

April, 29, 2022

To US egg producers,

On Thursday, [the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\) announced](#) it had detected the presence of the Influenza A H5 virus in a person who was working on a farm that was depopulating HPAI-infected poultry. [CDC confirmed the finding](#).

It is important to know these things:

1. CDPHE and CDC both have been *proactively monitoring and testing* people exposed to poultry and wild birds infected with avian flu;
2. The finding was from a single nasal specimen;
3. CDPHE observed that the virus may simply have been present in the individual's nose without causing infection;
4. Repeated testing of this individual was negative for influenza; and
5. The individual is largely asymptomatic.

Both the CDC and CDPHE have strongly reinforced that the risk to public health remains low.

CDC says: "This case does not change the human risk assessment for the general public, which CDC considers to be low."

Likewise, CDPHE experts also affirmed the low risk: "'We want to reassure Coloradans that the risk to them is low,' said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment."

If you receive questions from your farm workers about this finding, you can use the below language to talk with them:

- I understand this is concerning to you, as it is to all of us, but there is no reason for alarm.
- Remember that bird flu is an animal health issue, not a human health concern. It's extremely rare for bird flu to affect humans.
- On our farm, we maintain extensive health and safety practices to protect our team from exposure to any disease while at work.
- Keeping our team safe and healthy is of the utmost importance, and our farm is committed to providing all protective equipment and gear for our team if HPAI is found here.

See also the attachment: HPAI FAQS FOR EGG FARM WORKERS.

This announcement is getting picked up in major media outlets, such as *USA Today*, *NBC News* and *The Wall Street Journal*. However, the reporting has been balanced and moderated without a sense of alarm, and it consistently reassures audiences there is no public health risk.

To date, there have been no specific mentions of eggs in this coverage. Our communications team has expert resources in zoonotic disease transmission at the ready to participate in media interviews to reassure the public that this is not a public health concern. We also have consumer-facing resources on this topic ready to publish if necessary.

AEB and UEP are closely monitoring media coverage and online conversations about this topic. A report will be provided in our next weekly producer update.

If you receive media inquiries related to this announcement, please notify AEB's Marc Dresner at mdresner@aeb.org or UEP's Kathy Bryan at kbryan@unitedegg.com before responding. We are here to support you.

Thank you.