

AVIAN INFLUENZA

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Avian Influenza

An update on Avian Influenza has been published, the risk level has been raised to “high” because of outbreaks in Kent, Cheshire & Herefordshire.

The main species affected are wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) but in previous outbreaks other species, including gulls and birds of prey, have been found to be infected.

Anyone who may be involved in the handling of or dealing with bird remains are advised to review their company associated Risk Assessments and Standard operating Procedures.

IMMEDIATE Precautions / What you need to know:

- Exercise basic biosecurity and PPE measures when handling birds, whether they are involved in birdstrikes or found dead on the airfield.
- It is advised, as a minimum to wear gloves that are sufficiently robust not to be punctured and place bird remains into doubled and sealed plastic bags for disposal.
- If your risk assessment indicates the use of masks, please note that only EN149:2001 / FFP3 masks are considered to offer effective protection to the wearer from airborne virus particles.
- Do not handle birds or bird remains in confined spaces.
- Maintenance Engineers and RFFS should be aware that the pressure washing of bird remains from aircraft, etc., carries an elevated risk of infection by creating fine airborne droplets.

Reporting:

All wildlife strikes must be reported to the Aerodrome (Airfield Operations Supervisor or ATC if departing aircraft reporting).

In addition, if you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, in circumstances where the cause of death is unexplained you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77) and they may (or may not) arrange for collection for testing.

Further information can be found by visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

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Originator: -	Compliance Manager – Operations and Safety	Confirmed By: -	Head Of Fire and Airfield Operations
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