



## What is avian influenza?

- A viral infection of many wild birds, as well as domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese. The virus can be categorized into two categories, those that cause mild to no disease in poultry and those that cause severe disease.

## Does it affect people?

- In rare occasions, the virus can cause infections in humans
- People can carry the virus on their shoes, clothes, equipment and vehicles
- Hunting season will continue as usual; cook waterfowl to 165 degrees internal temperature during food preparation

## Is it safe to eat chickens and/or eggs?

- Physician evaluation and laboratory analysis
- Treated with antibiotics specific to the type of bacteria

## How can avian influenza be prevented?

- MDARD have been working with veterinarians, Michigan State University Extension, poultry farms and backyard livestock owners to provide information about what to look for in their birds
- MDARD canceled all 2015 poultry and waterfowl exhibitions in Michigan to prevent the comingling of birds from different locations

## How can I protect my flock?

- Limit your flocks exposure to wild birds and restrict outdoor access to your flock
- Follow biosecurity practices such as:
  - Disinfect when going in between coops; wash your hands
  - Avoid sharing equipment with other farmers or between coops
  - Wash and disinfect equipment between uses
  - Disinfect boots and other gear when moving in between coops
  - Do not let poultry drink from surface water; use well water or municipal water
  - Keep feed secure so that there is no contact between feed and wild birds/rodents
  - Prevent contact between wild birds and domestic birds

## Who should I contact if I think birds are sick?

- If you think you have a sick bird, contact your local veterinarian
- If your flock is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 or for after-hours emergencies at 517-373-0440
- Michigan residents who notice three or more dead wild birds should report it to DNR at 517-336-5030

## If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017