

NOTICE

RESTRICTION ON LIVE BIRDS, EGGS, RAW POULTRY PRODUCTS, RAW PET FOODS FROM KANSAS, ARKANSAS, MISSOURI, MINNESOTA, CALIFORNIA, IDAHO, OREGON AND WASHINGTON, USA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.

The Veterinary Services Division (VSD) has been implementing measures necessary to safeguard Jamaica's poultry and public health due to recently reported outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) in poultry in the states of Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, USA and in British Columbia, Canada. These measures are being taken in accordance with Jamaica's Animals (Diseases and Importation) Law and consistent with international guidelines.

As a result of these reported outbreaks, with immediate effect, all poultry and poultry products (raw, chilled, fresh or frozen) and by-products not fully cooked, hatching eggs and raw pet foods, originating in the states of Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington are under restriction until further advised. The list of products includes, but is not limited to:

- live birds and hatching eggs, egg yolks, egg whites;
- poultry meat (except fully cooked, canned, commercially sterile products)
- raw pet foods containing poultry;
- feathers/offal.

Avian Influenza infections in birds are divided in two groups based on their ability to cause disease:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): causes serious disease with high mortality (up to 100% within few hours)
- Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI): generally causes mild disease and may easily go undetected.

Avian influenza viruses are common in wild migratory waterfowls, but do not usually harm them. However these viruses, including the H₅N₂ strain currently causing the outbreaks, may be deadly when spread to commercial poultry.

There is no immediate food safety risk and the consumption of properly cooked poultry meat and poultry products remains safe.

By Order:

Chief Veterinary Officer

March 12, 2015