and feed.

**The high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)** virus currently circulating globally can cause deaths in poultry (chickens and turkeys), waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans), shorebirds (godwits, stilts and plovers) and seabirds (gulls and terns). The most obvious sign of HPAI is sudden death in several birds. Other signs include weakness and trembling, paralysis, difficulty breathing, lack of co-ordination, blindness and diarrhoea.

New Zealand has never had a case of HPAI but it is important to understand the signs and look out for it.

**For more information: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/HPAI](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/HPAI)**

**If you see 3 or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, report it immediately on 0800 80 99 66.**

**Do not handle the birds.**



Information correct as at July 2024.