

Years 5 and 6

H5 Avian Influenza





What do these animals have in common?



HZAA – Community Biosecurity

Keeping our
community
safe

Open today: 9am - 5pm

Our storyContact usCall us



VisitLearnConservationAnimal EncountersAbout

BOOK NOW

Home > Conservation

Community Biosecurity

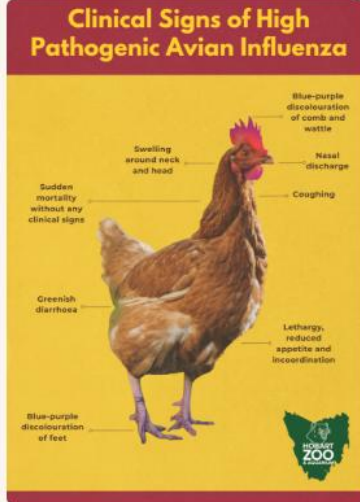
Welcome to Hobart Zoo and Aquarium's Community Biosecurity Hub.

This page is your first stop for trusted, up-to-date information on biosecurity issues that may affect wildlife, animals, and our local community. We regularly update this space with the latest advice, resources, and guidance on emerging biosecurity challenges, including Avian Influenza (bird flu).

By working together and staying informed, we can all play an important role in protecting Tasmania's unique wildlife and natural environment.

1. Understanding Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

Clinical Signs of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza



Learn what Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) is, how it spreads, and why it is important for wildlife, poultry, farm animals, and our community.

2. What To Do If You Find a Sick or Injured Bird

We Want You to Be Safe

**AVOID**
Don't touch sick or injured birds

**RECORD**
Write down the date, time, location and species

**REPORT**
Call the Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888

If you find a sick or injured bird, follow these simple steps to protect yourself, wildlife, and the wider community.



Learning Intention

We are learning to understand how H5 avian influenza can affect wildlife populations and why biosecurity plays an important role in protecting Australia's ecosystems.

Success Criteria

We will be successful when...

...explain what H5 avian influenza is and how it spreads between animals.

...describe the role of biosecurity in preventing disease spread.

...analyse actions people can take to protect wildlife and their pets.

...identify the correct steps to follow if we find a sick or dead wild bird.





Reading – Avian Influenza



Avian: Comes from the Latin word *avis*, which means birds.





Reading – Avian Influenza



Biosecurity - Actions taken to prevent diseases, pests and harmful organisms from spreading between places, animals or environments.

Good **biosecurity** helps protect wildlife from harmful diseases.

Farmers use **biosecurity** measures to keep their animals healthy.





Reading – Avian Influenza



Pathogen - A living organism or virus that can cause disease.

Scientists study ***pathogens*** to understand how diseases spread.

Some ***pathogens*** can affect both domestic and wild animals.





Reading – Avian Influenza



Detection - The process of finding and confirming the presence of a disease or other condition.

Early ***detection*** of H5 avian influenza allows experts to respond quickly.

Disease ***detection*** often relies on careful monitoring and testing.





H5 Avian Influenza and Biosecurity: Protecting Australia's Wildlife



H5 avian influenza is a disease caused by a virus that mainly affects birds. Some strains are mild, while others can cause serious illness and death in wild birds and poultry. A highly pathogenic strain of H5 avian influenza has been detected in wild birds on mainland Australia. As of August 2026, there have been 231 confirmed detections across several states.

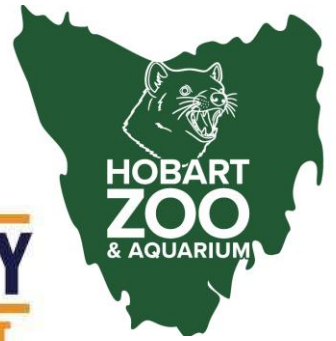


Many species of birds travel long distances during migration. Because birds move between habitats, disease can spread through bird populations and sometimes to other animals. Scientists, veterinarians and wildlife organisations monitor bird flu closely so they can detect outbreaks early and respond quickly.





H5 Avian Influenza and Biosecurity: Protecting Australia's Wildlife



BIOSECURITY
BASICS **PROTECT**
TASMANIA

One important way to reduce the spread of disease is through biosecurity. Biosecurity refers to the actions people take to prevent harmful diseases, pests and organisms from moving between places. Good biosecurity helps protect wildlife, pets, livestock and natural environments. For example, poultry owners can keep domestic birds away from wild birds, provide clean food and water, and regularly clean equipment and enclosures.



**WE ALL HAVE A
ROLE TO PLAY**

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



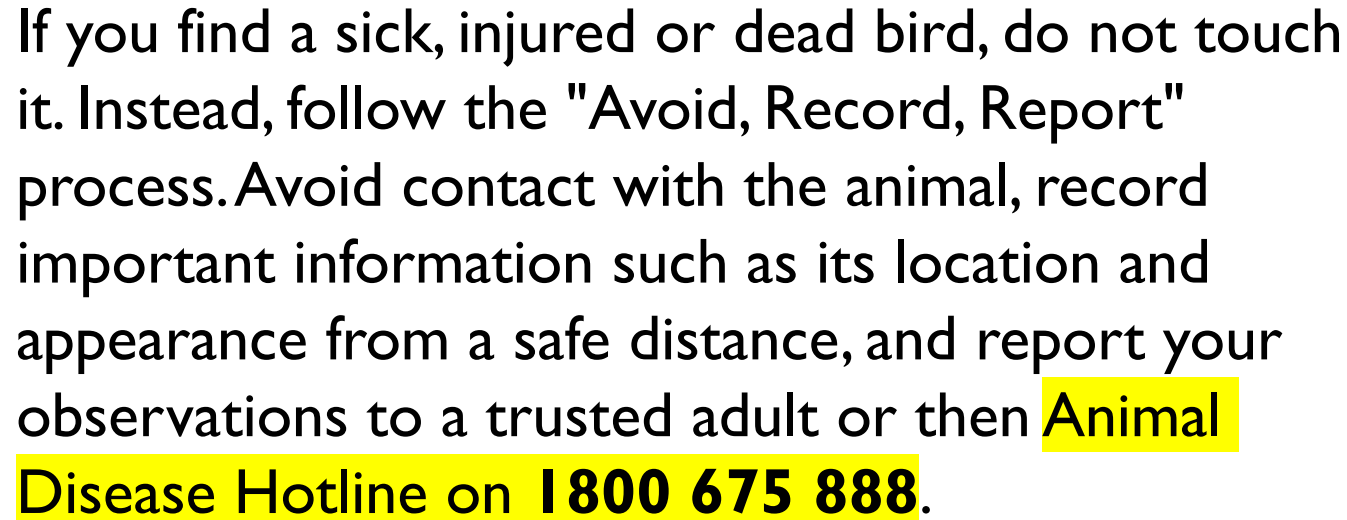


H5 Avian Influenza and Biosecurity: Protecting Australia's Wildlife



Everyone can help protect wildlife. If you are visiting a beach, wetland or park, avoid disturbing birds and never touch sick or dead animals. Keeping dogs and other pets away from wildlife can also reduce the risk of disease spreading between species. Washing your hands after spending time outdoors is another simple but important biosecurity practice.





These reports help experts track disease events and make informed decisions that support wildlife conservation.



Why do scientists monitor bird populations for H5 avian influenza?



A) To count feathers.

B) To identify new bird species.

C) To detect outbreaks and respond quickly.

D) To train birds.





Why do scientists monitor bird populations for H5 avian influenza?



A) To count feathers.

B) To identify new bird species.

C) To detect outbreaks and respond quickly.

D) To train birds.





What does the term "biosecurity" mean?



- A) Protecting computer systems
- B) Preventing diseases, pests and harmful organisms
- C) Building safer bird enclosures
- D) Studying bird behaviour





What does the term "biosecurity" mean?



A) Protecting computer systems

B) Preventing diseases, pests and harmful organisms

C) Building safer bird enclosures

D) Studying bird behaviour





Which action is an example of good biosecurity?



- A) Touching sick wildlife B) Feeding wild birds by hand
- C) Keeping pet birds separate from wild birds D) Moving dead animals





Which action is an example of good biosecurity?



A) Touching sick wildlife B) Feeding wild birds by hand

C) Keeping pet birds separate from wild birds

D) Moving dead animals





Why can avian influenza spread over large areas?



A) Birds often migrate between habitats.

B) Birds build nests in trees.

C) Birds eat insects.

D) Birds can fly.





Why can avian influenza spread over large areas?



A) Birds often migrate between habitats.

B) Birds build nests in trees.

C) Birds eat insects.

D) Birds can fly.





How do reports from the public help wildlife experts?



A) They provide information that helps track disease events.

B) They increase bird populations immediately.

C) They prevent migration.

D) They eliminate all diseases.





How do reports from the public help wildlife experts?



A) They provide information that helps track disease events.

B) They increase bird populations immediately.

C) They prevent migration.

D) They eliminate all diseases.





Create an infographic or poster



Create an informative infographic or poster that teaches your school community about H5 avian influenza and biosecurity.

Your infographic should:

- ✓ Explain what Avian Influenza is.
- ✓ Define biosecurity.
- ✓ Describe the "Avoid, Record, Report" process.
- ✓ Include at least three actions people can take to protect wildlife.
- ✓ Use scientific vocabulary correctly.
- ✓ Include the Animal Disease Hotline number: **1800 675 888**.

Use headings, diagrams, images and concise factual statements to communicate your message clearly.



EXAMPLES

We Want You to Be Safe



AVOID

Don't touch sick or injured birds



RECORD

Write down the date, time, location and species



REPORT

Call the Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888



What is Bird Flu?



Bird flu is caused by some strains of influenza A



Migratory wild birds transmit bird flu



Any bird can be affected



Some strains spread easily from wild birds to poultry. The poultry can get very sick or die.



Australian farms have had bird flu outbreaks



Bird flu has spread to other animals overseas, including cattle, goats, cats and foxes

Bird flu **rarely infects people**, but it can happen, especially during animals outbreaks



Plenary

Share your infographic with a partner and explain:

- Why biosecurity matters.
- How individuals can help protect wildlife.
- What steps should be followed when a sick or dead bird is found.



We are prepared for H5 avian influenza in
Tasmania.

All you need to do to stay safe is...

**Avoid
Record
Report** – 1800 675 888

