

# H5N1 BIRD FLU: HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

## Importance of HPAI

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a national emergency animal disease (EAD) notifiable in all Australian states and territories. H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b is a highly contagious variant of HPAI which is circulating globally causing severe illness and mortality in a wide range of bird species, with known transfer to mammals and **zoonotic risk to humans**. **Australia is currently free of H5N1 HPAI** but faces an **elevated risk** of incursion via migratory wild birds.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SICK OR DEAD BIRD/GROUP OR HAVE SICK PET BIRD/POULTRY

### For WILDLIFE

**Avoid** Do not touch or move the bird to prevent disease spread.



**Record** Note time, date, location, and clinical signs. Take photos/videos if safe, without handling.



**Report** Immediately contact the **Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Hotline (1800 675 888) (24/7 availability)** as required under federal and state/territory legislation (**note during an outbreak not all vets will be taking wildlife cases**)



### For PET BIRDS and BACKYARD POULTRY

**Be Aware** Know the clinical signs and practice good hygiene.



**Call First** **DO NOT BRING TO THE PRACTICE** Discuss your bird's history and clinical signs with your vet before taking them to the clinic.



**Isolate** If you have any sick birds, isolate away from any others



## CLINICAL SIGNS

### For WILDLIFE

- Sudden death
- Lethargy, inappetence
- Respiratory distress (e.g., nasal discharge, dyspnoea)
- Neurological signs (e.g., tremors, ataxia, seizures)
- Gastrointestinal signs (e.g., vomiting, diarrhoea)
- Multiple pinhead bruises

### For PET BIRDS and BACKYARD POULTRY

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- Multiple pinhead bruises
- Reduced egg production
- Swelling/cyanosis of head or legs



## RESOURCES

Comprehensive resources are available on the **AVA HPAI webpage**  
Use the QR code