



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Avian Influenza Identified In Wild Bird; Risk To People Is Low

(Woodland, CA) – Earlier this month, a wild Canada goose on private property in Davis tested positive for avian influenza. Multiple geese observed at the site were ill or deceased.

Since January 2022, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses have been detected in wild aquatic birds, commercial poultry, and backyard flocks in the United States. HPAI, also known as H5N1, is named based on its ability to cause severe disease and death in birds. The currently circulating viruses are rarely transmitted from birds to people, with only a single human case identified in the United States associated with mild illness. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the current risk to the public from HPAI A(H5N1) viruses to be low.

Yolo County hosts a large number of migratory birds during the fall and winter, especially in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife area and other wetlands. Several Canada geese in Sacramento County's Land Park recently tested positive for avian influenza.

Birds infected with HPAI shed bird flu virus through their saliva, mucus, and feces. Human infections with bird flu virus can occur when the virus enters a person's eyes, nose, or mouth, or is inhaled. This can happen when a person breathes in the virus in the air during contact with an infected bird or touches something contaminated with the virus and then touches their mouth, nose, or eyes.

People should avoid contact with wild birds that appear ill or are dead. People should also avoid contact with surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces from wild birds. Please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to report sick or dead birds by completing this [online form](#). If removal of a sick or dead bird is needed, members of the public are encouraged to contact Yolo County Animal Services at (530) 666-8282.

The Yolo County Health and Human Services Department, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are monitoring the situation, and appropriate measures are being taken to ensure public health.

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