



ཁོ་ནམ་དང་སློ་ནོར་ལྷན་ཁག།
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



SECRETARY

MoAL/SEC-7/2025-2026/113

July 17, 2025

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock hereby notifies the general public of a confirmed outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (HPAI H5N1, commonly known as Bird Flu) in Lingthang village, Sang-ngag-choling Gewog under Samtse Dzongkhag. The HPAI outbreak, affecting one backyard farm with 36 poultry birds, was confirmed through rt-PCR on July 16, 2025 at National Centre for Animal Health.

HPAI is a highly contagious viral disease in domestic poultry as well as wild birds. The disease causes high mortality in domestic poultry. Although HPAI is primarily a disease of birds, it can also infect mammals including humans producing a range of mild to severe respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms.

The virus spreads through direct and indirect contact with infected birds, their secretions, and contaminated environments. Infected poultry exhibits swollen, bluish discoloration of the comb, wattles, and face, severe respiratory distress, greenish, watery or bloody diarrhea, neurological signs, and in some cases sudden death.

All poultry farmers across the country are advised to strengthen farm-level biosecurity measures to prevent HPAI infection and to immediately report any cases of illness or death in poultry, as well as sightings of dead waterfowl or wild birds, to the nearest Department of Livestock or BFDA office, or through the Hotlines 1224 (DoL) and 1555 (BFDA). The general public is also urged to refrain from the illegal import of live chickens and chicken products into the country.

Any person found not adhering to this notification shall be firmly dealt in accordance with the relevant laws of the country.

Issued for information and strict compliance to prevent HPAI outbreaks and safeguard public health and livelihood of our farmers.

Chair
National Incident Command Committee