



Public Health Services One Health Epidemiology Program Newsletter

Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch

Friday, February 14, 2025

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Zoonotic Diseases

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI or H5N1) has infected animals and humans in California. H5N1 has been detected in wild birds, poultry, dairy herds, humans, other species of mammals. Felids are especially susceptible to the virus and precautions are recommended to avoid their exposure to the virus. Dogs can also be infected with H5N1 however, they typically exhibit mild clinical signs and lower mortality compared to cats.

Recommendations for Preventing HPAI in Cats and Dogs

- Keep pets indoors or supervised while outdoors. Exposure to wild birds, poultry, and cattle and their environments could present an exposure risk to H5N1.
- Prevent pets from eating dead birds or other animals.
- Do not feed pets raw meat, raw poultry, or unpasteurized milk/dairy products.
 - Recalled pet foods and dairy products known to be contaminated with H5N1 include:
 - [Northwest Naturals](#)
 - [Monarch Raw Pet Food](#)
 - [Raw Farm, LLC](#)
- Pet owners should avoid contact with sick or dead birds and wildlife. If pet owners encounter ill wild birds, poultry, livestock, or other animals, advise them to thoroughly wash their hands and any exposed skin and/or clothes before interacting with their pets.

Clinical Signs of HPAI in Cats

- Neurologic signs (tremors, seizures, incoordination, blindness);
- Fever;
- Lethargy;
- Decreased appetite;
- Conjunctivitis;
- Oculonasal discharge; and
- Dyspnea.

Testing Cats and Dogs for Influenza

- Veterinarians should take proper precautions when working with infected or suspected infected animals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides [guidance](#) for veterinarians.
- Continue to perform routine diagnostics for common respiratory diseases for your veterinary patients. Many multiplex panels offered by veterinary diagnostics labs include screening tests for influenza:
 - [Idexx Test Directory](#):
 - *Idexx: Fe URD PCR Panel (2512) covers Influenza A.*
 - *Idexx: K9 Resp Disease PCR Panel (2524) covers Influenza A.*
 - [Antech Test Directory](#):
 - *Antech Fe Resp PCR Panel (T990) covers Influenza H1N1 (**not** Influenza A(H5N1)).*
 - *Antech K9 Resp PCR Panel (T995) includes all Influenza A.*
 - *Antech's send-out to Cornell Influenza Matrix PCR (S86415) includes all influenza A testing in all species.*

- [Zoetis Test Directory](#):
 - *Zoetis K9 Influenza PCR (25001484) covers all Influenza A.*
 - *Zoetis K9 Respiratory PCR (25001490) includes Influenza A (all subtypes).*
 - *Zoetis Fe Respiratory PCR (25001520) includes Influenza A.*
- For any **Positive** influenza results:
 - Notify the County of San Diego, Epidemiology Unit by calling (619) 692-8499.
 - Those in contact with an animal infected with influenza, may be contacted to discuss any risk of exposure and what to do if they develop any symptoms.
 - The Epidemiology Unit can assist getting people tested for influenza and H5N1, if necessary.
- **Please call the Epidemiology Unit with any questions at (619) 692-8499 or if you believe you have a highly suspicious case for feline H5N1 and need guidance on testing.**
- Rabies testing is available for deceased cats suspected to have rabies or when they cannot complete post-bite quarantine period due to death or euthanasia through the [San Diego County Public Health Laboratory](#). Please keep in mind that rabies and influenza A(H5N1) infections in cats can present with similar clinical signs.

For more information, please contact the One Health Epidemiology Program by emailing phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcountry.ca.gov or calling (619) 692-8499.

Agricultural Animals – Livestock and Poultry

- Contact the California Department of Agriculture to report suspected cases.
 - Sick Bird Hotline: (866) 922-2473
 - Ontario District Office: (909) 947-5932
- Biosecurity is critical to reduce risk to farm animals, poultry flocks and closely associated animals.
 - [Enhance Biosecurity | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#)
 - [H5N1 Bird Flu Virus in Livestock | California Department of Food and Agriculture](#)

Wildlife – San Diego County

- Sick and injured terrestrial wild animals and birds can be reported to [Project Wildlife](#) for assistance.
- Deceased terrestrial wildlife should be reported to the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#).
- Contact [SeaWorld](#) regarding sick or injured marine animals.
- Contact National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center regarding deceased marine animals.

- Call (858) 546-7162

Human Case Prevention and Information

- Wear [personal protective equipment](#) while working with ill animals.
- If you feel ill within 10 days of contact with an animal or other person that has a suspected or confirmed case of H5N1, or raw milk products from animals with suspect or confirmed cases, or their environments:
 - Isolate at home, and stay away from pets.
 - Call the Epidemiology Unit at (619) 692-8499 to coordinate influenza testing that is specific for H5.
 - Call your doctor and tell them about your suspicion for H5N1 prior to going in for care, unless it is an emergency.

Additional Resources

- [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) in Cats | American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](#)
- [Avian Influenza in Pets and Backyard Flocks | AVMA](#)
- [Bird Flu | California Department of Public Health](#)
- [Considerations for Veterinarians: Evaluating and Handling of Cats Potentially Exposed to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus | CDC](#)
- [Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza | APHIS](#)
- [FDA Outlines Ways to Reduce Risk of HPAI in Cats | U.S. Food & Drug Administration](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation | CDC](#)

Announcements

February is Black History Month

Highlighting a black scientist making advancements in community health and the environment.



Dr. Mae Jemison (1956 – present) graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering and African American studies, prior to attending medical school at Cornell. During summers in medical school, she traveled to Kenya to provide medical services and community health surveys. Later, she joined the Peace Corp for two years serving as a Medical Officer. In addition to Dr. Jemison’s

medical talents and interests, in 1992, she was part of the six-person crew on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. She became the first African American woman in space.

Dr. Jemison continues to work on improving our understanding of space and improving daily life on earth. She believes, “Everyone should benefit from the bounty of this planet and its resources, not just those already well positioned. Solutions, technologies, and systems are more sustainable and beneficial when they are built drawing upon the full range of human perspective, skills, experiences, and talents.”

For more information, please visit:

- [Mae Jemison | National Women's History Museum](#)

World Wildlife Day is Celebrated on March 3, 2025



World Wildlife Day was established by the United Nations in 2013. World Wildlife Day is for connecting people with the natural world and inspiring continued learning and action for animals and plants beyond the day. This year’s theme is “Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.” Stay tuned for the World Wildlife Day [Film Showcase](#).

Wildlife are an essential part of healthy environments we all depend on to thrive.

For more information, please visit:

- [Home | World Wildlife Day](#)

Join us at the UC Davis on the Road: Surf's Up Spring Conference –
San Diego on April 5th!



Register Now!

Event Information:

- **Date:** April 5, 2025
- **Time:** 7:00 am - 6:00 pm (PDT)
- **Statutorily Approved Continuing Education Credit:** Up to 8.5 hrs (pending approval)
- **Location:** In-Person at [San Diego Humane Society](#) (5500 Gaines St, San Diego, CA 92110) or Live Interactive Virtual Symposium.

For More Information:

- [Surf's Up Spring Conference - San Diego | UC Davis Veterinary Medicine](#)

County Resources

New County Resources to Check Out



- [Avian Influenza \(H5N1 Bird Flu\)](#)
- [OHEP Website](#)
- [Rabies](#)

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](#)

Community Highlights

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.

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.