



CDC Newsroom

# Colorado Reports Three Presumptive Positive H5 Cases in Poultry Workers

CDC Standing by to Confirm Specimens, Sending Team to Support State Investigation

## Press Release

For Immediate Release: July 12, 2024

**Contact:** [Media Relations](#)

(404) 639-3286

**July 12, 2024** – The state of Colorado has announced that three people have tested presumptive positive for [highly pathogenic avian influenza](#) (HPAI) A(H5) (“H5 bird flu”) virus infection. Specimens have been sent to CDC for confirmatory testing. All of the people who tested presumptive positive experienced mild symptoms and were workers who were involved in the depopulation of poultry at a poultry facility experiencing an outbreak of the H5N1 virus that is circulating in wild birds and has been causing multistate outbreaks in dairy cows and poultry. At the state’s request, CDC is sending a team to Colorado to support their investigation, which is ongoing.

CDC’s current risk assessment for the general public remains low. As we learn more, we will continue to assess the situation and provide updates. These preliminary results again underscore the risk of exposure to infected animals. There are no signs of unexpected increases in flu activity otherwise in Colorado, or in other states affected by H5 bird flu outbreaks in cows and poultry.

Human infections with this novel influenza virus (and others) are concerning because of the potential to cause severe disease. The other reason these types of human infections are concerning is because of their pandemic potential. If these viruses were to change to spread easily from person-to-person, it could trigger a pandemic, though, to date, we have not seen genetic changes in the virus that would make it more likely to transmit between humans.

CDC’s recommendations related to H5 have not changed at this time. Findings from the investigation will inform whether guidance changes are needed. The investigation will include looking into compliance with the recommended use of personal protective equipment. Historically, most human cases of bird flu infection have happened in people who are not wearing recommended personal protective equipment. An analysis of the virus sequences from this outbreak also will be important to determine if a change in the risk assessment is warranted.

## CDC Recommendations

- People should avoid close, long, or unprotected exposures to sick or dead animals, including wild birds, poultry, other domesticated birds, and other wild or domesticated animals (including cows).
- People should also avoid unprotected exposures to animal poop, bedding (litter), unpasteurized (“raw”) milk, or materials that have been touched by, or close to, birds or other animals with suspected or confirmed A(H5N1) virus.

- CDC has [interim recommendations](#) for prevention, monitoring, and public health investigations of A(H5N1) virus infections in people. CDC also has updated recommendations for [worker protection and use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#). Following these recommendations is central to reducing a person's risk and containing the overall public health risk.

###

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES](#) 

*Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, or from human activity or deliberate attack, CDC's world-leading experts protect lives and livelihoods, national security and the U.S. economy by providing timely, commonsense information, and rapidly identifying and responding to diseases, including outbreaks and illnesses. CDC drives science, public health research, and data innovation in communities across the country by investing in local initiatives to protect everyone's health.*

Last Reviewed: July 12, 2024

How helpful was this page?



Not helpful

Very helpful