

# Miami-Dade County Health Department

Avian Influenza/Public Health Veterinarian Services





# Key Pointers

- There is no evidence so far that wild birds have been the source of human infections in Asia.
- The most common wild bird hosts are waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and shorebirds (wading birds), gulls, and terns.
- Unlike poultry, wild birds generally do not get ill from avian influenza viruses - the Asian H5N1 avian influenza virus IS (as it is in so many other ways) an exception; mortality from the Asian H5N1 has been reported in 60+ species.
- In Florida, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the lead agency investigating clusters of ill or dead birds and want these reported to [www.MyFWC.com/bird](http://www.MyFWC.com/bird).
- Wild bird flu testing is not done routinely, but the laboratory resources are available in the state should the circumstances suggest that avian influenza may be the cause.



# Good Hygienic Practices to Reduce Exposure

1. No birds from flocks with disease should enter the food chain.
2. Do not eat raw poultry parts, including raw blood, or raw eggs in or from areas with outbreaks in poultry.
3. Separate raw meat from cooked or ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination. Do not use the same chopping board or the same knife. Do not handle both raw and cooked foods without washing your hands in between and do not place cooked meat back on the same plate or surface it was on prior to cooking. Do not use raw or soft-boiled eggs in food preparations that will not be heat treated or cooked.
4. Keep clean and wash your hands. After handling frozen or thawed raw poultry or eggs, wash your hands thoroughly with soap. Wash and disinfect all surfaces and utensils that have been in contact with the raw meat.
5. Cook thoroughly: Thorough cooking of poultry meat will inactivate the virus. Either ensure that the poultry meat reaches 158 Fahrenheit at the center of the product (“piping” hot) or that the meat is not pink in any part. Egg yolks should not be runny or liquid.



# Information Update

- Questions and answers about avian influenza virus in wild birds - fyi and use..
- [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/research/avian\\_influenza/FAQ\\_avian\\_influenza.html](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/research/avian_influenza/FAQ_avian_influenza.html)



# Who To Contact

For any questions regarding poultry /animals contact:

Dr. Fermin Leguen  
(305) 470-6827

or

Samir Elmir  
(305) 623-3500

Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD  
State Public Health Veterinarian  
Tel: (850) 245 -4732  
Cell: (850) 528-1595