

Hunters

PROTECTION FROM BIRD FLU



Although the risk of influenza to the general public in Hawai'i from bird flu viruses is low, some situations may place individuals at increased risk for bird flu virus infection:

- Close contact with sick or dead animals, including wild birds, poultry, other domesticated birds, and other wild or domesticated animals.
- Handling the feces, bedding (litter), or materials that have been touched by, or close to, birds or other animals on a farm with confirmed bird flu virus infection.
- Consuming raw, unpasteurized, milk or dairy products

Guidance:

When Hunting:

- Do not harvest or handle wild birds that are obviously sick or found dead
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after handling game
- Place the bag containing possibly infected material in a trash can that children, poultry, pets or others animals cannot access
- Wash tools and work surfaces with soap and water. Disinfect them using a freshly mixed chlorine solution of 1/3 cup household bleach per 1 gallon of water

Protecting Yourself:

- Do not eat, drink, or put anything in your mouth while cleaning or handling game
- Avoid cross-contamination. Keep raw/undercooked game meat in a separate container, away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods
- Cook game meat thoroughly. Game birds should reach an internal temperature of 165 °F to kill disease organisms and parasites

When Dressing Game Birds:

- Wear disposable gloves when handling or cleaning game and wash hands with soap and water immediately
- Dress game birds in the field whenever possible
- Use dedicated tools for cleaning game
- Double bag unwanted parts and feathers. Tie the inner bag, take off your gloves, and leave them in the outer bag before tying it closed. Wash your hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

