



Okanogon County Public Health

<http://www.okanogancounty.org/ochd/index.htm>

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INFORMATION UPDATE Okanogon County Avian Influenza Outbreak February 3, 2015

Current Developments

- Avian influenza has been positively confirmed in two Okanogon County game bird and poultry flocks through laboratory testing.
- The first flock is located near Riverside, Washington, and consists of nearly 5,000 birds, including approximately 4,000 mallard ducks, 775 pheasants, and approximately 200 mixed geese, ducks, chukars, and chickens.
- A second flock is located near Lake Osoyoos, Oroville, Washington, and is comprised of approximately 75 mixed poultry.
- USDA and WSDA (Washington State Department of Agriculture) have veterinarians and epidemiologists on site assessing the flocks and are proceeding with plans to euthanize the remaining birds to prevent the spread to other nearby flocks.
- A quarantine zone of approximately 10 kilometers has been established around the sites of the outbreak, restricting the movement of poultry and poultry products out of the zone.
- Other wild and domestic bird fatalities have been reported in the county but have not yet been linked to avian influenza.
- Okanogon County Public Health will be coordinating with USDA/WSDA officials to determine the most appropriate methods for carcass disposal once euthanasia is complete.
- Okanogon County Public Health will review any human exposures with infected animals or premises and may issue recommendations for antiviral medications as a precautionary measure.

Human Health Impacts

- **Although the avian flu virus strain is highly pathenogenic among birds, it has no documented transmission from birds to humans in North America.**
- Outbreaks of the same or similar virus strains have recently occurred in British Columbia and Washington birds with no known human cases.
- Cases of human influenza currently being reported throughout Okanogon County are unrelated to the avian influenza outbreak.
- Avian influenza does not affect poultry meat or egg products, which remain safe to eat when properly cooked.

Recommendations and Precautions

- Avoid direct contact (handling, slaughtering, defeathering, butchering, or preparing for consumption) with sick or dead backyard poultry or wild birds, including contact while hunting or while working at or visiting a facility where poultry is present.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces contaminated with poultry feces or poultry parts, such as feeders, waterers, roosts, henhouses, etc.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game birds or poultry.
- Wash hands and thoroughly clean utensils, equipment, and surfaces that come into contact with game birds or poultry.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.
- Obtain a seasonal flu shot (inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine) from your healthcare provider.
- **Report deaths or illnesses among domestic bird flocks to the WSDA Avian Health Program at 1-800-606-3056.**
- **Report deaths or illnesses among wild birds at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-606-8768.**