

Know the Signs of HPAI Infection in Poultry

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a serious threat to poultry. Spotting and reporting early signs of infection helps stop the spread and reduce the impact.



Bluish appearance of the comb and wattles of the chicken's head.



Swelling of the face, especially noticeable around the eyelids and eyes, along with red or purple spots (bleeding) on the comb and wattle.



Breathing with an open mouth, with moderate swelling of the comb and wattles



Severe bruising and swelling in the legs, particularly around the joints and lower legs (shanks), of the chicken.



Twisting of the head and neck.



Complete paralysis

CFIA After-hours Emergency Numbers

Atlantic Provinces
1-506-381-7683

Quebec
1-866-806-4115

Ontario
1-877-814-2342

Western Area
1-866-212-0665

A few useful signs to keep in mind

• Visual Signs

- Dishevelled or fluffed-up feathers.
- Swelling of the face, particularly around the eyes and eyelids.
- Red or purple spots on the comb and wattle.
- Bluish appearance of the comb and wattle.
- Severe bruising and swelling in the legs, especially near joints.

• Severe Cases

- Complete paralysis.
- Breathing with an open mouth.
- Twisting of the head and neck.
- Nervous system issues.
- Sudden mortality with little warning.

• Behavioural Changes

- Awkward or unnatural head or neck positions.
- Difficulty in movement or maintaining balance.
- Reduced interest in food or water.
- Lethargy or visible weakness.

• Prevention and Control

- Maintain strict biosecurity measures on poultry farms.
- Isolate new birds for at least 30 days and separate sick birds immediately.
- Avoid contact between wild birds and poultry.
- Promptly report suspicious signs of infection to your veterinarian, provincial animal health authority, or Call the above-listed CFIA emergency after-hours numbers for your region.