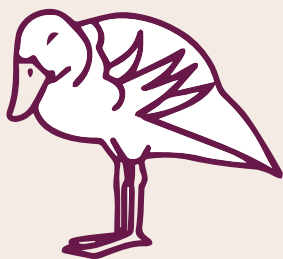


H5 BIRD FLU

Australia has confirmed detections of H5 avian influenza (bird flu). This is a serious bird flu strain that has been circulating globally. It mainly affects birds, but can also affect some mammals and on rare occasions, humans.



H5 bird flu is a highly contagious disease that is caused by a virus

How it spreads

The virus can pass between birds through infected droppings, breathing, contaminated environments and close contact. It can also spread to some mammals.

Human health

While the current risk to people on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is low, it's still important to avoid contact with sick or dead birds and other animals.

Signs to watch for in birds

Look for unusual behaviours and symptoms, such as:

- can't stand, walk, or fly properly
- droopy or puffed-up appearance
- breathing problems (panting or sneezing)
- unusual head or neck posture
- sudden death (especially in large numbers)



Wild birds can carry and spread the virus without showing signs of disease

What to do if you see sick or dead birds or other animals

Bird flu is serious and needs to be reported if you suspect it.

If you see multiple sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them.

- **AVOID** contact and keep your distance
- **RECORD** the date, time and location, and take photos if it is safe to do so
- **REPORT** it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888