

February 26, 2025

Dear Veterinary Colleagues,

This is an important message from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) and Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to all licensed veterinarians in the state of Connecticut. We are sending this message to update you on the current highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) situation and share resources. We ask that you share this information with your support staff and use these resources to assist you with questions from your clients regarding H5N1.

Additional Positive Backyard Flock Detected

During February, an additional H5N1 positive backyard flock was detected in New London County. This marks the third detection of H5N1 in domestic birds this year and the second in New London County in 2025. The premises have been depopulated.

After confirmatory testing is completed, the latest information on [Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#) in commercial and backyard flocks, wild birds, mammals, and livestock can be found on the United States Department of Agriculture page.

Additional [Cat deaths linked to H5N1 in raw food](#)

Two indoor cats in different households in Oregon were euthanized after contracting avian influenza infections and falling severely ill. Both cats had eaten raw food from Wild Coast Raw, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture is investigating more suspected cases.

Recent Publications

- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus Infection of Indoor Domestic Cats Within Dairy Industry Worker Households — Michigan, May 2024.](#)

HPAI A(H5N1) virus was detected in two indoor domestic cats with respiratory and neurologic illness that lived in homes of Michigan dairy workers but had no known direct exposure to HPAI A(H5N1)-affected farms. Both dairy workers declined testing; other household members received negative test results for influenza A.

- [Notes from the Field: Seroprevalence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5\) Virus Infections Among Bovine Veterinary Practitioners — United States, September 2024](#) describes a serosurvey among 150 bovine veterinary practitioners.

Three practitioners had evidence of recent infection with HPAI A(H5) virus, including two without exposures to animals with known or suspected HPAI A(H5) virus infections and one who did not practice in a U.S. state with known HPAI A(H5) virus-infected cattle.

One Health H5N1 Fact Sheet Published

The CT Department of Public Health, the CT Department of Agriculture, and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection published a One Health [fact sheet](#) (attached).

As a reminder, please discourage your clients and callers from handling sick or dead wild birds. As always, we are here for your questions and concerns.

The previous communications sent to veterinarians and support staff with information and resources regarding H5N1 are available [here](#).

Dr. Thamus Morgan, the State Veterinarian at the Department of Agriculture, may be reached at 860-713-2505 or ctstate.vet@ct.gov.

Dr. Kathy Kudish, the State Public Health Veterinarian at the Department of Public Health, may be reached at 860-509-7994 or Kathy.kudish@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Thamus J Morgan, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Handwritten signature of Thamus J Morgan in cursive script.

Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH

Handwritten signature of Kathy Kudish in cursive script.