



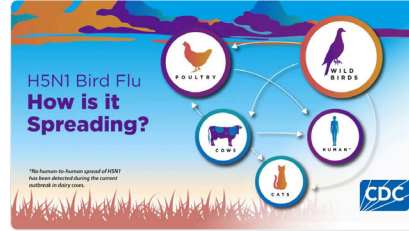
DECEMBER 23, 2024

# H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation

**i** Due to the holidays, updates will not be made to this page on December 25th. Human case count updates will resume on December 27th. For animal detections, updates will not be made on December 24 and December 27, 2024. Updates to animal detections will be provided on the morning of the following business day, December 26 and December 30, 2024.

## WHAT TO KNOW

- H5 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several recent human cases in U.S. dairy and poultry workers.
- While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures.
- CDC is using its flu surveillance systems to monitor for H5 bird flu activity in people.



## Current situation

### H5 Bird Flu Detections in USA

- Dairy cattle: [Ongoing multi-state outbreak](#)
- Wild Birds: [Widespread](#)
- Poultry Flocks: [Sporadic outbreaks](#)
- Mammals: [Sporadic infections](#)
- Person-to-person spread: None
- Current public health risk: Low



**65** Confirmed Total Reported Human Cases in the United States

Confirmed human case summary during the 2024 outbreak, by state and exposure source

### Exposure Source

State	Exposure Associated with Commercial Agriculture and Related Operations		Other Animal Exposure <sup>†</sup>	Exposure Source Unknown <sup>‡</sup>	State Total
	Dairy Herds (Cattle)	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations			
California	35	0	0	1	36
Colorado	1	9	0	0	10
Iowa	0	1	0	0	1
Louisiana	0	0	1	0	1
Michigan	2	0	0	0	2
Missouri	0	0	0	1	1
Oregon	0	1	0	0	1
Texas	1	0	0	0	1
Washington	0	11	0	0	11
Wisconsin	0	1	0	0	1
Source Total	39	23	1	2	65

NOTE: One additional case was previously detected in a poultry worker in Colorado in 2022.

<sup>†</sup>Exposure was related to other animals such as backyard flocks, wild birds, or other mammals

<sup>‡</sup>Exposure source was not able to be identified

## Probable human case summary during the 2024 outbreak, by state and exposure source

When a case tests positive for H5 at a public health laboratory but testing at CDC is not able to confirm H5 infection, per [Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists \(CSTE\), guidance](#) [PDF](#) [↗](#), a case is reported as probable.

- Probable cases with commercial poultry exposure (e.g., poultry farms or culling operations):
  - Washington (3)
  - Arizona (2)
- Probable cases with commercial dairy (cattle) exposure:
  - California (1)
- Probable cases with exposure source unknown:
  - Delaware (1)

Confirmed and probable cases are typically updated by 5 PM EST on Mondays (for cases confirmed by CDC on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday), Wednesdays (for cases confirmed by CDC on Monday or Tuesday), and Fridays (for cases confirmed by CDC on Wednesday and Thursday). Affected states may report cases more frequently.

### H5 Monitoring in People

CDC influenza (flu) surveillance systems show no indicators of unusual influenza activity in people, including avian influenza A(H5).

[Monitoring Current Situation](#)

## National flu surveillance (since February 25, 2024)

### Specimens tested

**70,000+**

specimens tested that would have detected influenza A(H5) or other novel influenza viruses

### Human cases

**3**

case detected through national flu surveillance

## Targeted H5 surveillance (since March 24, 2024)

Total people monitored	Total people tested	Human cases
<b>10,300+</b> after exposure to infected animals	<b>520+</b> after exposure to infected animals	<b>62</b> cases detected through targeted H5 surveillance

*Total people monitored and total people tested will be updated weekly on Fridays. Human cases are typically updated by 5 PM EST on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. CDC numbers on specimens tested for national flu surveillance is the number of seasonal flu tests conducted by public health labs. CDC numbers on H5 testing and monitoring are based on weekly state aggregate reports since 2022. CDC defers to states for updated information on people being monitored and tested. March 24, 2024, was the date of the first reported dairy cow infections in the United States. April 1, 2024, was the date of the first reported human case in the United States since the outbreaks in dairy cows began. Infected animals include poultry, dairy cows, and other birds and mammals.*

## Detections in Animals

- **10,917** wild birds detected as of 12/23/2024 | [Full Report](#)
- **51** jurisdictions with bird flu in wild birds
- **125,554,992** poultry affected as of 12/23/2024 | [Full Report](#)
- **50** states with outbreaks in poultry
- **876** dairy herds affected as of 12/23/2024 | [Full Report](#) [↗](#)
- **16** states with outbreaks in dairy cows

*These data will be updated daily, Monday through Friday, after 4 p.m. to reflect any new data.*

*Cumulative data on wild birds have been collected since January 20, 2022. Cumulative data on poultry have been collected since February 8, 2022. Cumulative data on humans in the U.S. have been collected since April 28, 2022. Cumulative data on dairy cattle have been collected since March 25, 2024.*

## What CDC is doing

### [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus: Interim Recommendations for Prevention, Monitoring, and Public Health Investigations](#)

This page outlines CDC's recommendations for preventing exposure to avian influenza viruses.

DEC 20, 2024

### [CDC Confirms First Severe Case of H5N1 Bird Flu in the United States](#)

December 18, 2024-- A patient has been hospitalized with a severe case of avian influenza A(H5N1)

DEC 18, 2024

### [Technical Update: Summary Analysis of the Genetic Sequence of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus Identified in a Child in California](#)

CDC provides an update on genetic sequencing of the first pediatric case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus, or "H5N1 bird flu," in the United States.

DEC 10, 2024

### [CDC confirms H5N1 Bird Flu Infection in a Child in California](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed a human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) (H5N1 bird flu) in a child in California.

NOV 22, 2024

### [CDC A\(H5N1\) Bird Flu Response Update November 18, 2024](#)

CDC provides an update on its response activities related to the multistate outbreak of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus, or "H5N1 bird flu," in dairy cows and other animals in the United States.

NOV 18, 2024

## Interim Guidance for Employers to Reduce Exposure to Novel Influenza A (Such as H5N1 Bird Flu) for People Working with or Exposed to Animals

This guidance identifies select occupational groups that may be at risk to novel influenza A viruses

NOV 12, 2024

## Protective Actions for People

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- [Protective actions around wild birds](#) Avoid direct contact with wild birds and observe them only from a distance, if possible. [Learn more.](#)
- [What to do if you find a dead bird](#) Avoid contact with wild or domestic birds that appear ill or have died and call to report sick or dead birds. [Learn more.](#)
- [Protective actions around other animals with H5N1 bird flu](#) Avoid unprotected exposure to infected live or dead animals or surfaces contaminated by them. [Learn more.](#)
- [Protective actions if you work with potentially infected dairy cattle](#) Avoid unprotected direct physical contact or close exposure with cattle and materials potentially infected or confirmed to be infected with HPAI A(H5) virus. [Learn more.](#)
- [Consuming Milk](#) People should not eat or drink raw milk or products made with raw milk. Choosing pasteurized milk is the best way to keep you and your family safe. [Learn more.](#)
- [Preparing food](#) It is safe to eat properly handled and cooked poultry in the United States. There are recommendations around products from other animals with H5 virus infections, including cattle and milk. [Learn more.](#)
- [Traveling to other countries](#) CDC does not currently recommend any travel restrictions related to bird flu to countries affected by bird flu in birds, other animals or people. [Learn more.](#)
- [If you have contact with infected birds or other animals and become sick](#) Learn what to do if you have contact with infected birds or other animals and become sick. [Learn more.](#)
- [Clinicians](#) can visit CDC's avian influenza (bird flu) information for health professionals for the latest guidance. [Learn more.](#)
- [Public health professionals and laboratorians](#) can visit CDC's avian influenza (bird flu) information for public health partners for the latest guidance. [Learn more.](#)
- [Get a seasonal flu vaccine](#) Seasonal flu vaccination will not prevent infection with bird flu viruses, but can reduce the risk of getting sick with human influenza viruses and thus the risk for seasonal and bird flu co-infection. [Learn more.](#)

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### SOURCES

#### CONTENT SOURCE:

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)