

Loss Control Bulletin

Avian influenza or bird flu refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses naturally spread among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred. Human infections have occurred in impoverished living conditions where people must share living space with their farm animals. People can also become infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus during various phases of handling infected poultry, such as raising, slaughtering, de-feathering, butchering, and cooking preparations.

The links below offer more information about bird flu.

World Health Organization www.who.int/en/

Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm