

Wild Bird Mortality Event

Please be advised that there is an ongoing mortality event involving juvenile gulls and several species of fish in the RM of Meota. The Ministry of Environment has collected specimens for diagnostic testing and is awaiting testing results.

The Ministry has provided the following information:

- The cause of the mortality event remains unknown. The gull and fish mortality are likely unrelated.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or bird flu) is circulating in wild bird populations in the province and shorebirds (gulls, terns, waterfowl) are highly susceptible. Although not confirmed, avian influenza remains a possibility.
- Although public health risk is low, the public is advised to keep a distance and to avoid handling sick or dead birds.
- Pets can be susceptible to some forms of avian influenza. Although test results have not determined that this is the cause of death of the birds, please do not allow your pets to handle dead carcasses.
- Test results will be released to the public when available (possibly as early as next week).
- More information on avian influenza can be found on the Ministry's website at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/fish-and-wildlife-diseases/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds>
- Cases of mortality can be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative online at <https://cwhc.wildlifesubmissions.org/> or through the "Wildlife Health Tracker" app.