

PUBLIC NOTICE

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AVIAN INFLUENZA: THE PRESENCE OF THE VIRUS IN QUEBEC

Kuujuuaq, April 5, 2022 – Since December 20, 2021, avian influenza has spread to wild birds in several Canadian provinces. On April 4, 2022, the first three cases of avian influenza were confirmed in Quebec.

Ducks and geese are known to be affected by avian influenza and with the spring migration underway, the NRBHSS is asking *Nunavimmiut* to be vigilant for birds with symptoms.

Signs that a bird may have avian influenza include: nervousness, trembling or lack of coordination, swelling around the head, neck and eyes, diarrhea or sudden death. Multiple dead birds in one location is one of the signs of the presence of this virus.

The risk of transmission of avian influenza to humans from wild birds is very low. However, basic measures are recommended for hunters and other bird handlers to reduce the risk of illness and spread of the virus: wear gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water, clean clothing and equipment.

The eating properly cooked waterfowl meat isn't a source of infection for humans.

If you notice any unusual death or illness in birds, contact Géraldine Gouin or Peter May at the Nunavik Research Centre (819-964-2925).

If you feel very sick after handling a bird, contact your CLSC/Nursing station.

For further information: [Avian Influenza](#)

Source: information adapted from [Wild birds and avian influenza – Handling guidelines](#), Government of Canada.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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