

H5 Avian Influenza Preparedness

Avian Influenza H5N1 could arrive in Victoria this spring.

It is important that anyone who encounters sick or dead wild birds and wildlife is aware of H5N1, to minimise any risks to themselves and other animals. The most important sign to be aware of is sudden death.

Other signs of sickness are:

- lack of coordination, tremors, swimming in circles
- twisted necks or other unusual posture
- inability to stand or fly
- diarrhoea
- difficulty breathing, coughing or sneezing
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes
- cloudiness or change in colour of the eyes.

What to do:

1. AVOID contact with sick or dead wild birds or wildlife and their environment. Do not touch or collect sick or dead wild birds or wildlife.

2. RECORD what you see. If safe, record information on the number of dead birds/animals, species, location, date and time.

3. REPORT by calling DEECA on **136 186**.

- Report clusters (5 or more) of sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.
- Report even one
 - sick or dead penguin or pelican
 - sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles)
 - sick or dead black swan
 - sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).

Following a report, DEECA will evaluate the need for diagnostic testing or other investigation. Reporting will be key to early detection.

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