



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PO Box 400
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

EDWARD D. WENGRYN
Secretary

September 20, 2024

Dear Registered Poultry Distributor:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial and backyard flocks throughout the nation in an ongoing outbreak since 2022. In this outbreak, 48 states have been affected, including various domestic bird types such as backyard-raised egg layers, meat birds, ducks, and geese. In addition, during the past six months, approximately 14 states have documented HPAI in domestic livestock, including dairy cattle, dairy goats, and alpacas. The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has also reported several human cases related to individuals who had close contact with infected livestock.

Please remember the following:

- Monitor birds for signs of illness and death.
- Report significant illness and/or poultry deaths to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.
- Store dead poultry in a sealed container or double bag until they can be disposed in a manner consistent with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Do not expose dead poultry to the environment, other poultry, or to wildlife/wild birds.
- Wash your hands after handling sick or dead birds.

Standard New Jersey import requirements (avian influenza testing and poultry inspection certificate) remain in place and must be met to ascertain the health and welfare of New Jersey poultry. The detection of HPAI in the New Jersey Live Bird Marketing System will seriously impact business continuity and disrupt timely poultry movement for an extended period. Negative avian influenza results before movement helps ensure that the live bird marketing system remains free of HPAI and its associated impacts. State and federal inspectors will continue to perform routine inspections and sampling for Avian Influenza at your facility. Your continued commitment to poultry health is essential. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Animal Health at (609)-671-6400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amar Patil".

Amar Patil DVM, MVSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVM
Director, Division of Animal Health/ NJ State Veterinarian

Cc: Live Bird Market Owners