



Australian Government
Parks Australia



H5 BIRD FLU FACT SHEET

Egg harvesters

This information is to inform community members that are intending to harvest eggs on Phillip Island during the Gazetted Egg Collection period 28 September to 4 November 2026.

What is H5 bird flu?

A harmful virus, known as H5 bird flu, has come to Australia. We need to keep an eye out for it.

H5 bird flu can make birds and sometimes other animals very sick and cause them to die. It can also make people sick, but this is rare.

People who collect eggs, handle wildlife, or come into contact with sick or dead birds should be extra careful.

What NOT to do

- Do not collect or eat bird eggs if they appear sick, or you are not sure how they have died, or are found in areas where there are sick or dead birds.
- This includes bird poop or feathers in the area.
- H5 bird flu can sometimes infect sea mammals like seals or dolphins. Do not touch sick or dead sea mammals, especially if found near bird colonies or beaches.

If you're collecting eggs there are things you can do to reduce the risk of becoming unwell

- Don't eat, drink, or touch your face **until your hands are clean**.
- Don't take eggs if there are sick or dead birds in the area.

Cooking safely

Eggs from healthy animals are safe to eat when handled, prepared, and cooked properly.

- Make sure eggs are cooked well and all the way through.
- Wash your hands really well with soap and water after touching eggs.
- Always clean tools and surfaces before and after cooking.

What to do if you see sick birds or mammals

You can help keep the community safe by reporting signs of bird flu and sharing this information with others.

If you see sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them.

- **AVOID** contact and keep your distance
- **RECORD** the date, time, and location, and take photos if it is safe to do so.
- **REPORT** multiple sick or dead birds or other animals to:
 - o the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.
 - o Norfolk Island Regional Council on 0100 (9am to 4pm).
 - o Norfolk Island National Park on phone number 22695 or 53218.

What to do if you have been exposed to bird flu

If you handled a sick or dead bird or animal, eggs, droppings, feathers, or body fluids:

- Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms for 10 days.
- Call your healthcare professional (e.g. GP, nurse) if you develop:
 - fever
 - cough
 - sore throat
 - runny nose
 - trouble breathing
 - conjunctivitis (red eyes).

For more information

Visit birdflu.gov.au

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