



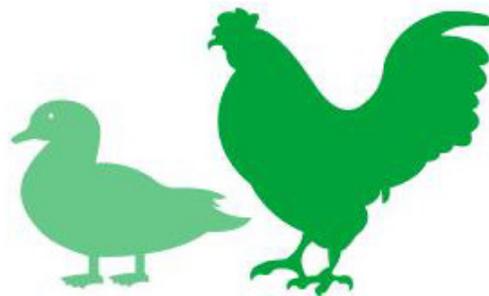
## How to keep your birds safe from Avian Influenza (bird flu) - advice for keepers in England

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.

If you keep chickens, ducks or geese you are strongly encouraged to follow the steps below to protect them from bird flu.

Preventing avian flu is in everyone's interests. Disease outbreaks cause birds to suffer, damage businesses and cost UK taxpayers millions.

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



### 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 to reduce the risk of your birds becoming infected with avian flu:

- **Minimise movement in and out** of 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
- **Feed and water birds under cover** so it does not attract, or become contaminated by, wild birds
- **Keep ducks and geese separate** from chickens and other species of poultry
- **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
- **Make sure you have effective vermin control** in the area where your poultry are kept

### Further information

Sign up to disease alerts to get the latest information on outbreaks at [http://animalhealth.system-message.co.uk/AH\\_subscribe\\_index.php](http://animalhealth.system-message.co.uk/AH_subscribe_index.php).

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