

Avian influenza

Agriculture Victoria is responding to detections of avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu) on poultry farms in southwestern Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria field and surveillance staff are containing and eradicating the virus on these farms. Movement controls are in place and include a housing requirement for all birds within restricted and control areas in and around Meredith, Lethbridge and Terang.

Stay up to date with the situation, including restricted and control area maps, by visiting agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza or access using this QR code.



What is it?

Avian influenza, commonly referred to as 'bird flu,' is a highly contagious viral infection of birds. Serious forms of the disease caused by highly pathogenic (disease causing) avian influenza viruses can result in severe symptoms and sudden death in poultry.

Spread to humans

The spread of avian influenza from birds to people is rare but may occur with some strains of the virus if there is close contact with infected birds or their droppings, or with heavily contaminated environments. Always practice good personal hygiene when handling birds.

People cannot become infected by consuming cooked chicken meat or eggs.

If you have had contact with birds on an affected property and you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms, call your doctor or the Department of Health on [1300 651 160](tel:1300651160) for medical advice.

Play your part

You can help Agriculture Victoria by avoiding travel through the restricted and control areas if you are carrying birds, poultry products, feed or equipment. Permit information is available on the Agriculture Victoria website.

All bird owners across Victoria are reminded to keep poultry sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean to prevent the spread of the virus and be on the lookout for any signs of avian influenza in your birds.

Let us know

Avian influenza is an exotic notifiable disease. This means that legally you must tell Agriculture Victoria if you know of or suspect it in any birds without delay. You can do this by immediately calling the

VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Good biosecurity practices remain essential to reduce the risk of disease. Search for the 'Keeping backyard poultry' on the Agriculture Victoria website for more information.