# Important Notice: Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Case Confirmed in this area

A case of avian influenza has been confirmed in kept birds at a premises in this area. For details of the case see:

www.gov.uk/animal-disease-cases-england

The Government has declared a Disease Control Zone around the affected premises. Details of the extent of the Zone can be viewed on the Defra Interactive Map

**The risk to public health from the virus is very low, however it is important that people do not pick up sick or dead birds.**

APHA staff will contact known poultry/captive bird owners within the next few days to gather further information. This information will help veterinary staff to assess the risk of avian influenza spread. APHA veterinary staff may need to carry out an inspection of your birds to assess their health.

Please be reassured there is no automatic culling policy for avian influenza outbreaks. Birds will only be culled if avian influenza is confirmed in the flock following laboratory testing of samples, or if a veterinary risk assessment indicates a strong likelihood of significant links to an infected premise.

Registration of poultry and captive birds with APHA has been compulsory since 1st October 2024.

**If you keep poultry or captive birds and have not registered with APHA you must do so now at**

www.gov.uk/government/collections/register-as-a-bird-keeper

If you need help registering contact APHA:

- by email at customer.registration@apha.gov.uk
- by phone on 03000 200 301 (lines are open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday)

## Special Measures

If you have poultry or other birds at your premises, you must adhere to the conditions and movement restrictions which apply in the Zone. Heightened biosecurity measures have been put in place to protect your birds from disease and prevent its spread. Poultry and captive birds must be housed in a 3km Protection or Captive Bird Monitoring Zone, and licences are required for movements to and from premises in the whole Disease Control Zone. Further information on the current avian influenza restrictions and controls which apply in the area can be found on the government website.

www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-avian-influenza-latest-situation-in-england

## Signs of Avian Influenza

If your birds become ill, consult your vet immediately. Avian influenza spreads through direct contact or contaminated fluids and faeces. Symptoms in poultry include:

- Swollen head and blue discolouration of the neck and throat
- Loss of appetite and diarrhoea
- Respiratory distress (gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling)
- Reduced egg production and increased mortality

By law, if you or your vet suspect that kept birds are showing any signs of disease it must be immediately reported to APHA by telephoning 03000 200 301.

## Wild Birds

If the birds are wild, no action is required. However, you can assist by reporting dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, ducks) or other wild birds (gulls, birds of prey) to the Defra helpline at 03459 335577