

Tribal Health Department

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Advisory Notice

Avian Influenza Detection

November 15, 2024 – [According to the Arizona Department of Agriculture](#), poultry at a commercial farm located in Pinal County have tested positive for Avian Influenza. When the poultry began showing clinical signs consistent with avian influenza on November 11, 2024, samples from the location were submitted to the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (AZVDL) for preliminary determination, then submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. Eggs produced after the onset of illness have not entered the food supply. Consumers in Arizona and around the nation can remain confident in the safety and quality of eggs and egg products. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has ensured a quick response to alleviate any supply chain challenges.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk to the general public is considered to be low with those most at risk of exposure being individuals working on a commercial farm, directly involved with the daily care and husbandry of the birds.

How to Protect Yourself:

- As a general precaution, whenever possible people should avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, and other animals and observe them only from a distance.
- If you must have direct/close contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, or other animals, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Wild birds can be infected with avian (bird) influenza (flu) A viruses even if they don't look sick.
- Do not touch surfaces or materials (e.g., animal litter or bedding material) contaminated with saliva, mucous, or animal feces from wild or domestic birds or other animals with confirmed or suspected avian bird influenza A virus infection.
- Do not touch or consume raw milk or raw milk products, especially from animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza A virus infection.

Contact your healthcare provider if you are ill. If you do not have a health care provider and need to seek care, please contact the urgent care or hospital before visiting.

For residents of the Gila River Indian Community, you may contact the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Wildlife Program to report a sick bird or a deceased bird at (520) 562-2773. DEQ advises to not touch any dead birds.

