

Information for poultry workers when avian influenza is confirmed

Avian influenza and human health

Farm workers in British Columbia (BC) may come in contact with avian influenza through their work

- Farms in BC sometimes have birds that get sick with a virus called bird flu, or avian influenza.
- Workers may unknowingly be exposed to the virus when they handle sick or dead birds, or if they are working on an infected farm.
- This virus can sometimes make people very sick with symptoms like fever, headache and cough.
- Masks, gloves, protective eyewear and clothing covers are good protection. Always wear these items while working on a farm.

The health authority is required to follow up with farm workers when bird flu is confirmed on a farm

- You will be contacted by public health by phone or text.
- **All your information is kept private.**
 - The health authority will ask to speak to you on the phone for up to 30 minutes.
 - If the farm is in the Fraser Health area, you will be sent a link with important health information. Your phone call will be shorter if you review the online information first.
 - The health authority wants to:
 - Make sure you are feeling well.
 - Make sure you know what to do if you get sick.
 - For some people, offer medicine (pills) that can help prevent and fight the infection.
 - Some people might do short health checks by phone every few days for about 10 days.
 - These are some of the questions the health authority will ask in the first phone call:
 - When did you work in the area found to have bird flu?
 - What kind of work did you do in the area?
 - What kind of mask, gloves, protective eyewear and clothing covers did you use?

Where to get more information

- [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) | HealthLink BC](#)

