



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: September 9, 2024

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) in California dairy cattle

Key Messages

- Avian influenza A(H5N1) has been confirmed in cows at three California dairies located in the Central Valley.
- Healthcare providers should consider avian influenza A(H5N1) in persons with acute respiratory symptoms and/or conjunctivitis and recent exposure to animals suspected or confirmed to have avian influenza.
- Healthcare providers and clinical laboratories should immediately report cases of known or suspected avian influenza (H5N1) to the County Epidemiology Unit by calling 619-692-8499 (Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM) or 858-565-5255 (after hours and holidays).

Situation

On September 4, 2024, the California Department of Public Health issued a [Health Advisory](#) reporting that cows at three California dairies located in the Central Valley tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1. To date there have not been any confirmed human infections of avian influenza A(H5N1) in California, and the current risk to the public remains low. However, people with job-related or recreational exposures to infected birds, cattle, or other animals are at higher risk of infection.

Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reported detections of HPAI H5N1 virus in U.S. dairy cattle in multiple states. From April 1 to August 30, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed four human HPAI A(H5N1) infections among commercial dairy workers in Texas (1), Michigan (2), and Colorado (1), with suspected cow-to-human transmission. All persons had mild symptoms, including four with conjunctivitis and one reporting upper respiratory symptoms. No human-to-human transmission has been identified thus far in the United States. No confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) have been identified in California.

Actions Requested

1. **Consider** avian influenza (H5N1) in persons with acute respiratory symptoms and/or conjunctivitis with relevant exposure history as outlined in [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus in Animals: Interim Recommendations for Prevention, Monitoring, and Public Health Investigations](#).
2. **Treat** suspected or confirmed cases of avian influenza (H5N1) with antivirals as clinically indicated.
3. **Report** cases of suspected or confirmed cases of avian influenza (H5N1) to the County Epidemiology Unit by calling 619-692 8499 (Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM) or 858-565-5255 (after hours and holidays).

Resources

Federal

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

[Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks | FDA](#)

[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | USDA](#)

State

[CDPH HAN - Detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) A\(H5N1\) in California dairy cattle](#)

[Avian influenza Updates | CDFA](#)

[Avian and Novel Influenza Quicksheet | CDPH](#)

Local

[Avian Influenza \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

[CAHAN San Diego 4-12-2024.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458

Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255

E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>

Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>