Ronald G. Rios
County Commissioner Director

Shanti Narra
County Commissioner Deputy Director

Claribel A. Azcona-Barber
Charles Kenny
Leslie Koppel
Chanelle Scott McCullum
Charles E. Tomaro
County Commissioners

MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH
Office of Health Services
Division of Environmental Health

Shanti Narra
Chairperson, Public Safety & Health

John A. Pulomena
County Administrator

Joseph W. Krisza
Department Head

Lester Jones
Director

Mickey Gross
Division Head

Municipality Guidance on H5N1 Avian Influenza (Bird flu)

Middlesex County Office of Health Services is working under the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) to monitor H5N1 in New Jersey.

What is H5N1?
What is H5N1? H5N1 (called "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" or "bird flu") is a disease caused by influenza A viruses. Wild birds, particularly waterfowl, can carry and spread these viruses but may show no signs of illness. However, H5N1 can cause severe disease and death in domestic poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese). H5N1 is causing illness in dairy cattle in multiple states as well, and cases of H5N1 have also been reported in wild birds, mammals, and other domestic companion animals, such as cats. People with close or prolonged contact with infected animals or contaminated environments may be at a higher risk of avian influenza infection.

Current Situation (for updates please see nj.gov/H5N1/)
• H5N1 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide, and is causing outbreaks in poultry, and U.S. dairy cows in the United States.
• Most human cases of H5N1 in the US have had occupational exposures to poultry and/or dairy cows, although there have been a small number of cases with unknown exposures. Person-to-person spread of bird flu has not been documented in the US.
• In NJ, there have been recent detections in wild birds and in wastewater.
• **NO HUMAN CASES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN NJ.**

- **Poultry & Livestock: To report sick or dead poultry, contact the NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400.**
- **Wild Birds: If you find sick or dead wild birds, do not handle them unless following NJDOH guidelines. Contact the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Fish and Wildlife hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).**
- **Middlesex County Properties: If you find a sick or dead bird on a County property, please contact the Office of Health Services- Environmental Division at 732-745-8480 or 732-745-3100. After hours, weekends, and holidays, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 732-745-3271.**

444 Hoes Lane Bldg 6 Suite 120
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: 732-745-8480 | Fax: 732-296-6565
www.middlesexcountynj.gov

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

Removal
NJDEP advises that local municipalities may be responsible for carcass disposal for small die-off events, (if they choose to do so). When calling to report a large number of dead birds (20 or greater), NJDEP and/or USDA will advise callers if they will remove or dispose of the carcasses. Local municipalities may need to determine appropriate disposal options, e.g., Departments of Public Works or a licensed wildlife removal service. Whichever agency is assisting with carcass disposal, should ensure staff are trained on and are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, protective clothing, boot covers or boots, an N95 respirator, and safety glasses or face shield. Direct contact should be avoided by utilizing a tool such as a shovel or pitchfork. **Residents should avoid contact with wild or domestic birds that appear ill or have died.**

The removal of any birds or wildlife should be done utilizing the NJDOH and CDC recommended safety protocols https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/prevention/employer-provided-ppe.html; **or** you may choose to contract with a New Jersey licensed pest removal company.

If a resident reports a dead bird on their property, please check your Municipal ordinances to determine if the owner of the property is the responsible party for the removal of the carcasses.

For the most up to date information regarding H5N1 please visit: https://www.nj.gov/H5N1/

The Middlesex County Office of Health Services will continue working with state and local partners to monitor the outbreak and will provide information when updates are available. Additional guidance and information for residents, healthcare providers, and public health partners can be found at www.middlesexcountynj.gov, search "H5N1."

444 Hoes Lane Bldg 6 Suite 120
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: 732-745-8480 | Fax: 732-296-6565
www.middlesexcountynj.gov