

# MALVERN HILLS

## Bird flu outbreak

### Advice for the public and keepers of birds (including recreational/back garden pets)

–Avian flu has been confirmed in wild birds in Worcestershire and commercial premises across England.

–Public Health England has confirmed that the risk to public health is very low.

–The Food Standards Agency has said that bird flu poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers and it does not affect the consumption of poultry or eggs.

–Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

–If you have been in contact with sick or dead birds, or their droppings, while not wearing the correct PPE, wash any footwear properly and thoroughly wash your hands in soap and water. Then call Public Health England's Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560 to arrange for antiviral medication and active surveillance of your condition. Even someone who has handled infected birds while wearing adequate PPE will need to undergo active surveillance.

**If you keep birds commercially, or in your back garden as pets, you must follow strict biosecurity and housing measures. These are:**

- housing or netting all poultry and captive birds
- cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting housing at the end of a production cycle
- keeping fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all points where people should use it, such as farm entrances and before entering poultry and captive bird housing or enclosures
- minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

**Poultry and captive bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on | T: 03459 33 55 77**

**Bird keepers should report suspicion of disease in captive birds to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on | T: 03000 200 301**