



TOWN OF WESTPORT
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
856 MAIN ROAD

Tel: (508) 636-1015
Fax: (508) 636-1016
health@westport-ma.gov
westport-ma.com

Matthew J. Armendo
MPH, REHS/RS
Health Director

January 30, 2025

SICK GOOSE AT THE HEAD OF WESTPORT

A sick goose found at the Head of Westport is being treated as a potential case of avian influenza (bird flu). The goose was euthanized. The Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) was promptly contacted upon discovery of the sick goose. A biologist from the department has informed the Town that the bird is highly suspected of having HPAI as it had all the same symptoms as other geese that tested positive for HPAI found in Plymouth County. The Animal Control Officer was instructed by biologist to dispose of the goose.

- To reduce your risk of infection, please avoid contact with sick or dead birds and keep your pets away from them.
- Reporting wild birds: The public should report observations of sick or deceased birds if 5 or more birds are found at a single location using this simple form at mass.gov/reportbirds.
- Reporting domestic birds: The public should report sick or dead poultry or other domestic birds by calling MDAR's Division of Animal Health at (617) 626-1795.
- Handling birds and other wildlife: The public should strictly avoid handling any sick or dead birds or other animals. Report sightings as indicated above or call the local Animal Control Officer at 774-264-5129.
- Keeping pets safe: Pets should always be kept away from wildlife. Cats are highly susceptible to HPAI and may die from an infection. Cat owners in affected areas should keep their pets indoors to prevent them from being exposed to infected wildlife.
- Hunting geese: While eating wild game meat is generally considered safe, licensed hunters can minimize risk from wildlife diseases by following [best practices when handling and processing game](#).

Humans are rarely infected with avian influenza viruses. Humans that have prolonged close contact with sick or dead birds infected with HPAI are the most at risk of becoming infected. People with questions about the public health impact of HPAI can visit DPH's Avian influenza [webpage](#) or call the Division of Epidemiology (available 24/7) at 617-983-6800.

The Board of Health will keep the public updated as needed.