



# Avian Flu Update

*Presented by*

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# Goals

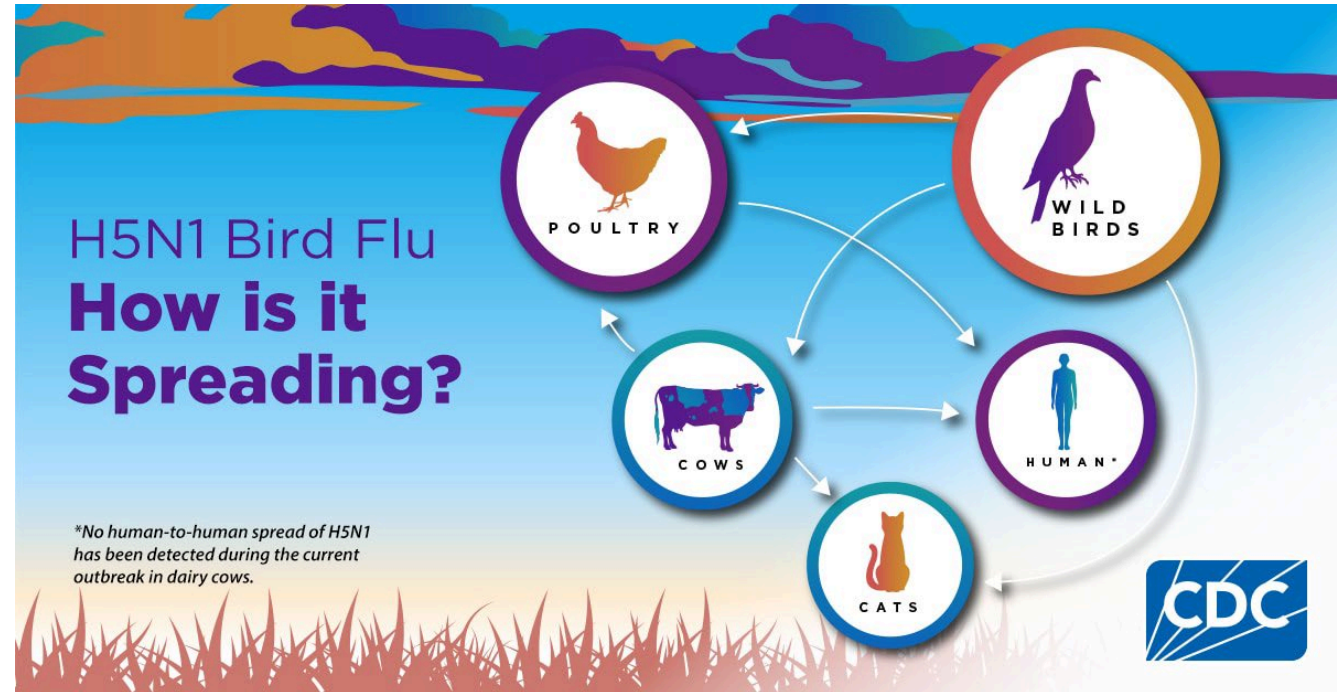
- Describe Avian Flu (avian flu) and how it spreads
- Outline what Public Health and partners are doing to monitor and prevent spread
- Educate the community and individuals on protective measures



# Current Situation

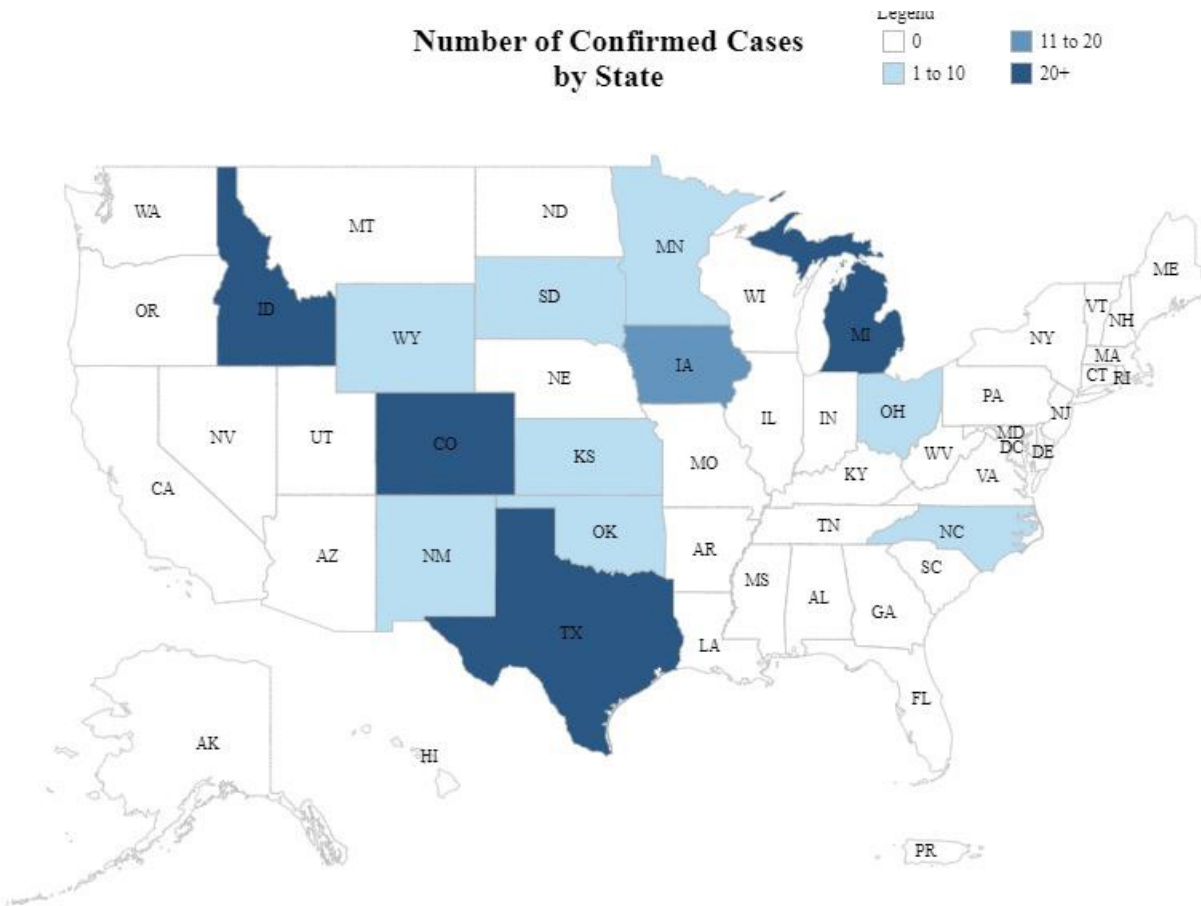
## What is Avian Flu?

- Avian flu is one of several influenza viruses that causes a highly infectious respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu"). Infections in mammals, including humans, have also been documented.
- Avian flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several recent human cases in U.S. dairy and poultry workers.



# Current Situation

Number of Confirmed Cases  
by State



## Human Cases:

- Since April 2024, there have been 10 reported human cases of avian flu in the U.S.

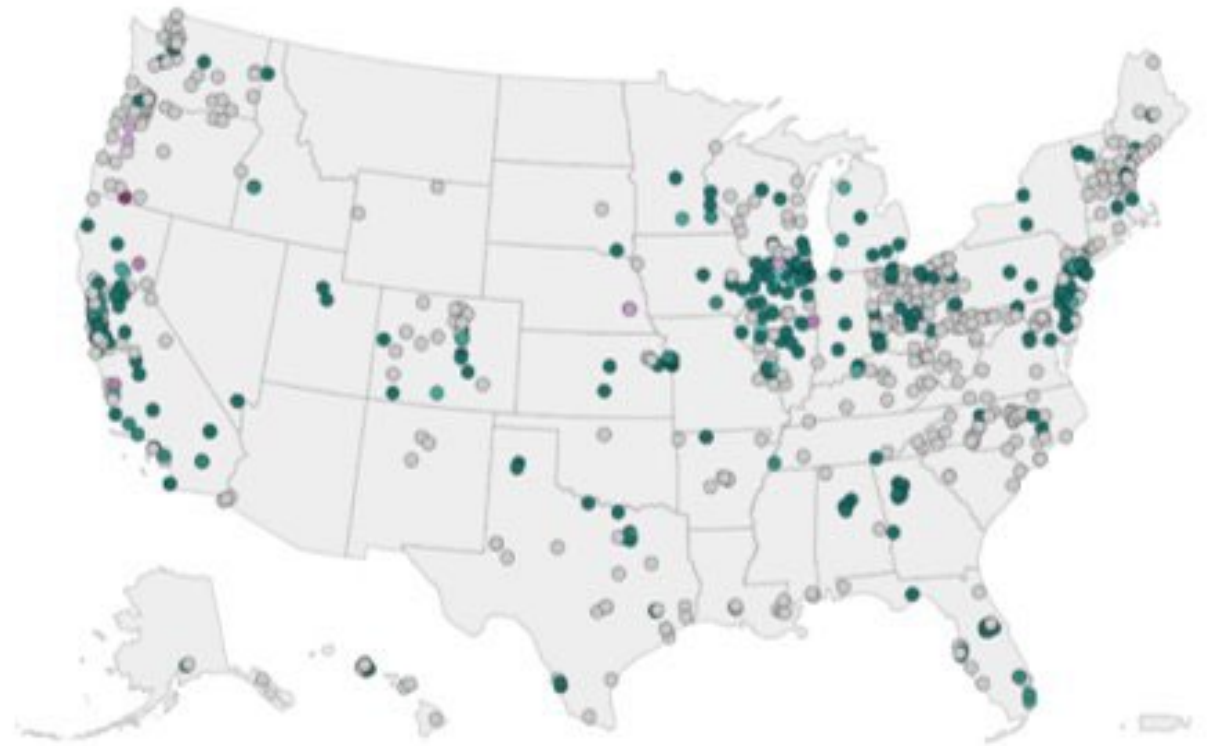
## Animal Health Impact:

- The USDA reports avian flu infections in 169 dairy cow herds across 13 states.
- Since April 2024, the avian flu subtype has been detected in 34 commercial and 16 backyard flocks, affecting 18.32 million birds.
- One avian flu-positive dairy herd in North Carolina. Quarantine has been lifted.



# Surveillance Methods

- Case reporting
- Public health laboratory reporting
- Emergency department trends
- Hospital admissions
- Wastewater



# Protect Yourself From H5N1 When Working With Farm Animals

H5N1 is a bird flu virus that could make you sick. Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) when working directly or closely with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, raw milk, and other materials that might have the virus.



**Wash hands with soap and water, then put on PPE in this order:**

1. Fluid-resistant coveralls
2. Waterproof apron, if needed for job task
3. NIOSH Approved® Respirator (e.g., N95® filtering facepiece respirator or elastomeric half mask respirator)
4. Properly-fitted unvented *or* indirectly vented safety goggles or face shield
5. Head cover or hair cover
6. Gloves
7. Boots



# Recommendations for the public

- As a general precaution, whenever possible people should avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, and other animals and observe them only from a distance.
- If you must have direct/close contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, or other animals, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Wild birds can be infected with avian (bird) influenza (flu) A viruses even if they don't look sick.
- Do not touch surfaces or materials (e.g., animal litter or bedding material) contaminated with saliva, mucous, or animal feces from wild or domestic birds or other animals with confirmed or suspected avian bird influenza A virus infection.
- Do not touch or consume raw milk or raw milk products, especially from animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza A virus infection.



# Recommendations for the public

- **What are the symptoms:**

- eye redness (conjunctivitis)
- mild flu-like upper respiratory symptoms
- pneumonia requiring hospitalization
- fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) or feeling feverish\*,
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuff nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Less common signs and symptoms include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or seizures.
- \*Fever may not always be present

- **What should you do if you develop symptoms:**

- Call your medical provider
- Tell your medical provider if you have been around wild birds, poultry or other animals.
- Isolate away from others until you have been evaluated by your medical provider.





# Buncombe County Preparedness Response

- Communicable Disease
- Environmental Health
- Preparedness
- Agriculture and Land
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Buncombe County medical providers
- Buncombe County veterinarians
- NC Department of Health and Human Services
  - Public Health
  - Public Health Laboratory
  - Environmental Health
- NC Department of Agriculture
- NC Regional Hospital public health epidemiologist



# Summary

- Avian flu is currently considered low risk to humans.
- Currently no known avian flu cases in Buncombe County impacting birds or cattle.
- Buncombe County Public Health and partners are taking proactive approach using all available resources to this dynamic situation.



Visit [www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/](https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/) for more information on avian flu

# Questions?

