



MEDIA REPLIES

SFA and AVS' statement on global bird flu situation and supply of poultry

The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of the National Parks Board, and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) work closely to stay vigilant and put in place precautionary measures to prevent the incursion of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), which is a type of avian influenza (commonly known as “bird flu”) that causes severe disease and high mortalities in poultry. To date, there are no human or animal cases of HPAI H5N1 in Singapore.

These measures include horizon scanning for information related to HPAI worldwide and in the region, engagement with overseas authorities, source accreditation and import control for imported poultry and poultry products, inspections and biosurveillance of imported birds at local farms, poultry slaughterhouses, wild birds, and ornamental bird shops. For example, AVS conducts regular checks and sampling of migratory birds to test for HPAI.

All imported poultry and poultry products, including eggs, must also come from sources accredited by SFA. We suspend import from regions affected by HPAI or only allow products that have been heat treated to inactivate the HPAI virus.

Public advisory on wild birds and bird flu

While Singapore remains free from bird flu, it is endemic in the region, highlighting the need for Singapore to be vigilant in our biosurveillance and biosecurity programme. People working in close contact with birds are advised to observe good personal hygiene and take necessary measures such as appropriate personal protective equipment when handling them to minimise public health risks. As a precaution, members of the public should not touch or feed wild birds, including free-roaming chickens. Veterinarians and bird owners are also reminded to be on the alert for possible HPAI infections in birds. Members of the public can report suspected cases to AVS via our website at www.avs.gov.sg/feedback or by calling our Animal Response Centre at 1800-476-1600.

Supply of poultry

SFA also works with the industry to accredit new sources of poultry that meet our food safety requirements. In 2023, 30 countries/regions are allowed to export poultry to Singapore. While our overall supply of poultry is currently stable, we can expect supply fluctuations from time to time due to disease outbreaks and supply disruptions. For instance, several countries are affected by bird flu outbreaks which affected their poultry production. The food industry is encouraged to diversify and import from various sources and take steps to contribute to our resilience by implementing Business Continuity Plans. Consumers are also encouraged to be flexible with their food options in the event of disruption.

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