



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2021 E-BULLETIN #4

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### **New Detection of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N2) in Turkeys in Victoria**

*This email has been sent to all veterinary surgeons in South Australia by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia for and on behalf of the South Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Mary Carr. Please contact the PIRSA Biosecurity directly should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this email: [PIRSA.biosecuritysa@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.biosecuritysa@sa.gov.au)*

I am writing to advise you of the detection of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) on two turkey farms in Victoria. This is a different virus type to the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAI - H7N7) recently detected on two chicken egg properties, also in Victoria, but was detected during surveillance associated with the H7N7 outbreak.

The media release from Agriculture Victoria is available here: [Avian influenza – low pathogenic type detected](#)

As outlined in the media release, low pathogenic avian influenza has a much lower effect on poultry than highly pathogenic avian influenza, but both virus types can affect chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, quail, pheasants and ostriches. Many species of wild birds, including waterfowl and seabirds, can also carry the virus without any symptoms, as is the case for HPAI.

Whilst poultry infected with LPAI typically show less severe clinical signs than those infected with HPAI, clinical signs can be mild through to severe.

#### **Signs of LPAI include:**

- Respiratory distress, including coughing, sneezing or rasping respiratory
- Rapid drop in feed intake, water intake and egg production
- Sick birds of unknown cause
- Increased mortalities of unknown cause – typically up to around 15% of the flock

***Any of these signs in poultry should be reported via the  
Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: 1800 675 888***

Any unusual mortalities observed in wild birds should also be reported.



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Further information and updates can be found here:

- Agriculture Victoria - [Avian influenza \(bird flu\)](#)

## Human health

Please note that the H5N2 and H7N7 viruses are **not a risk to the public** as they rarely affect humans unless there is direct, close contact with sick birds. These are completely different viruses and not the highly pathogenic influenza strains (H5N1 or H1N1) that have been responsible for human health outbreaks.

13 August 2020