



SUSPENSION OF POULTRY IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA

1. Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) has informed the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) that a H5 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in a poultry farm in Kelantan near the Thai-Malaysia border. DVS has also imposed an export suspension of all poultry and poultry products to Singapore with immediate effect. AVA has concurrently imposed a suspension on imports of poultry and poultry products from Malaysia with immediate effect. This is in line with the established protocol for close co-operation between the veterinary authorities of the two countries.

Supply and Consumption of poultry in Singapore

2. As Malaysia supplies about two-thirds of eggs and half of poultry consumed in Singapore, the import suspension will impact on our supply. To minimize the impact, AVA is working with members of the trade to increase supplies of poultry and eggs (including powdered and liquid eggs) from approved alternative sources.

3. Current stocks of frozen poultry in Singapore that were imported from other countries are available to meet the shortfall in supply from Malaysia. Supplies of frozen poultry and poultry products can be increased quickly from other sources such as Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands and the USA. The public is advised not to panic buy.

4. There will be a temporary shortfall, however, in supply of table eggs. Our local poultry farms currently supply one-third of our total egg consumption. Other approved sources of table eggs are Australia and New Zealand. Australia, Denmark, France and the USA are also accredited to supply liquid and powdered eggs to Singapore. However, eggs from these external sources will cost more.

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Poultry and poultry products here are safe for consumption

5. AVA would like to assure the public that poultry and poultry products in Singapore are safe for consumption. Avian flu is spread through direct contact with infected live poultry. It is not known to be transmitted to humans through consumption of poultry and poultry products.

Singapore is free from avian flu

6. AVA wishes to reiterate that Singapore remains free from avian flu. We have maintained vigilance and have taken all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent the incursion of bird flu.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority
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