



Public Health
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Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying advisory to each provider in your organization. Questions regarding this advisory may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Sarah D. Present MD, MPH

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-8630

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Please distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

June 4, 2015

TO: Physicians and other Health Care Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer
Sarah Present, MD, MPH, Health Officer
Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Health Officer

RE: **Bird Infections with Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N2), (H5N8), and (H5N1) Viruses: Recommendations for Human Health Investigations and Response**

Summary: Between December 15, 2014, and May 29, 2015, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) **confirmed more than 200 findings of birds infected with highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5N2), (H5N8), and (H5N1)1 viruses.** The majority of these infections have occurred in poultry, including backyard and commercial flocks. USDA surveillance indicates that more than 40 million birds have been affected (either infected or exposed) in 20 states. These are the first reported infections with these viruses in US wild or domestic birds. While these recently-identified HPAI H5 viruses are not known to have caused disease in humans, their appearance in North American birds may increase the likelihood of human infection in the United States.

CDC considers these newly-identified HPAI H5 viruses as having the potential to cause severe disease in humans and recommends the following:

Clinicians should consider the possibility of HPAI H5 virus infection in persons showing signs or symptoms of respiratory illness who have relevant exposure history. This includes:

- persons who have had contact with potentially-infected birds (e.g., handling, slaughtering, de-feathering, butchering, culling, preparation for consumption);
- direct contact with surfaces contaminated with feces or parts (carcasses, internal organs, etc.) of potentially-infected birds; and
- persons who have had prolonged exposure to potentially-infected birds in a confined space.

To see the full text of the CDC advisory, click [here](#).