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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



SECRETARY

MoAL/SEC-7/2025-2026/175

February 13, 2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock hereby notifies the general public of a confirmed outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (HPAI H5N1), commonly known as Bird Flu at Redijong village under Phangkhar gewog, and Gomphu Village under Trong gewog, Zhemgang. The HPAI outbreak was detected in backyard native poultry birds and was confirmed through rt-PCR on February 13, 2026 at the National Centre for Animal Health. All 23 backyard native poultry birds in the four affected households have succumbed to the infection.

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 gastro-intestinal 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.

In view of the prevailing risk, the general public is hereby requested to refrain from illegal importation of live poultry and poultry products. Households rearing backyard poultry are strictly advised to keep the birds under confinement and adopt good poultry husbandry practices to minimize risk of disease transmission. All poultry farmers across the country are further advised to strengthen farm biosecurity measures to prevent HPAI infection in their farms. Any unusual sickness or deaths in poultry, as well as sightings of dead waterfowl or wild birds, must be reported immediately to the nearest office of the Department of Livestock or the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority, or through the hotline numbers 1224 (DoL) and 1555 (BFDA). Additionally, all individuals engaged in Tshethar activities are reminded to strictly comply with the Tshethar practice guidelines issued by the Ministry on October 11, 2018.

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 safeguard public health and livelihood of our farmers.

Chair

National Incident Command Committee