

## Infrastructure Housing and Environment

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Dear Keeper

A Herring Gull has tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on Long Beach in Gorey. Two cases of bird flu were also recently confirmed in Herring Gulls in Guernsey, together with recent cases in Devon, East Sussex, and the large number of deaths in the seabird breeding colonies of north-east England and Scotland.

Now, more than ever, we ask Islanders to keep their poultry away from wild birds, and to discourage wild bird access to food, water and bedding intended for the captive birds. By following stringent biosecurity measures we can avoid the potential outbreak and spread of avian influenza within domestic flocks, because we do not want to impose mandatory housing restrictions during these hot summer months, together with the devastation the virus could cause within a flock.

In the unfortunate event that there is an outbreak within a domestic flock, we ask that keepers begin to prepare how they might house their birds should housing restrictions be necessary.

We do not know what the future will look like if HPAI becomes an ongoing threat, but effective farm biosecurity is definitely the first defence in preventing infection.

Please email [rva@gov.je](mailto:rva@gov.je) or phone Reception at (01534) 441600 if you no longer keep any birds and wish to Deregister from our Poultry Registration List.

Yours sincerely, The Government Veterinary Team

**Recommended Biosecurity measures** as per our [Avian flu \(birds\) \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/Avian-flu-(birds)-(gov.je)) webpage.

- To reduce the contact of domestic poultry, waterfowl and other captive birds with wild birds, their foodstuffs and bedding should be stored away from wild bird access and birds should be fed and watered inside their housing.
- Foot dips should be placed at bird housing or run entrances and exits, regularly refilled, and charged with an approved "Diseases of Poultry" disinfectant ([Approved list of disinfectants on DEFRA website](#)) that you can source from local suppliers.

- To reduce the contact of domestic poultry with wild birds, their foodstuffs and bedding should be stored away from wild bird access and birds should be fed and watered inside their housing.
- Foot dips should be placed at poultry, domestic waterfowl and other captive bird housing or run entrances and exits, regularly refilled, and charged with an approved "Diseases of Poultry" disinfectant that you can source from local suppliers.
- Unauthorised visitors to the flock should be kept to a minimum with staff, vehicle and equipment movements between housing also minimised.
- If vehicles must have access, make sure they are clean, and if equipment is shared, make sure it is cleansed and disinfected before and after use.
- Dedicated protective clothing and washable boots should be provided for those in contact with the birds or their housing and visitors should wash their hands with an effective preparation prior to visiting the birds.
- Buy feed from a mill or supplier that operates in accordance with Defra and Agricultural Industries Confederation Codes of Practice. Supply clean, fresh drinking water.
- Be vigilant when purchasing new stock. Use reputable sources and isolate new birds and birds you have taken off your premises (for example, to a show).
- Remove any spilled feed, litter and standing water to avoid attracting wild birds and vermin, and an effective vermin control program should be in place. Poultry houses also should be in a good state of repair to exclude the entry of wild birds and vermin.
- Maintain a routine cleaning and disinfecting routine for your bird housing, cages, feed store and pathways leading to and from bird areas.
- Many diseases, not only Avian influenza but also others like Newcastle disease, Salmonella and Campylobacter are spread by direct bird-to-bird contact through secretions and faeces, and indirectly through contaminated feed, water, equipment, boots etc. If in doubt about what to do, seek advice from your vet before continuing work in other houses and runs.
- Be considerate of your neighbour's poultry or captive birds as we have a few large-scale poultry farmers and breeders of rare birds. By applying good Biosecurity measures this will help contain the potential spread of disease which in turn would prevent lengthy and ongoing housing requirements.