

## Guidance on Avian Influenza for Hunters

### Introduction

Hunting associations and wildlife authorities should be aware that H5N8 and other avian influenza viruses might be present in waterfowl hunted during the migratory season.

No human cases of the avian influenza H5N8 subtype currently circulating, or other viruses of this subtype, have been reported. However hunters are potentially at risk of infection from influenza viruses and other avian pathogens (e.g. salmonella, chlamydia).

There is no evidence that properly cooked waterfowl (or domestic poultry) can cause illness in people.

Hunting, handling and dressing of shot waterfowl carries the risk of spreading avian influenza viruses to susceptible poultry.

Surveillance of wild waterfowl is an important function that hunters can perform to assist the Department of Agriculture in avian influenza controls.

### Precautions to be followed

The following precautions are always recommended to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading any wildlife disease:

1. Wear rubber gloves while cleaning game or cleaning bird feeders.
2. Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game.
3. Always wash hands with soap and water (or alcohol wipes) immediately after handling birds or other animals, when cooking or preparing animal products, and before eating.
4. Wash tools and work surfaces used to clean game birds with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach.
5. Eat only fully cooked meat (70°C at the core).
6. Avoid introduction of avian influenza viruses to poultry through fomites (clothing, boots, vehicles, etc.).
7. Do not feed wild bird scraps to poultry or domestic animals (cats, dogs).
8. Any waste from hunted birds should be treated as potentially contaminated and safely disposed of.