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RÉGIE RÉGIONALE DE LA SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX DU NUNAVIK
NUNAVIK REGIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

# PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

## Public Notice: Avian Flu 2024

**Kuujjuaq, April 29, 2024** – Since April 2022, avian flu has spread among wildfowl throughout all the regions of Québec. In Nunavik, two cases were detected in geese in the fall 2023.

Geese and ducks are known to be affected by this disease. With the spring migration and hunting season under way, the NRBHSS is asking all Nunavimmiut to be alert and avoid hunting or consuming birds that appear sick.

Although the virus circulates primarily among birds, it can sometimes be transmitted to mammals, including marine mammals, which have been in close contact with sick birds.

The risk of transmission of avian flu from wildfowl to humans is very low. However, basic measures are recommended for hunters and other persons who handle birds in order to reduce the risk of the disease and the virus' spread: wear gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water, and be sure to clean clothing and equipment.

Consumption of properly cooked wild game is not a source of infection for humans.

If you find dead or sick birds, do not touch them. If you wish, you may contact Géraldine Gouin or Paul Papak of the Nunavik Research Centre (819-964-2925) to report the situation.

If you find dead or sick seals, do not touch them. Immediately report the situation to Géraldine Gouin or Paul Papak (819-964-2925) at the Nunavik Research Centre.

If you become sick after handling a bird, contact your CLSC/nursing station.

To learn more:

- Avian Influenza | Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (nrbhss.ca)
- Wildlife and avian influenza – Handling guidelines to protect your health - Canada.ca

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