

H5 bird flu Q&A's (updated 19 August 2026)

These Q&As are a live document and will be updated regularly as advice changes and new questions come in. You may not see your exact question here because we have grouped similar questions together to keep the document clear and useful for everyone.

Reporting sick or dead birds

What should people report to MPI, and what if there is no cell coverage?

Report three or more sick or dead birds, seals or sea lions in a group to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz. Do not touch, handle, move or collect wildlife unless this is part of an approved response.

If you are somewhere without cell coverage, keep your distance, note the exact location, and take photos or video from a safe distance if you can. Report it as soon as you are back in coverage.

Include the species if known, the number affected, the exact location, and photos or video if safe to take without touching the bird or animal.

What about places where dead birds are often found, such as colonies or beach patrol sites?

If what you are seeing looks different from your usual observations, report to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz. MPI triages reports based on risk, including the species, number of birds/marine mammals, location, whether the birds are sick or freshly dead, and whether a carcass is likely to be useful for testing. Carcasses older than 48 hours may not give a useful lab result.

Testing and surveillance

Will PCR and SNAP testing be available to bird rescues or field teams?

H5 bird flu is confirmed through PCR testing at MPI's Animal Health Laboratory in Auckland. PCR testing kits are not available outside this process.

SNAP tests are not recommended for wild birds. Overseas reports show they can miss infection in wild birds, with high rates of false negatives. This means a bird could test negative even when it is infected, which can give people false reassurance and increase biosecurity risk. Using SNAP tests is less useful than careful visual triage, such as looking at the species, location, number of birds affected, and signs of illness. For detailed biosecurity guidance, follow advice from the New Zealand Veterinary Association, WRENNZ (Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of New Zealand), and MPI.

Was the origin of the H7N6 strain in Dec 2024 at a commercial free-range egg farm in Hillgrove, rural Otago ever established?

Current information indicates the outbreak likely occurred after free-range laying hens were exposed to a low pathogenic avian influenza virus from wild birds, which subsequently mutated into a highly pathogenic H7N6 strain.

Can people tell the difference between H5 bird flu and alpha chloralose poisoning from symptoms alone?

No. H5 bird flu can only be confirmed through laboratory testing. Some signs may look similar to other causes of illness or poisoning, so people should not rely on symptoms alone. If there is concern about disease, report it through the usual channels and avoid handling sick or dead birds.

How quickly can MPI respond to field reports, and what timeframes should people expect?

MPI triages reports based on risk, including the species, number of birds or animals affected, location, condition of the carcass, and likely disease risk. This means response times may vary. Reports involving higher-risk species, unusual deaths, or high-risk locations may be prioritised. People should report concerns as soon as they can and wait for advice before handling or moving wildlife. Our DOC HOT triage team are available 24/7 and will advise callers on timeframes if/when investigators will attend in person.

How at risk are rock pigeons from H5 bird flu, and can they pass it to people or other birds?

Rock pigeons are not currently considered a high-risk group and are less susceptible.

Are DOC and MPI monitoring high-risk locations and migratory bird pathways?

Yes. MPI leads the surveillance programme, with advice from DOC bird experts and external specialists. Surveillance locations are based on bird movements, migration patterns, breeding seasons and species behaviour. DOC and external experts provide ongoing advice about where surveillance should occur as conditions change.

The risk to people remains low, and infection usually requires close contact with infected animals or contaminated environments.

Handling, rescue, carcasses, and taonga material

What should wildlife workers do if H5 bird flu is suspected or detected?

If H5 bird flu is suspected or detected, call MPI's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or report online at report.mpi.govt.nz. Do not touch, handle, or move sick or dead birds unless you have been directed to do so and have the right training, PPE, and biosecurity controls in place.

If H5 bird flu is not suspected, use DOC's normal reporting channels. Call 0800 DOC HOT or contact your local council. Keep following good hygiene and biosecurity practices and avoid handling sick or dead wildlife unless it is part of your normal work and you have the right controls in place.

A wildlife community kete is being developed and will be shared as soon as possible. This will contain resources and factsheets to support wildlife workers in their public-facing communications.

If someone finds, brings in, or asks what to do with a sick or dead bird, what should we tell them?

Do not touch, handle, move or collect the bird unless this is part of an approved response. Keep pets and children away.

If the bird is already in someone's possession, call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz.

Should disinfectant be sprayed on dead birds left in place?

No. Spraying disinfectant on carcasses is not helpful and has no meaningful impact on disease management. Overseas trials, including work involving sea salt spray, found little benefit and sometimes caused extra disturbance to wildlife and sites. Natural decomposition and exposure to UV light are generally more effective at deactivating the virus.

How are decisions made about whether carcasses are removed?

It depends on the situation. Factors include the species involved, whether threatened species are present, the number of carcasses, public access and visitor safety, risks to wildlife, cultural considerations, and health and safety impacts for the people doing the collection.

Carcass removal is not intended to stop wildlife outbreaks, because overseas experience shows removal does not stop the disease spreading. In some situations, leaving carcasses in place may be the best option for wildlife recovery.

If there is mass mortality, can dead birds be moved away from colonies or public areas?

Disposal options depend on the site, scale, environmental risk and biosecurity considerations. Any movement would need site risk assessments and appropriate plan, appropriate PPE and decontamination.

Moving carcasses a short distance may be appropriate but will depend on the site. The key risk being mitigated through carcass management is impact to surviving wildlife and focused on improving resilience and resistance.

Landowners and land managers are responsible for decisions on the appropriate approach to manage dead or sick wildlife.

What should people do about carcass disposal, including seals on beaches or carcasses from 1080 operations?

Do not move or dispose of carcasses if H5 bird flu is suspected, unless MPI or the response lead has directed the work and the right controls are in place. This includes dead seals on beaches and carcasses found during or after 1080 operations. People should report the situation, keep others and animals away, and wait for advice before handling carcasses.

Is there a plan if local vets refuse to take injured wildlife because of H5 bird flu risk?

DOC is working with wildlife facilities, rehabilitation providers and partners as part of response planning. If a sick or injured bird is reported, it should be triaged through the usual process, with H5 bird flu risk considered.

The majority of wildlife do not respond well to human intervention. Call 0800 DOC HOT before attempting a rescue and we can find appropriate rehab or advise the correct action to take. Vets and rehabs have the responsibility to keep their patients and facilities free from H5 bird flu and have the right to refuse high risk species like birds

What happens if an infected bird is accidentally admitted to a rehabilitation facility?

There is no simple answer because infectious periods vary by species, and there is still uncertainty about how the disease behaves in different species. If this happens, MPI would work with the facility. Other animals may be monitored and tested, surveillance and risk assessments may be put in place, and the facility may need quarantine measures.

Prevention is the best approach. Facilities follow triage processes before accepting wildlife. The Wildlife rehabilitation network of New Zealand (WReNNZ) have great resources available online to help rehabbers prepare now and understand the triage process and recommendations for preventing H5 bird flu causing an outbreak in facilities. Find them at [HPAI | wrennz](http://HPAI.wrennz). DOC strongly recommends any wildlife rehab that is not already a member of WReNNZ to join now.

Can H5-infected birds be rehabilitated?

No. Wildlife recovering from H5 bird flu should generally be left in the wild where possible. Sick birds that are confirmed or suspected to have H5 cannot be rehabilitated. If a bird from an H5-positive area is brought into care, it may ultimately be euthanised under disease management requirements. Some birds have a better chance of recovery if they are protected in place and left undisturbed.

Cultural harvest and safe handling of manu

What should groups know before a planned cultural harvest?

H5 bird flu is most likely to affect seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and seals that congregate in large groups. We do not yet know exactly what impact it will have in New Zealand, so people should stay alert and use simple safety steps before, during, and after harvest.

When should harvest stop or pause in an area?

If there are three or more dead or sick manu in a group, stop harvest in that area and report it to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz. MPI will assess the report and advise on next steps. Do not touch or move sick or dead wildlife, or wildlife nearby that appears healthy.

What signs of H5 bird flu should harvesters look for?

The most noticeable sign is several birds dying quickly in one place. Other signs can include birds that are very tired, unable to fly, uncoordinated, coughing, panting, or have nasal discharge or diarrhoea.

What are the main risks when handling manu?

Human infection with H5 bird flu is rare, but it has happened overseas, usually after close contact with infected birds or other infected animals. Handling, defeathering, and preparing infected manu for kai can increase the risk. Feathers can also carry risk because H5 bird flu can stay infectious in feathers for a long time and is not killed by freezing.

How can people protect themselves while harvesting or preparing manu?

- Do not harvest or handle wild birds, or their feathers, if they are obviously sick or found dead.
- Wash and dry hands after handling or dressing wild birds.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, vape, or put anything in your mouth while handling or cleaning harvested birds.
- Wash knives and utensils in hot soapy water, and scrub chopping boards between raw and cooked foods.
- Keep raw meat and poultry covered and away from ready-to-eat food, fruit, and vegetables.
- Scrub and disinfect boots and equipment between harvest sites.
- Wash or hose down clothing that has been in direct contact with birds after each trip.

Does cooking make harvested birds safe to eat?

Heat kills the H5 bird flu virus when food is cooked properly. Follow New Zealand Food Safety advice and cook birds well. As a guide, meat should reach and hold an internal temperature of at least 73 degrees Celsius for at least 2 to 3 minutes.

Commercial poultry production has strong biosecurity processes in place to prevent sick animals entering the food chain.

What should people do with dogs, cats, and other pets during harvest?

Keep dogs, cats, and other pets away from sick or dead wildlife. Do not let dogs collect sick birds or pick up birds that are already dead.

Working with birds, monitoring, and field activity

Can field work, monitoring, trapping, banding, microchipping, tracking, nestbox checks, tern work, kororā work, kiwi creching, and conservation dog work continue?

Wildlife workers should be alert for H5 bird flu in their area, but there is no need at this stage for ongoing conservation work to pause. Remember, you may be the first to find a mass mortality outbreak.

Some work may continue if it is assessed as essential and can be done safely under the relevant risk, PPE and hygiene requirements. Site restrictions or closures may override planned work.

People, including dog handlers and dogs working closely with birds should follow any site restrictions and guidance for their work and exposure risk before an outbreak is detected. Clean gear, clean footwear and equipment between sites, maintain good hand hygiene, avoiding contact with sick or dead wildlife, carcasses, bodily fluids and contaminated environments wherever possible. Some high-risk work may be paused if it cannot be done safely. More specific guidance for conservation dogs is being developed with technical experts and canine networks.

PPE should be routine. PPE needs may increase if there are signs of illness, a suspected case, or a local outbreak.

Any changes to trapping bait guidance would be communicated by DOC or MPI.

DOC is developing a wildlife community kete as a one-stop shop for H5 bird flu wildlife guidance. It will bring key fact sheets together and organise information by topic and audience, such as wildlife monitoring, trapping, conservation dogs, penguins, and community groups.

What habits should people who spend time outdoors build now?

People who spend time outdoors, including trampers, duck hunters, bird watchers, permit holders, volunteers, and tourism operators, can help protect wildlife by building good habits now: keep your distance from sick or dead wildlife, keep gear clean, do not disturb wildlife, and know when and how to report concerns to MPI.

Can translocations and other planned bird handling work continue?

Planned work that involves handling birds, such as translocations, banding, microchipping, monitoring, or other close-contact work, can continue if teams follow the right risk controls. Before starting, teams should

check the local risk, confirm what PPE and cleaning steps are needed, and have a clear plan for what to do if sick or dead birds are found.

Has DOC or MPI talked with Birds NZ about Beach Patrol handling of dead birds, and can surveys continue with basic PPE?

DOC has provided advice via our networks which includes Birds NZ Beach Patrol. More specifically: Please continue to use good biosecurity, and hygienic practices, especially if out Beach Patrolling (e.g. gloves/tongs, washing hands thoroughly before eating and drinking, using sticks to manipulate birds – rather than touching birds).

Biosecurity, droppings, water, and public sites

How does H5 bird flu spread, and what does that mean for droppings, drinking water, and wash stations?

H5 bird flu can spread through bird droppings, feathers, secretions (blood, snot etc.) and tissue (meat, organs etc.). Wildlife workers should avoid contact with bird droppings, clean gear and footwear, wash hands, and use PPE where required. Avoid using water that could be contaminated unless it has been treated.

Biosecurity steps are especially important at high-use sites, islands, boat ramps, sanctuaries, and public conservation land. Wildlife workers in these spaces should adhere to these practices and encourage visitors to do the same.

Should people disinfect shoes and equipment between sites?

Yes. Everyone should clean and disinfect footwear, tools, and equipment between sites, especially when moving between bird colonies, wetlands, islands, sanctuaries, beaches, or other places where wildlife gather. Cleaning between sites helps reduce the chance of people accidentally spreading the virus, weed seeds and other pathogens.

Vaccination

Which threatened species are being prioritised, and will wild bird populations be controlled to limit spread?

DOC's vaccination programme is focused on threatened species, populations where vaccination will provide the greatest protection, and where the full two-dose course can be safely given. About 300 core breeding birds from five species are being vaccinated first: kākāpō, takahē, tūturuatu/shore plover, kakī/black stilt, and kākāriki karaka/orange-fronted parakeet.

A second tranche allows vaccination of a further 23 priority species, but the final list has deliberately not been fixed and may change as risks evolve.

There will be no attempt to control wild bird or marine mammal populations as this has been shown to increase disease spread, it also reduces the resilience/recovery of wildlife populations.

Why were these birds chosen for vaccination?

DOC's technical experts assessed native bird species for their risk of extinction from H5 bird flu. The vaccination plan covers 28 threatened bird species that have small populations or where vaccination could protect important breeding birds. The aim is to protect small insurance populations that could help rebuild species if bird flu has a serious impact.

How is the vaccination work progressing?

The first tranche is focused on about 300 core breeding birds from five species: kākāpō, takahē, tchūriwat'/tūturuatu/shore plover, kakī/black stilt, and kākārīki karaka/orange-fronted parakeet. As of 28 July, 151 of the 300 birds planned for the first tranche had been vaccinated. A total of 157 birds had been vaccinated when six pāteke/brown teal from the second tranche are included.

What species are next in tranche 2?

MPI approved tranche 2 on 16 July. This allows DOC to extend vaccination to 25 more priority species where it is feasible, safe, and likely to protect key breeding populations. Work has begun with six pāteke/brown teal at a captive facility in Christchurch. The next focus is hoiho/yellow-eyed penguin, karure/kakaruia/black robin, toroa/northern royal albatross, tōrea tai/Chatham Island oystercatcher, and pukunui/southern New Zealand dotterel.

Will vaccination priorities change?

Yes. DOC will keep reviewing vaccination priorities as the programme progresses and as the H5 bird flu situation changes. It will not be possible to vaccinate all endangered birds, so the focus is on species where two doses can be safely given and where vaccination will give the greatest protection.

What is the current funding position for DOC's bird flu work?

DOC has been preparing for the arrival of bird flu for the past few years and currently has the resources needed to respond within existing budgets. The current vaccination roll-out to 300 birds across the first five species is expected to cost about \$150,000, not including staff costs. The vaccine has been provided free by Pacificvet.

Why does DOC take a flexible approach to vaccination timing and future species decisions?

DOC is taking a flexible approach to H5 bird flu vaccination planning because the situation in Aotearoa is still changing. We are using the latest local information, alongside planning and overseas modelling, to decide the best timing and next steps. This helps us respond in a way that is practical, proportionate and guided by what is happening here. Timing matters because vaccinated birds need the full two-dose course to get the best possible protection before any potential exposure to H5 bird flu.

Human health and PPE

What is the risk to people, and will vaccines be available for high-risk workers?

H5 bird flu remains a low health risk to the public. Human cases are rare and usually involve close contact with infected animals or their environments. No person-to-person spread of this strain has been documented internationally. People working closely with birds or mammals should follow Health New Zealand guidance, use good hygiene, and use appropriate PPE. If anyone becomes unwell after close contact with sick or dead wildlife, they should contact their health providers.

Immunisation against avian influenza is not available for widespread use in New Zealand. MoH and Health NZ are reviewing the potential use of a human avian influenza vaccine and will make recommendations based on risk.

People who work with livestock, poultry, or animals in a vet or zoo are recommended to have the seasonal human influenza vaccine. This does not protect specifically against avian influenza, but it helps protect against seasonal flu and reduces the risk of being infected with both types of influenza at the same time.

When should people start wearing PPE?

PPE should match the work and the risk. If people are not handling wildlife and there are no signs of bird flu, they should keep using normal hygiene and biosecurity steps for their work. If people are handling birds or mammals, working near sick or dead wildlife, or bird flu is suspected or confirmed, they should use the PPE set out in the relevant guidance before starting the work.

Pets, kūrī, mammals, and trapping

What should conservation dog handlers, pet owners, and community trappers do?

Keep dogs, cats, and other pets away from sick or dead wildlife. Internationally, some mammals can become infected after close contact with infected birds or carcasses. Conservation dog handlers should avoid scavenging risks, clean gear, and follow site biosecurity guidance. Community trappers should avoid contact with sick or dead wildlife, wear gloves, wash hands, clean gear and footwear. Report three or more sick or dead wild birds to MPI - you may be the first to find a mass mortality.

What is the advice for hunters?

Hunters should not handle birds or other wildlife that are sick or found dead. Keep dogs away from sick or dead wildlife, clean boots and gear between sites, wash hands well, and follow food safety advice when preparing wild birds. Report three or more sick or dead wild birds, seals, or sea lions in one place to MPI on 0800 80 99 66.

Can pets become infected if they eat an infected bird?

Some mammals overseas have become infected after close contact with infected birds or carcasses. To reduce the risk, keep pets away from sick or dead wildlife and do not let dogs or cats scavenge birds. If a pet has eaten a sick or dead bird and then becomes unwell, contact a vet for advice.

Backyard bird feeding and bird baths

What is DOC's advice about backyard bird feeders and bird baths?

DOC does not recommend feeding birds or using bird baths in your backyard because they bring birds together and can increase the risk of disease spread. People can fill their garden with native plants, shrubs, trees, grass, harakeke and flowers to attract birds that encourage natural feeding practices.. If people are worried about birds that have become used to feeding, they can reduce feeding gradually and prioritise removing shared feeding points and bird baths.

Leadership, local response, iwi, councils, and partners

Who is leading the response, and how are iwi, councils, private landowners, partners, and local teams involved?

MPI is the lead agency for the national response. One Health Partners are engaging with mana whenua, iwi organisations, conservation groups, partners, and local government as part of site and species response planning. Private landowners should not touch or move sick or dead birds, and report three or more sick or dead wild birds to MPI.

What is DOC doing to prepare and respond?

DOC has plans to reduce risk to threatened species and public conservation land. This includes work to improve detection, reduce spread, protect threatened species, support increased surveillance, prepare site response plans, keep guidance up to date, and work with permit holders, conservation partners, and volunteers so enhanced biosecurity and reporting are in place.

If a suspected case is reported, MPI will assess the report and communicate next steps.

What engagement is happening with iwi and hapū?

DOC and One Health partners are working with mana whenua, iwi organisations, councils, and local teams as part of planning for sites, species, cultural harvest, and local response needs. Engagement will keep building as risks change and local planning develops.

Why won't MPI pay compensation to poultry farmers like they did for M.bovis and other pests and diseases?

MPI have been working with the poultry and egg sector for several years to prepare for bird flu. This virus will not be able to be eradicated from New Zealand once it is established in wild birds.

The best protection for the industry is to focus on good on-farm biosecurity measures to manage and live with this virus in the future.

Compensation is only available when powers are exercised under the Biosecurity Act that affect operations.

Sector organisations understand compensation is unlikely, given we will have to learn to live with H5 bird flu and it is unlike other diseases that can be eradicated.

Wildlife impacts and response options

What risk does H5 bird flu pose to New Zealand wildlife, and will DOC or MPI cull wild birds?

Wild bird movement are considered the most likely way H5 bird flu reached New Zealand. Ocean-going seabirds can carry avian influenza viruses over long distances. H5 bird flu is more likely to affect colony-nesting birds such as gulls, gannets, terns, and other seabirds, or animals interacting with those birds.

Internationally, water birds, raptors, seals, and sealions are also considered higher risk.

If H5 bird flu becomes widespread in wild populations, it will not be possible to eradicate it from wild birds. The immediate focus is surveillance, strong biosecurity, reducing human harm, protecting threatened species, and keeping people safe. DOC may restrict access or close areas during outbreaks to reduce stress on wildlife and reduce spread.

DOC will not cull wild birds because it will not prevent transmission of H5 bird flu and is likely to worsen outbreaks. Culling could increase bird movements and cause stress to native and threatened birds.

Can terns spread H5 bird flu inland?

Yes, potentially. Outbreaks will not necessarily stay on the coast. Infected birds (including terns, giant petrels and skua) can be blown inland during storms, and scavenger species such as kāhu, black-backed gulls and weka can be exposed by feeding on infected carcasses. This means detections could happen inland as well as along the coast.

What do we know about risk to different species and high-risk sites?

H5 bird flu is more likely to birds and mammals that gather in large numbers for breeding, feeding, nesting and resting because the virus is easily spread through ingesting contaminated materials (e.g., faeces, blood, feathers, flesh or organs).

We don't yet know exactly how H5 bird flu will affect native wildlife in New Zealand. Overseas, species that gather in large groups are most at risk. This includes seabirds, shorebirds, waders, waterfowl, seals and sea lions. High-risk sites are places where these species gather, where rare species are present, or where public access could make an outbreak harder to manage by putting recovering wildlife at risk.

Detailed examples are:

- seabirds = e.g., skua, albatross, Giant Petrels
- shorebirds = gulls, gannets, terns, shags
- waders = wrybills, godwits, pied stilts, oystercatchers, Red Knots
- waterfowl = ducks, geese, swans
- seals = fur seal, elephant seal, sea lion
- scavengers = skua, kahu, black backed gulls, weka

Do raptors die within 48 hours?

Most raptors recover from H5 bird flu without human intervention. Internationally significant mortalities in raptors were recorded when rehab was attempted with 999:1000 birds dying.

What is known about HPAI risk and surveillance on New Zealand's subantarctic islands?

The Subantarctic Islands are included in DOC's preparedness and response planning and has species and site response plans ready to activate if H5 bird flu is suspected or confirmed there.

Some colony nesting manu, seals and sea lion populations are likely to be impacted. DOC is working with mana whenua to complete site protection plans for high-risk species.

New Zealand's subantarctic islands do not have permanent staff or visitors. The first trips are due at the end of August and will conduct surveillance activities. Macquarie Island (Australian subantarctic island near the NZ islands) has a permanent research base and are conducting regular surveillance. No evidence of H5 bird flu has been found so far.

Can DOC confirm which giant petrel species are affected in Australia?

Visit [H5 bird flu updates - DAFF](#) for information about what species are affected in Australia.

Is there a response plan for marine mammals?

Marine mammals, including seals and sea lions, are part of H5 bird flu response planning. Report three or more sick or dead seals, sea lions, or birds in one place to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz. Do not touch, move, or dispose of dead marine mammals unless you have been directed to do so and have the right training, PPE, and biosecurity controls.

What should people do about carcass disposal, including seals on beaches or carcasses from 1080 operations?

Do not move or dispose of carcasses if H5 bird flu is suspected, unless MPI or the response lead has directed the work and the right controls are in place. This includes dead seals on beaches and carcasses found during or after 1080 operations. People should report the situation, keep others and animals away, and wait for advice before handling carcasses.

Tourism, site closures and community support

What happens if an outbreak affects tourism sites, public conservation areas or communities?

DOC may restrict access to, or close, public conservation land and waters during outbreaks to reduce stress on wildlife, prevent disturbance, and keep people safe.

If mass mortalities occur, the MPI hotline remains the main reporting point. Remember, you may be the first to find a mass mortality outbreak. Call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz.

Support for staff, volunteers and affected communities should be escalated to the response welfare or people support function and relevant agency wellbeing services.

Public messages and resources

What are the key messages for the public, and where can people find more information?

Key messages for the public are:

To report suspected bird flu, call MPI's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or report online at report.mpi.govt.nz.

Please do not touch, handle, or move sick or dead birds. Keep children and pets away.

Bird flu is not currently widespread in New Zealand. People should keep doing conservation work where it can be done safely, keep reporting unusual bird deaths, follow guidance, and avoid unnecessary handling of wildlife. Vaccination is one small part of a much broader response.

If H5 bird flu is not suspected, call 0800 DOCHOT or [visit our website to find out what to do if you find sick, injured or dead wildlife](#).

Will there be videos or examples to help people recognise bird flu symptoms?

Visit [Avian influenza, HPAI, bird flu, risk to NZ | NZ Government](#) to find out more about H5 bird flu, including a [video explaining how H5 bird flu is spreading, symptoms to look out for, and biosecurity measures that people can take to be ready](#).

People should always keep their distance and report concerns to MPI.

Up-to-date information can be found at on the MPI website

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/pest-and-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/animal-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/bird-flu>