

HPAI: Bird Flu Know the Facts



Bird Flu, or Avian Influenza is a disease which has caused hundreds of thousands of seabird deaths in the northern hemisphere. It is possible it could reach the Falklands with migratory birds, or on people arriving with infected footwear, clothing and equipment. If it arrives, it could have major impacts on our wildlife and domestic poultry.

Look out for dead or sick birds, symptoms include:

- Sudden and rapid increase in birds found dead
- Loss of coordination and balance
- Trembling head and body
- Lethargy
- Respiratory distress
- Twisting of head and neck
- Swollen head



Note: Bird Flu can also sometimes affect mammals, so be vigilant for dead or sick seals and other wildlife.

Don't touch, Report.

If you see dead or sick birds:



- **DON'T TOUCH** them
- Keep your distance
- Note the location and nature of your observations, take photos if possible
- Leave the area, ensuring that your boots and clothing are cleaned and disinfected as soon as you can
- **REPORT** to the FIG Veterinary Service

Report to
27366 (55366 out of hours)
tross@naturalresources.gov.fk

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Biosecurity Checklist

5 STEPS TO PROTECT



1.) CHECK

Check your boots, outdoor clothing and equipment before you arrive and after leaving each location.

2.) CLEAN

Clean to remove seeds, soil, insects & dirt.



3.) DIP

Use the disinfectant boot dips before you arrive and after leaving each location.

4.) DRY

Where possible let the disinfectant dry on - don't rinse!

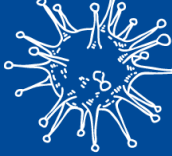


5.) CHECK AGAIN

Just to be sure, check again before going out.

THANK YOU!

By undertaking thorough biosecurity, you have played your part in protecting the environment.



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Learn more at
www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/avian-influenza
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What can you do to help keep us safe from Bird Flu?



Outbreaks of bird-flu in the northern hemisphere have been damaging to wildlife populations. To help prevent its spread, as well as the spread of other pests and diseases, when you travel to and in the Falkland Islands, there are a few simple things you can do.

Before you leave home

- Pack easy-to-clean boots, bags and clothing
- Check all baggage, clothing and footwear is clean and free from dirt and debris
- Clean or disinfect clothing and all-weather gear (washing at 60°C or higher or wiping down waterproofs with a disinfectant like Virkon is recommended)
- Where possible avoid Velcro as dirt and debris easily get caught in it
- Be careful what food and other things you bring with you: the import of raw meat products is restricted and must be declared upon arrival. Poultry is of particular concern as it may carry avian diseases



When travelling to and around the Falkland Islands

No matter if you travel by land, sea or air, there is a large amount of distance between sites in the Falklands that is not often travelled by people, so it is vitally important that between different locations in the Falkland Islands you.



- Disinfect your boots and equipment with Virkon-s solution or a 3.5% solution of Bleach, before you depart and when you arrive
- Wash or disinfect any clothes you intend to wear again (washing at 60°C or higher or wiping down waterproofs with a disinfectant like Virkon is recommended)
- Thoroughly inspect and clean all luggage and equipment to be brought ashore, such as daypacks and camera bags.
- Remove any visible dirt and debris from clothing, bags or personal items
- Special attention should be paid to pockets, folds, and Velcro, where dirt, seeds (that can spread problematic weeds) or even insects can hide



Advice while around wildlife



While at a seabird colony it is important that you ensure good biosecurity and safe conduct

- Check for any signs of bird-flu and if you see these, please report them immediately and do not approach the wildlife colony.



- Keep your distance and don't chase or startle the wildlife, a distance of 6 m (15') should be kept from all wildlife to minimise disturbance and contact



- Take away any litter, equipment or other items you brought with you



- Equipment and bags should not be left on the ground

- When taking photographs stay low, move slowly, ensure that you don't use flash and Don't use a selfie stick to get close to the animals



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