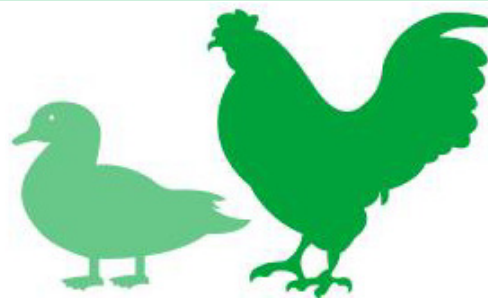




## How to keep your birds safe from Avian Influenza (bird flu) - advice for keepers in England

Avian Influenza, also known as bird flu, is a disease that affects poultry including chickens, ducks and geese. A severe strain of the disease, H5N8, has been found in wild and captive birds in the UK.

Keepers in most of England are no longer under a legal requirement to take action to reduce the risk of disease spreading, though we strongly encourage them to continue to follow best practice on biosecurity.



By taking the simple precautions below, you can help protect your birds' welfare and avoid further disease controls for poultry keepers in your area. This will help safeguard jobs and support UK trade overseas.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is still in place in parts of **Lancashire**, **Cumbria** and **Merseyside** and poultry keepers in these areas must, by law, take action to reduce the risk of disease spreading, and must not send birds to shows or other gatherings. Find out if you are in the AIPZ using our interactive map: <http://www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp>.

### How bird flu spreads

Bird flu can be passed from wild birds to poultry, causing birds to fall ill and die. It can be transmitted directly from bird to bird or via the environment - in wild bird droppings, in contaminated feed or by dirty vehicles, clothing and footwear. The virus can survive in the environment for at least 50 days in cool damp conditions.

The risk to human health is very low and bird flu does not pose a food safety risk.

### What do I need to do if I keep poultry?

We strongly encourage all poultry keepers in England to take the following precautions. If you keep poultry in the parts of Lancashire, Cumbria and Merseyside in the AIPZ, you are required by law to take these actions.

- **Minimise movement in and out** of your birds' enclosures
- **Clean footwear before and after visits** using foot baths, boot brush and approved disinfectant
- **Keep the area where your birds live clean and tidy**, removing spilled feed
- **Regularly check your property for wild birds** and consider using scarecrows or bird-scarers
- **Make sure you have effective vermin control** in the area where your poultry are kept
- **Feed and water birds under cover** so food does not attract, or become contaminated by, wild birds
- **Make sure outdoor areas are fully fenced** and any ponds or water areas are netted and covered
- **Regularly clean and disinfect hard areas** like concrete paths that birds can access

### Further information

Further details can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu).