



BC Centre for Disease Control

Public health and avian influenza

December 8, 2022

Recommendation: Individuals that work with poultry should receive a seasonal flu vaccine

Evidence to date tells us that the current strain of avian influenza (H5N1) that we are seeing in birds in British Columbia and throughout North America poses low risk to people; however, individuals who come into contact with sick birds do have a small risk of becoming infected with avian influenza and should take precautions.

Influenza viruses are changeable; when strains from humans or different animal species mix and exchange genetic information, it could become more serious if the virus develops the ability to spread from person to person.

To prevent co-infection with both seasonal human influenza and avian influenza virus, it is recommended that individuals that work with poultry receive a seasonal flu vaccine. The vaccine will not protect against avian influenza but protects against infection with human influenza virus.

You can book an appointment online through the [Get Vaccinated](#) system or by phone at 1-833-838-2323 (seven days a week, 7 am to 7pm; translators are available).

Resources:

[BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#)

[Avian flu - WorkSafeBC](#)

[BCCDC - Avian Influenza](#)

[Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine | Immunize BC](#)