

PUBLIC NOTICE

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UPDATE: AVIAN INFLUENZA

Kuujuuaq, May 4, 2023 – Since April 2022, avian influenza (bird flu) has spread among wild birds throughout the regions of Québec. Although no cases of avian influenza have been detected in birds in Nunavik, it is highly likely that the virus is in circulation in the region, as it has already been detected in Nunavut and Labrador.

Ducks and geese are known to be affected by this disease. With the spring migration and the hunting season underway, the NRBHSS is asking Nunavimmiut to be vigilant and avoid hunting and consuming sick wildfowl.

Although the virus circulates primarily among birds, it can sometimes be transmitted to other animals that come into close contact with sick birds, including marine mammals.

The risks of transmission of avian influenza from wildfowl to humans are low. To reduce the risk of illness and transmission of the virus, basic measures are recommended for handling birds: wear gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water, clean clothing and equipment.

The consumption of properly cooked wildfowl is not a source of infection for humans.

If you find dead or sick birds, do not touch them. You may contact Géraldine Gouin or Peter May of the Nunavik Research Centre (819-964-2925) to report the situation.

If you find dead or sick seals, do not touch them. Report the situation immediately to Géraldine Gouin or Peter May (819-964-2925) of the Nunavik Research Centre, as avian flu has not yet been detected in any seal species in Nunavik.

If you get sick after handling a bird, contact your CLSC/Nursing Station.

To learn more: [Avian Influenza | Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services \(nrbhss.ca\)](https://nrbhss.ca)

Source: [Wildlife and avian influenza – Handling guidelines to protect your health - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/wildlife/avian-influenza-handling-guidelines.html)