



Health Advisory
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A Update
February 3, 2026

Amarillo Public Health and Amarillo Animal Management and Welfare Partner to Address Sick and Dead Birds

Amarillo Public Health and Amarillo Animal Management and Welfare are partnering to respond to reports of sick and dead birds in the Amarillo area.

Birds have been collected by Amarillo Animal Management and Welfare officers and are being tested for highly pathogenic avian influenza A. Test results are expected within the week and will be released upon receipt.

While transmission to humans is rare, highly pathogenic avian influenza A can cause symptoms including cough, fever, sore throat, and conjunctivitis (pink eye). In rare cases, severe illness requiring hospitalization may occur.

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid contact with sick or dead birds. If it is necessary to move a sick or dead bird, proper personal protective equipment should be used, including a mask, eye protection, gloves, rubber boots, and coveralls. Thorough handwashing after any contact is strongly recommended.

Anyone who has had close contact with a sick or dead bird that tests positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza A should contact Amarillo Public Health at **806-378-6353** for additional guidance.

Providers who test symptomatic individuals for influenza and receive influenza A–positive or non-typeable results should ensure the specimen is subtyped.

Please report all influenza results to **Amarillo Public Health at flu@amarillo.gov**.

While this virus primarily affects birds, other animals, including cats and dogs, may be at risk if they have direct contact with sick or dead birds. Pet owners are encouraged to keep their pets leashed and away from any sick or dead wildlife.

If your pet has contact with a sick or dead bird, contact your veterinarian for guidance.

Signs of illness in pets or birds may include reluctance to move, stumbling, twitching, coughing, sneezing, seizures, or appearing blind.

Reports of sick or dead birds in the community can be made to **Amarillo Animal Management and Welfare at 806-378-3038**.

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