

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 9, 2024

Contact: Veronica White, MPH
LDCPH Preparedness and
Epidemiology Coordinator
vwhite@ldchealth.org - (785) 843-3060

DOUGLAS COUNTY HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTION

DOUGLAS COUNTY, Kansas (December 9, 2024) – Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) was notified of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) detection in a non-commercial backyard flock in Douglas County on December 4, 2024. LDCPH is working with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) to respond to the detection. The affected flock has been humanely depopulated and disposed of in an approved manner to prevent the spread of disease. LDCPH has followed up with individuals that were exposed to the flock prior to and during depopulation to ensure they are healthy. Those exposed will be monitored for signs and symptoms per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. The risk of HPAI to the general public is low. LDCPH recommends that people should avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, or other animals and to maintain an appropriate distance. If you must have direct or close contact, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and face mask. Wild birds can be infected with avian influenza A viruses even if they don't look sick.

Poultry and domestic bird owners should monitor their flocks. If you have birds showing symptoms of HPAI, contact your veterinarian or call KDA at 833-765-2006. For more information about HPAI in birds, visit agriculture.ks.gov/AvianInfluenza.

For additional questions about HPAI, please reach out to LDCPH at 785-843-3060.

