

H5 Bird flu detection in Victoria - update

H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu) latest information as at Saturday 15 August 2026

Current situation

H5 bird flu vaccinations of Phillip Island's little penguins will begin on Monday evening (17 August) following Victoria's first detection of the disease in a penguin.

Three new positive detections of H5 bird flu have been confirmed in wild birds in Victoria, showing spread to East Gippsland.

No detections have been found in poultry or other animals.

The latest positive detections are:

- One little penguin from Phillip Island
- One crested tern from Lakes Entrance
- One crested tern from Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula.

The detection at Lakes Entrance is significant because it confirms H5 bird flu in East Gippsland and shows the virus is continuing to move through wild bird populations across Victoria.

The Gippsland Lakes are also habitat for large numbers of seabirds, shorebirds and waterbirds at higher risk from H5 bird flu, so spread of the virus through this area is likely to have significant impacts on wildlife.

Agriculture Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks activated plans to vaccinate more than 5,000 little penguins at Phillip Island and St Kilda as soon as the Federal Government authorised the use of H5N1 vaccines for priority native bird species.

Agriculture Victoria is working closely with Phillip Island Nature Parks to support vaccination of little penguins from Monday 17 August. Vaccination is not a guarantee against infection but remains an important tool that may help reduce the impact of H5 bird flu in this population.

Community members should avoid touching sick or dead wildlife wherever possible and keep pets away from animals and carcasses. If disposal is required in an affected area, follow the advice provided and take appropriate precautions.

If you see sick or dead birds or wildlife, report it via the Agriculture Victoria website or call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Key links

Victoria

- [Agriculture Victoria website](#) for advice for landholders and wildlife carers

- [Agriculture Victoria Facebook](#)
- Advice about [managing dead birds on your land](#)
- Advice about [backyard poultry](#).

National

- [DAFF website](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [Bird flu \(avian influenza\) | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)