



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PO Box 400
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

EDWARD D. WENGRYN
Secretary

September 20, 2024

Dear Live Bird Market Owner/Manager:

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, over 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. Additionally, please remember the following:

- Do not return sick or dead poultry to the distributor if it has entered the market.
- Isolate poultry showing early signs of illness as far away from healthy poultry as possible.
- Humanely euthanized/slaughter and remove sick or injured poultry from the market within 24 hours.
- Remove mortalities immediately from pens/cages.
- 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.

State and/or federal inspectors will continue to perform routine inspections and sampling for Avian Influenza in your market. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Animal Health at (609)-671-6400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amar Patil".

Amar Patil DVM, MVSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVM
State Veterinarian / Director, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330
Phone: (609) 671-6400

For the latest update on the national outbreak visit:

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

New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer • www.nj.gov/agriculture/