



## CDPH Health Update:

# Evaluation and Testing for Human Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Infection

December 12, 2024

On December 6, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [health update on evaluation and testing for avian influenza A \(H5N1\) infection](#) that provides guidance on specimen collection, treatment, chemoprophylaxis, and infection prevention.

Healthcare providers should consider influenza A (H5N1) infection in persons with acute respiratory symptoms and/or conjunctivitis and:

- 1) recent exposure to animals suspected or confirmed to have avian influenza A, or
- 2) recent consumption of raw dairy products

If you suspect avian influenza A (H5N1) infection in your patient, please ensure the patient is on appropriate isolation precautions and call the SFDPH Communicable Disease Section at 415-554-2830. SFDPH Public Health Laboratory will facilitate testing as appropriate.

To date, there have been no cases of human avian influenza A (H5N1) in San Francisco, although there have been human cases in other counties in California, especially among workers exposed to dairy cows infected with the virus. To date, no human-to-human transmission has been documented in the U.S.; SFDPH continues to closely monitor the situation as it evolves.

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