



Public Health Services One Health Epidemiology Program Newsletter

Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch

Thursday, June 20, 2024

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Announcements

World Ocean Day was Celebrated on June 8, 2024



[World Ocean Day](#) was on June 8th - the ocean is an incredible natural resource here in San Diego and across the globe. There are many groups working on ocean health around the County that focus on [research](#), [population health](#), [marine animal rehabilitation](#), [beach clean ups](#), [water quality](#), [conservation](#), education, and so much more.

Launching One Health Epidemiology Rounds

Continuing Education Credits Available for CA Licensed Veterinarians

Topics will include:

- Avian Influenza Update
- Zoonotic Disease Diagnostic Data for Domestic Species in San Diego County
- Rabies Frequently Asked Questions

Make sure to vote on the [Best Time to Meet Poll](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Update to CDC Dog and Cat Importation Regulations, Effective August 1, 2024

All dogs must:

- Be 6 months of age to enter the United States (U.S).
- Have an International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-compatible microchip.
- Appear healthy upon arrival.
- Have a CDC Dog Import Form receipt.
- Have additional vaccination and veterinary medical documents depending on which countries the dog has been in the past 6 months.

For more information, please visit:

- [From August 1, 2024, Onward: What Your Dog Needs to Enter the United States | CDC](#)
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Open Positions in the Region

- [Registered Veterinary Technician](#), Department of Animal Services, County of San Diego
- [Veterinarian](#), Department of Animal Services, County of San Diego
- [Veterinarian](#), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
 - This is a veterinarian job posting for Southern California (Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange County, San Diego County,

and Imperial County). Southern California is the region of coverage so applicants can live in any of these counties.

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected for the First Time in California Cervids

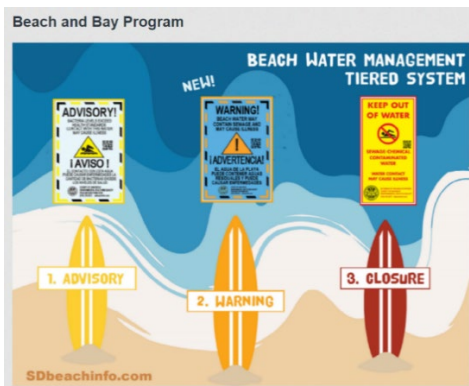
Contribute to surveillance of this disease, find out more [here](#).

How to get Featured in the OHEP Newsletter

We would love to feature your work in our newsletter! Please send photos, videos, and short descriptions to phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov so we can highlight the work you do around the County.

County Resources

Check Out these County Resources



- [Avian Influenza \(H5N1 Bird Flu\) Webpage](#)
- [Beaches and Bays](#)
- [OHEP Website](#)
- [Vector Control Program](#)

Zoonotic Diseases

Avian Influenza

Background

Avian influenza is a type of zoonotic influenza. Influenza viruses are identified by their H and N proteins. Currently, H5N1 has been circulating through dairy cattle in the U.S. Through genetic analysis of the virus, it appears that spillover occurred from a wild bird to dairy cattle in Texas. The viral load is highest in the raw milk from these cows, and it appears the virus can spread between dairy cattle by direct exposure to the virus in the milk or other bodily fluids. The movement of asymptomatic cattle is likely the cause of outbreaks in additional states. There are cases of viral spillover from the cattle to cats, a racoon, poultry, and wild birds.

Three people exposed to dairy cattle have tested positive for H5N1 and developed conjunctivitis (2) and respiratory signs (1). Of the 15 people globally that have tested positive for H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, there has been 1 fatality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is low risk to the general public's health, and low-to-moderate risk for those with exposure to infected animals or their environments.

There is currently a [federal order](#) restricting movement of lactating dairy cattle to limit the spread of this disease. The Food and Drug Administration is continuing to study food safety related to the outbreak in dairy cattle.



Clinical Signs

Poultry: Sudden death with high mortality among the flock; decreased egg production; swelling of head/comb, wattles and hocks; purple discoloration of wattles, comb and legs; nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing; ataxia, diarrhea.

Wild Birds: Some species such as ducks can be infected but asymptomatic, while others can become clinically affected similar to poultry.

Mammals: A wide range of wild mammals have been affected which typically present with neurologic or respiratory signs. There have been significant mortality events in marine mammal populations affected. Domestic mammals ([cats](#), cows, and [alpaca](#)s) have also become affected. Dairy cattle presented with decreased appetite, decreased milk production, and mastitis. Cats can present with loss of appetite, fever, depression, dyspnea, jaundice, and other respiratory and neurologic signs leading to death.

People: Only rare human cases have occurred. Symptoms in those cases have ranged from mild flu-like symptoms, including cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue, headache, conjunctivitis; to moderate, including shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, altered mentation and seizures; to severe complications, including pneumonia, respiratory failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, multi-organ failure and meningoencephalitis.

Treatment

Due to how severely affected many avian species can be and how infectious it is to other birds, euthanasia is often elected. Treatment has been attempted for conservation purposes of endangered avian species such as the [California condor](#).

Ill dairy cattle have continued to shed virus for 2-3 weeks following infection and have largely recovered with minimal intervention.

People are treated with anti-viral medications; see [CDC interim guidance](#).

Prevention

- Quarantine patients with clinical signs consistent with avian influenza.
- Use personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) when handling ill susceptible species.
- Testing of animal specimens can occur through the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory system.
- Implement biosecurity measures to limit mixing of livestock and poultry and to safely deter wild birds.
- Report unusual sick or dead poultry to CDFA Avian Health Program by calling 1-866-922-BIRD (2473).
- Report wild bird mortalities, including crows, ravens, jays, hawks, owls, or falcons to the [Vector Control Program](#). Report all other deceased wild avian species to the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#).
- Do not consume raw milk.
- If you become ill within 14 days of exposure to birds or mammals suspected or confirmed to have avian influenza, follow these steps:
 - Isolate at home unless symptoms require emergency room treatment.
 - Contact your healthcare provider to coordinate influenza testing.
 - Report your symptoms to the Epidemiology Unit by calling (619) 692-8499.

Additional Resources

- [Avian Health Program | CDFA](#)
- [Avian Influenza in Birds | CDC](#)
- [Detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\) in Dairy Herds: Frequently Asked Questions | U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza | CDFW](#)
- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) H5N1 Virus in Livestock | CDFA](#)
- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | USDA](#)
- [Influenza in Animals | California Department of Public Health](#)

- [Joint FAO/WHO/WOAH preliminary assessment of recent influenza A\(H5N1\) viruses | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; WHO; World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
- [Updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) | FDA](#)

How to Contact Us

For more information, contact the San Diego One Health Epidemiology Program through our [contact form](#), via e-mail at phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov, or call the Epidemiology Unit at (619) 692-8499.

We want to know if you are seeing any unusual, new, or emerging animal disease or outbreak. We can provide consultation, help investigate these diseases, and provide resources. Keeping us informed helps us protect our human and animal community.

Sign up for our One Health Epidemiology Network Updates

Thank you!

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or the One Health Epidemiology Program, please email phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.



The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.