

## **Information Concerning the H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus**

### **An announcement regarding Avian Influenza from the Mie Prefectural Government**

#### **Safety of Poultry, Eggs and the Risk of Transmission to Humans**

At this time, there have been no reports of transmission of the H5N1 Avian Influenza virus through the consumption of eggs or poultry. While there have been no reports of additional health risks related to eating raw eggs, we recommend that concerned individuals heat food that contains eggs to an internal temperature of 70 degrees C. When eating poultry, be sure to follow the normal precautions against food poisoning.

It has been reported that the H5N1 Avian Influenza virus can be transmitted to humans in extremely rare cases where an individual has inhaled a large amount of plumage or avian feces that has entered the air in powder form. However, there are no reports of human-to-human transmission at this time.

#### **If domesticated/pet birds die**

Birds that are raised in your household, farm or similar area will not necessarily be infected with the H5N1 virus because of the current outbreak of Avian Influenza. Please do not free or dispose of your domesticated/pet birds.

Also, if your pet/domesticated bird or birds die unexpectedly in large numbers please do not touch them with your bare hands, refrain from burying them and contact your nearest pet hygiene and sanitation office as soon as possible.

#### **If you notice a dead wild bird**

Wild birds, like pet birds, can die from many causes like malnutrition, traffic, bird nets and being unable to adapt to changes in the environment.

It is safe to dispose of dead wild birds that died due to injury or a traffic accident by placing them in a sealed plastic bag. Be sure not to touch the bird with your bare hands during disposal.

If you notice an unusually large amount of dead wild birds or have any other related concerns, please contact the Forests/Timber Industry Office in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Commerce, or your local municipal office.

**For Enquires:**

**For Concerns Regarding H5N1 Avian Influenza**

**Mie Prefecture. Agricultural, Fisheries, Commerce and Industry Department, Agricultural and Fisheries Safety Office**

**For Food & Health Related Concerns**

**Mie Prefecture, Health and Welfare Department, Health Crisis Management Office**

**For Concerns Regarding Bird Deaths**

**Mie Prefecture, Environment and Forestry Department, Natural Environment Office**

**These consultation services are available only in Japanese. Please ask an acquaintance who can speak Japanese to enquire on your behalf, if necessary.**