



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PO Box 400
TRENTON NJ 08625-0400

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

EDWARD D. WENGRYN
Secretary

September 12, 2025

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 live bird markets, commercial poultry, backyard flocks, and wild birds throughout the nation in an ongoing outbreak since 2022. In this outbreak, all 50 states and Puerto Rico have seen affected poultry, including chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, and game birds raised in captivity. In addition, approximately 17 states have documented HPAI in other domestic livestock, since March 2024, including dairy cattle, dairy goats, and alpacas. The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has also reported several human cases in individuals who had close contact with infected livestock. Most recently, NJ has had confirmed HPAI cases in domestic cats in Hunterdon and Union Counties.

Please continue to stay vigilant and 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 as stated in your signed biosecurity protocol.**
- **Store dead poultry in a sealed container or double bag and dispose them 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.**
- **Strongly discourage your drivers from entering live bird markets.**
- **If absolutely necessary, protective shoe covers should be worn and disposed of at the market.**
- **Maintain cleaning and disinfecting supplies in each delivery vehicle in case delivery staff needs to enter a live bird market. These supplies can include a bucket, spray bottle, water, approved disinfectant, and a brush for cleaning shoes, vehicle flooring, and tires.**

At this time, standard New Jersey import requirements (avian influenza testing and poultry inspection certificate and/or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) must be met to ascertain the health and welfare of New Jersey poultry. As we saw earlier this year, the detection of HPAI in


For the latest update on the national outbreak visit:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/ai>

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the New Jersey Live Bird Marketing System will continue to 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 and in live bird markets. The Division of Animal Health appreciates your continued commitment to poultry health and is dedicated to our partnership in preventing the spread of this disease. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Animal Health at (609)-671-6400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Amar Patil", written in a cursive style.

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

Cc: Live Bird Market Owners