



Public Health Brief

Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH
Public Health Officer
Office: 530-694-2146, Ext 249
e-mail: rjohnson@alpinecountyca.gov

Nichole Williamson
CAO/HHS Director
Office: 530-694-2235

24/7/365 Emergency Contact Number
Dispatch: 530-694-2231, Ext 330



Tuesday, January 21, 2025

So You Have Backyard Chickens. What is the Risk of Bird Flu?



In its latest risk assessment, CDC maintains the [risk to the general public remains low](#), but is higher among farm workers in contact with sick or dead animals or their byproducts, **people who own backyard poultry flocks**, animal care workers, animal and public health responders, and people who engage in recreation that brings them in contact with wild birds, such as hunters. Steps you can take to [help prevent the spread of bird flu](#) include:

- Avoiding raw milk products and raw or undercooked meat and egg products, for yourself and your pets
- Not touching or handling dead or dying birds, animals, or mammals
- Keeping pets indoors and away from areas with large populations of migratory birds
- **Containing backyard poultry and practicing good hygiene, including changing clothes and washing hands after caring for them. Keeping your chickens under a roof will minimize their exposure to poop from migratory birds.**
- Getting your seasonal flu vaccine, which [could provide some protection](#) against H5N1



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120
Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281
District 1: Charles Dobson, District 2: Evan Mecak, District 3: Irvin Jim,
District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

Reporting Sick Animals:

- Residents with backyard poultry flocks can report to CDFA if they have an unusually high number of sick or dead birds at 1-866-922-BIRD (2473).
- If community members find dead or sick wildlife and birds in public, like at a park, they can report it to CDFW through their reporting [form](#).
 - [CDFW's FAQ](#) that includes how to dispose of dead wildlife safely.

[Backyard Flock Owners: Protect Yourself from Bird Flu](#)
[Backyard Poultry](#)
[Avian Influenza and Poultry](#)
[Defend the Flock](#)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120
Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281
District 1: Charles Dobson, District 2: Evan Mecak, District 3: Irvin Jim,
District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith