



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## MDPH Tuesday Infectious Disease Webinar Series

### Tools for Local Boards of Health

**February 11, 2025**

**Hillary Johnson, MHS**

Senior Epidemiology Advisor to Local Health, Division of Epidemiology

**Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP**

Senior Epidemiologist – MAVEN User Management & Data Visualization Lead

**Lionel White, MSIT**

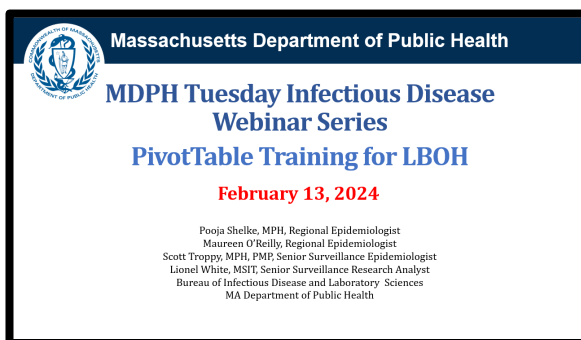
Senior Surveillance Research Analyst, MAVEN Training Team

**Julie Coco, MPH**

Internship Program and Training Coordinator, Division of Epidemiology

**Petra Schubert, MPH**

Emerging Infections Coordinator, Division of Epidemiology



# February 11, 2025

- **Updated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report published!**
- **H5N1 Avian Influenza Updates**
- **MAVEN Reminders for 2024 Case Closeout**
- **Featured Presentation: Pivot Tables for Local Boards of Health**
  - Pooja Shelke, MPH, Regional Epidemiologist
  - Maureen O'Reilly, Regional Epidemiologist
  - Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, Senior Surveillance Epidemiologist
  - Lionel White, MSIT, Senior Surveillance Research Analyst

Imagine the effort it took this dolphin to propose, then the woman he loves does this in front of him? Just awful.



Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day from us at DPH! ❤️❤️

# Infectious Disease Tools for LBOH Webinar Schedule!

## 2025 Upcoming Schedule!

All Registrations:	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/MAVEN-Webinars">http://tinyurl.com/MAVEN-Webinars</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 2/11/25	Pivot Table Introduction for MAVEN Users and ELR updates
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 2/25/25	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Office Hours
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 3/11/25	Case Investigation Updates 2025
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 3/25/25	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Office Hours
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 4/8/25	Tuberculosis
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 4/22/25	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Office Hours

### WEBINAR REGISTRATION PAGE:

<http://tinyurl.com/MAVEN-Webinars>

- You help us identify topics, needs, & content!
- Be sure to send ideas, requests, and questions to Hillary and Scott!

MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

<http://www.maven-help.maventrainingsite.com/toc.html>



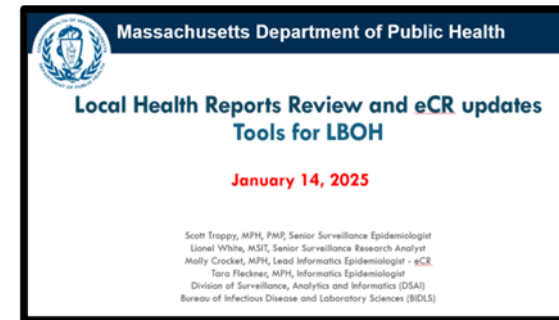
**You can always contact**  
**[mavenhelp@mass.gov](mailto:mavenhelp@mass.gov) or**  
**The MDPH Epi Program**  
**at 617-983-6800 with**  
**specific questions.**

**Next Office Hours**  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2025 @11:00!**

# Updates – A quick recap for Feb. 11, 2025

## January 14, 2025:

- **Local Health Internship Program**
  - Julie Coco, MPH, Local Health Internship Coordinator, Division of Epidemiology
- **Pertussis Updates and Reminders**
  - Hillary Johnson, MHS, Senior Epidemiology Advisor to Local Health
- **Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) in MAVEN**
  - Molly Crockett, MPH, Lead Informatics Epidemiologist - eCR
  - Tara Fleckner, MPH, Informatics Epidemiologist
- **MAVEN – Local Health Reports Review**
  - Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, Surveillance Epidemiologist
  - Lionel White, MSIT, Senior Surveillance Research Analyst



Presentation: [PDF Slides](#), [Recording](#)



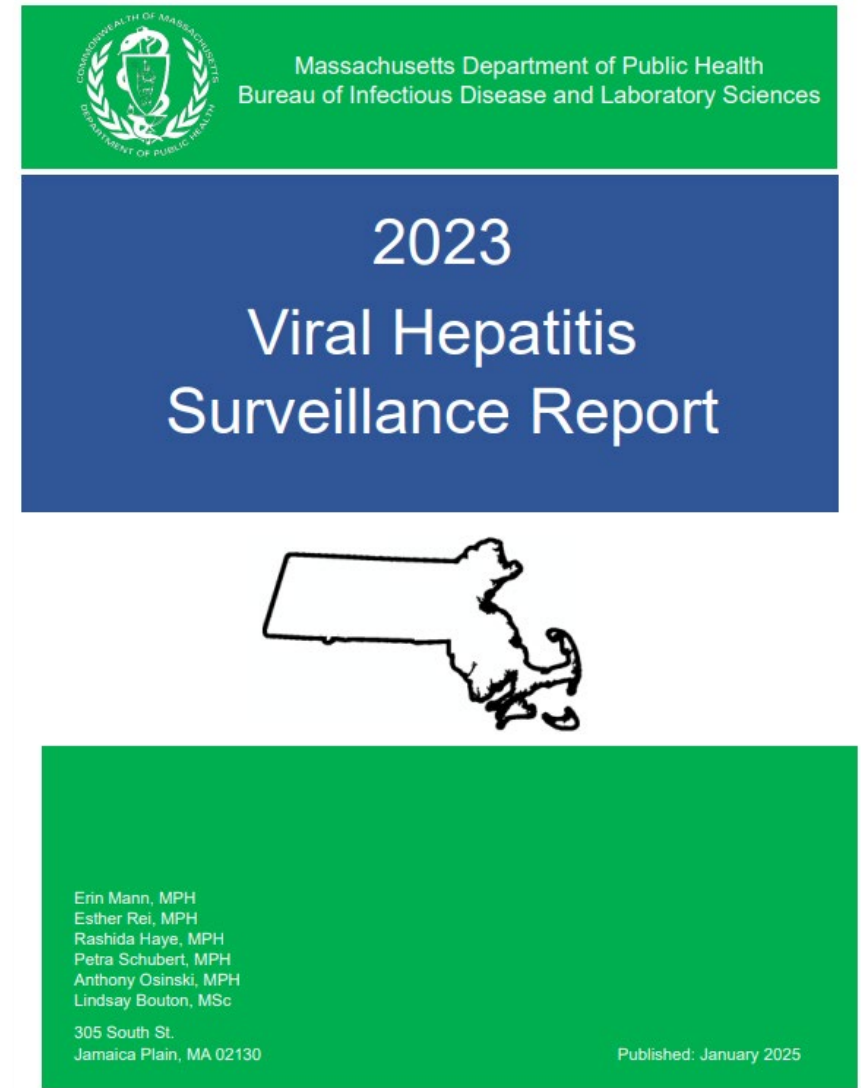
Always Remember you can see recent webinar recordings and slides in MAVEN Help.

**Bookmark the URL!**

MAVEN Help: <http://www.maven-help.maventrainingsite.com/toc.html>

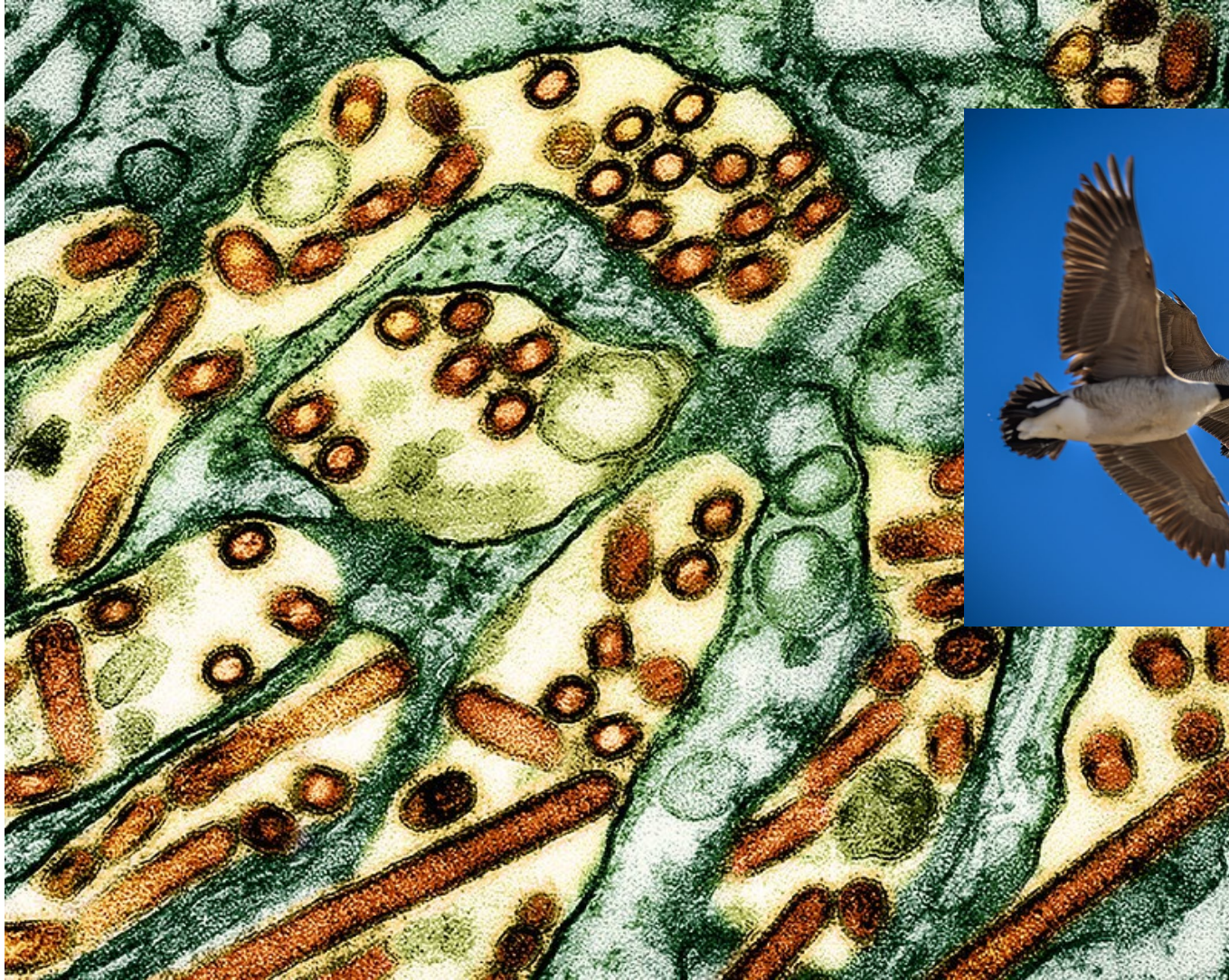
# DPH Publishes Updated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report

- **Updated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report contains data through 2023**
  - Available [online](#) and can be [downloaded directly](#)
  - Collects in one document information on reported cases of hepatitis A, B, and C
  - Emphasizes the ongoing contribution of drug use and unstable housing to transmission of viral hepatitis
  - Includes for the first time the hepatitis C clearance cascade, measuring population-level progress toward hepatitis C elimination
  - **Thank you** for your efforts on viral hepatitis case investigations!
  - Feedback is welcome – please send to: [Erin.K.Mann@mass.gov](mailto:Erin.K.Mann@mass.gov)





# H5N1 Avian Influenza Updates

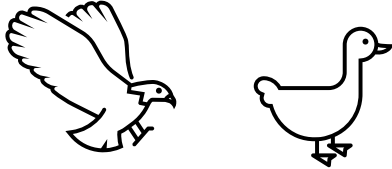
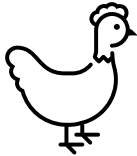
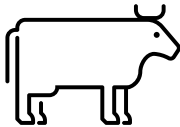




# HPAI H5N1 Massachusetts, February 2025

- HPAI H5N1 remains primarily a Zoonotic Disease (animal to human)
- H5N1 human cases have been rare in the US and have been primarily associated with direct contact with infected commercial poultry or dairy cattle
- **No human cases have been identified in Massachusetts.**

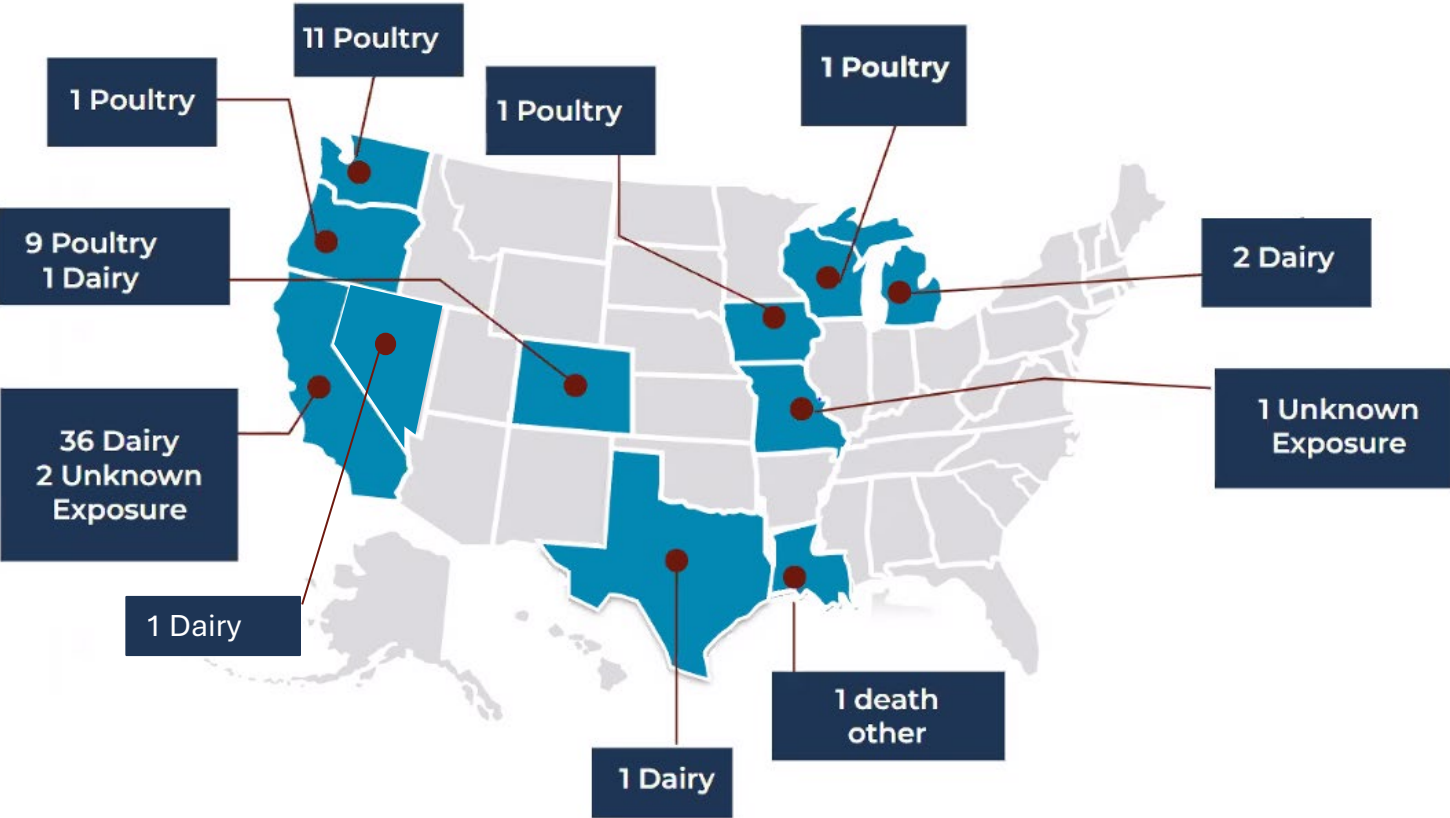
## HPAI Among Animals in MA, 2025

Wild Bird 	HPAI widespread among wild birds, primarily waterfowl
Domestic Birds 	1 backyard flock identified (as of 1/25)
Dairy Cows 	Milk supply from MA dairies remains negative. Milk is tested monthly.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/avian-influenza>

<https://www.mass.gov/news/state-officials-provide-updated-guidance-on-suspected-avian-flu-cases-reported-across-massachusetts>

# H5N1 Cases in Humans, U.S.

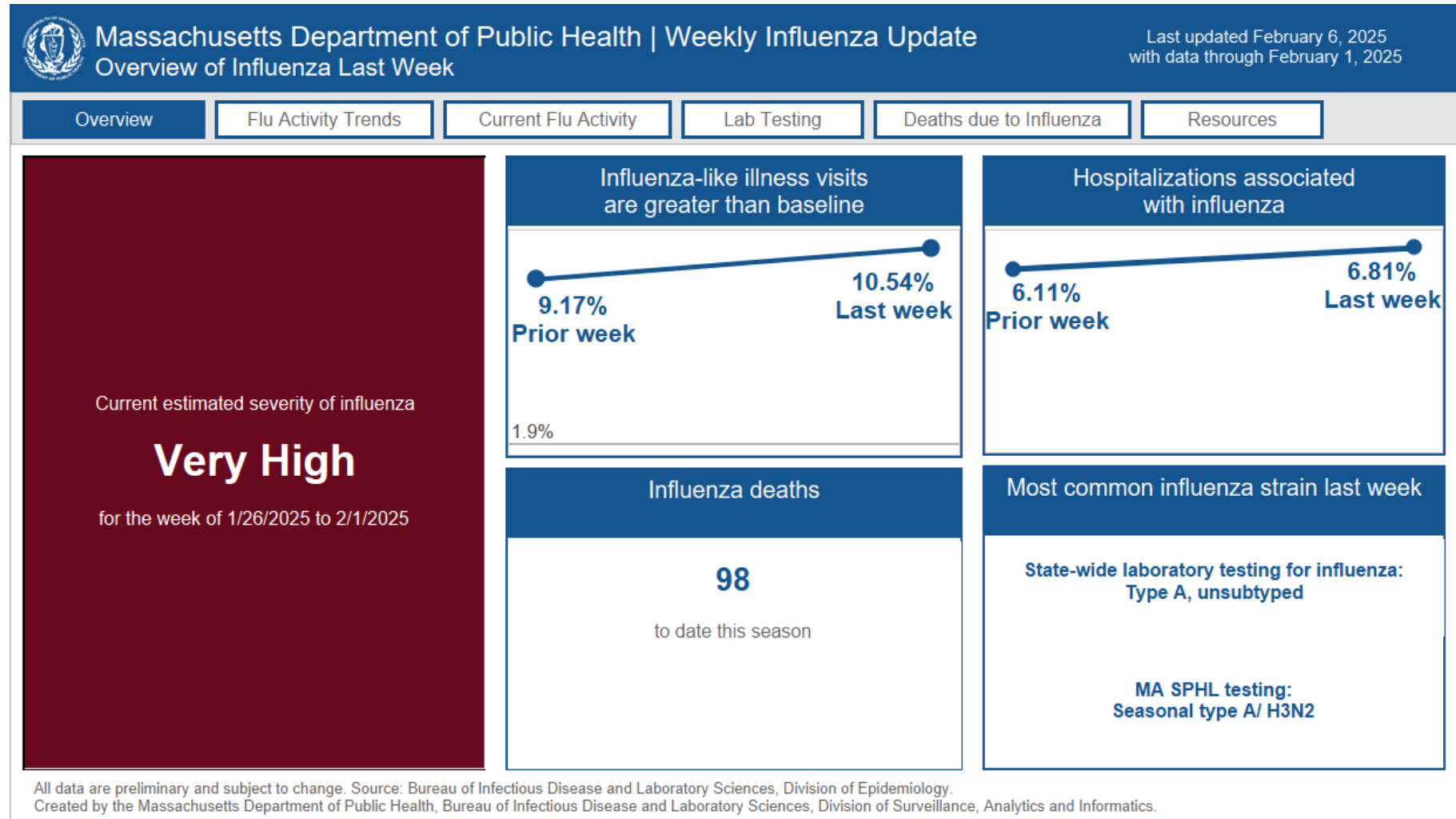
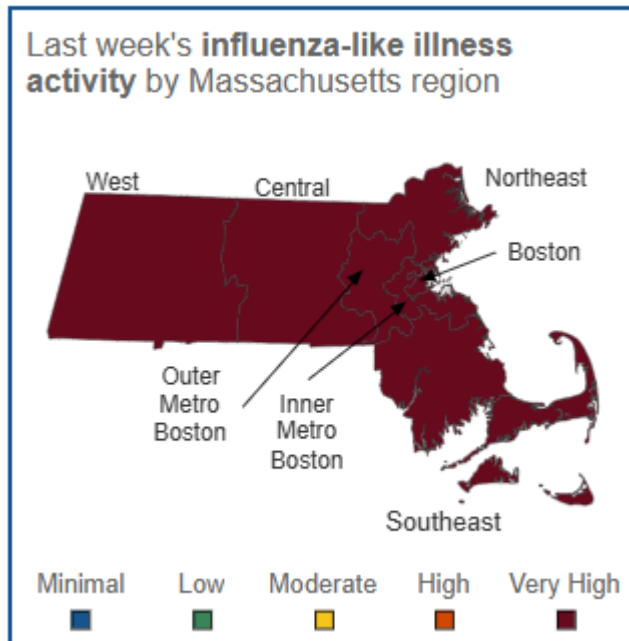


Exposure Source					
State	Exposure Associated with Commercial Agriculture and Related Operations		Other Animal Exposure <sup>†</sup>	Exposure Source Unknown <sup>‡</sup>	State Total
	Dairy Herds (Cattle)	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations			
California	36	0	0	2	38
Colorado	1	9	0	0	10
Iowa	0	1	0	0	1
Louisiana	0	0	1	0	1
Michigan	2	0	0	0	2
Missouri	0	0	0	1	1
Nevada	1	0	0	0	1
Oregon	0	1	0	0	1
Texas	1	0	0	0	1
Washington	0	11	0	0	11
Wisconsin	0	1	0	0	1
Source Total	41	23	1	3	68

Data from 2024 - 2/6/25. Source CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>



# Seasonal Influenza in Massachusetts



# Wild Bird Situation in Massachusetts

- HPAI currently widespread among wild birds in MA. **MassWildlife** is tracking the H5N1 trends in wild birds
- Public advised to avoid direct contact with sick or dead animals; keep pets from contacting them as well
- Removing infected carcasses from the environment may assist in decreasing the amount of virus present and will limit exposure to scavenger species.
- Dead birds on private property
  - In most cities and towns, removal is responsibility of the property owner. However, for a larger number of carcasses resulting from a confirmed HPAI outbreak, it may be advisable for a municipality to provide assistance with collection and disposal if possible.

# Avian Influenza Reminders/Updates: REPORTING

- **Wild birds:** Report bird morbidity (severe illness) or mortality events greater than 5 birds and any dead bald eagle, peregrine falcon, or snowy owl to MassWildlife using the online report form at <https://www.mass.gov/reportbirds>. This allows for tracking and testing to document trends.
  - Division of Fisheries and Wildlife - Main (508) 389-6300
- **Domestic birds:** Report sick or dead poultry or other domestic birds using MDAR's online reporting form (<https://www.mass.gov/forms/poultry-disease-reporting-form>) or by calling MDAR's Division of Animal Health at (617) 626-1795.
- Guidance on keeping domestic birds safe can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/avian-influenza>



# Updated Guidance for Animal Control Officers (ACOs)

- DPH, MassWildlife, and MDAR have put out a helpful document addressing **“Guidance for Animal Control Officers Responding to Avian Influenza Mortality Events & Public Inquiries.”**
- Outlines concerns, handling carcasses, proper PPE, disposal and cleaning, general best practices, reporting, and other resources.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-animal-control-officers-responding-to-avian-influenza-mortality-events-public-inquiries/download>

## Guidance for Animal Control Officers Responding to Avian Influenza Mortality Events & Public Inquiries

### Overview

As an Animal Control Officer, you may be receiving inquiries from the public about HPAI or assisting with carcass collection and disposal. Please review the detailed guidance below and remember these quick tips:

- Report sick or dead wild birds to MassWildlife at [www.mass.gov/reportbirds](http://www.mass.gov/reportbirds)
- Report domestic poultry and livestock to MDAR at 617-626-1795 or online using [Poultry Disease Reporting Form](#)
- ACOs should use PPE whenever handling sick or dead animals
- Advise the public to avoid handling sick or dead wildlife

### What is the Concern?

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is highly transmissible and poses a threat to domestic poultry, wild birds, scavenging mammals, and in rare cases human health. Wild birds play a key role in the epidemiology and spread of HPAI (both locally and over long distances). HPAI can infect all avian species and some mammal species through contact with saliva, mucous, or feces from infected birds. Infections are most commonly seen in waterbirds (geese, swans, ducks, gulls, and shorebirds), raptors, and scavengers.

### Clinical Signs in Wildlife

Among wild bird species, the signs and severity of disease can be extremely variable. It is important to note that some species of birds may be infected with HPAI and remain asymptomatic. Clinical signs include: Death; diarrhea; respiratory signs (coughing, sneezing); discharge from the mouth, nose, ears, or vent (clear, cloudy, or greenish); behavioral abnormalities (lethargy, huddled posture); neurological abnormalities (falling over, circling, head tilt or twisting, tremors); and abnormal locomotion that cannot be explained by traumatic injuries (unable to stand, walk, or fly properly).

### Carcass Handling and Disposal

Sick birds should be left where they are found. While not all birds will succumb to avian influenza, mortality commonly occurs within 48 hours of infection. Risk of virus transmission is greater from living birds than carcasses. Following mortality, carcasses can be collected and disposed of when necessary. Removing infected carcasses from the environment may assist in decreasing the amount of virus present and will limit exposure to scavenger species.

# Human Exposure to HPAI

- **Q. What if someone was exposed to a confirmed case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza? Answer: 10 Days of monitoring to look for symptoms.**
  - **A. 10 Days of monitoring to look for symptoms.**
    - If you use PPE appropriately when handling carcasses, your risk of getting sick from avian influenza is low.
    - Public health authorities recommend that you monitor your health for signs of influenza infection for ten days after your last exposure to potentially HPAI virus-infected birds.
    - Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever, flu-like symptoms, or conjunctivitis (eye inflammation). Inform them that you may have been exposed to avian influenza and explain the PPE you wore.
    - If you handled carcasses from a confirmed HPAI outbreak and did NOT wear the recommended PPE, please contact the Department of Public Health 24/7 at 617-983-6800 for advice.

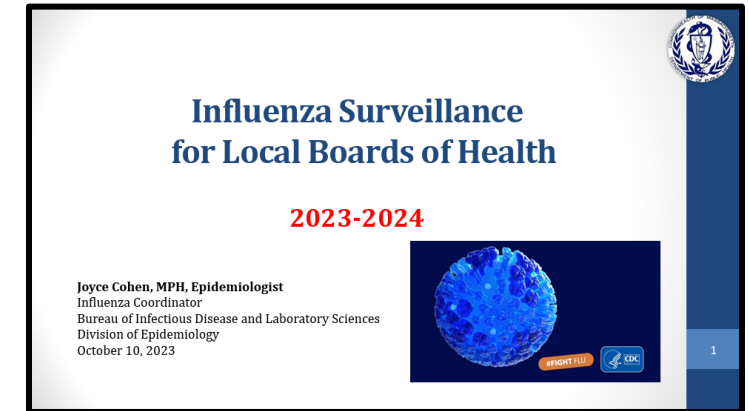
# General Recommendations

- **Q. Is there a concern for children playing at parks/recess?**
  - **A.** While it is true that H5N1 avian flu is widespread in Massachusetts, the risk to any individual person is low. The people in the US who have gotten bird flu (none in Massachusetts), have **primarily had close contact with infected animals – either dairy cattle or domestic poultry**. There are public health recommendations about people avoiding contact with sick or dead birds, but **there is no current recommendation to avoid being outdoors in areas where there have been infected wild birds found**.

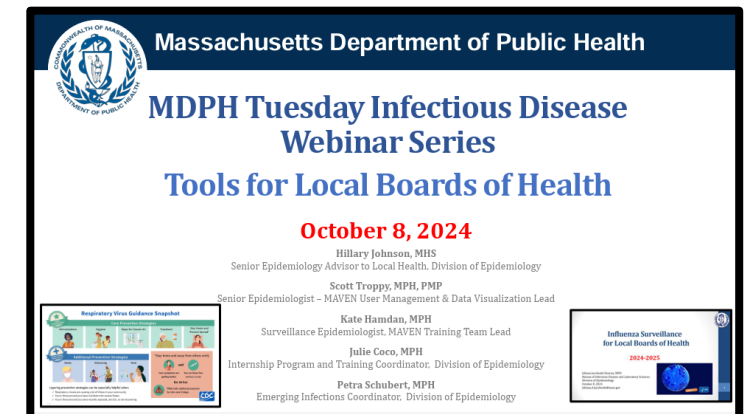


# Influenza Surveillance in Massachusetts

- Tracking Influenza each season requires data from many sources and is less about exact numbers than identifying trends in real time.
- We look at:
  - Influenza-like illness (ILI)
  - Hospitalizations
  - Influenza Positive Lab Test Results reported to the MDPH
- To learn more check out the October 2023 and 2024 webinars in MAVEN Help



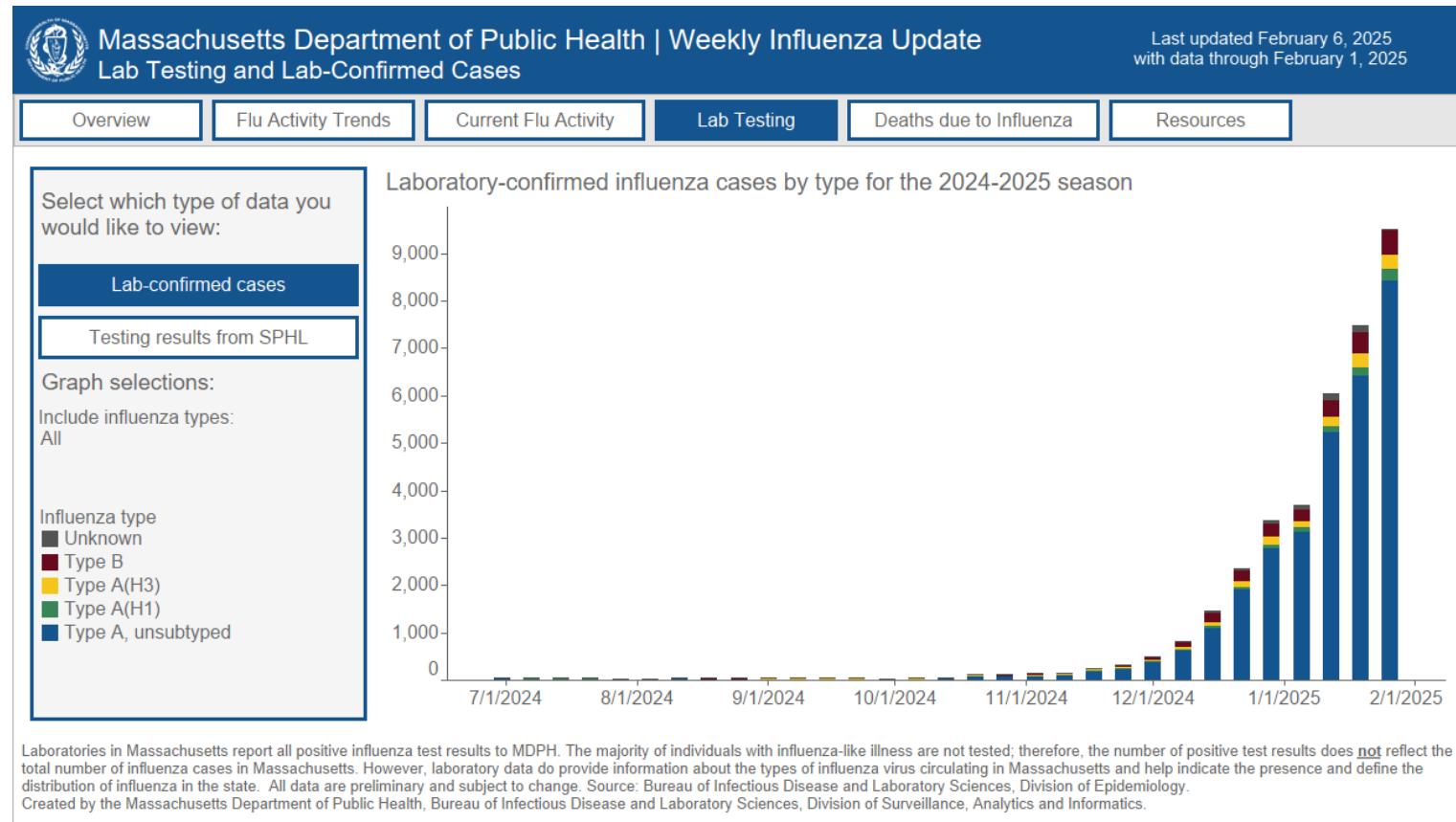
<https://tinyurl.com/FLUOctober2023>



<https://tinyurl.com/FLUOctober2024>

# Influenza Surveillance in Massachusetts – Lab Data

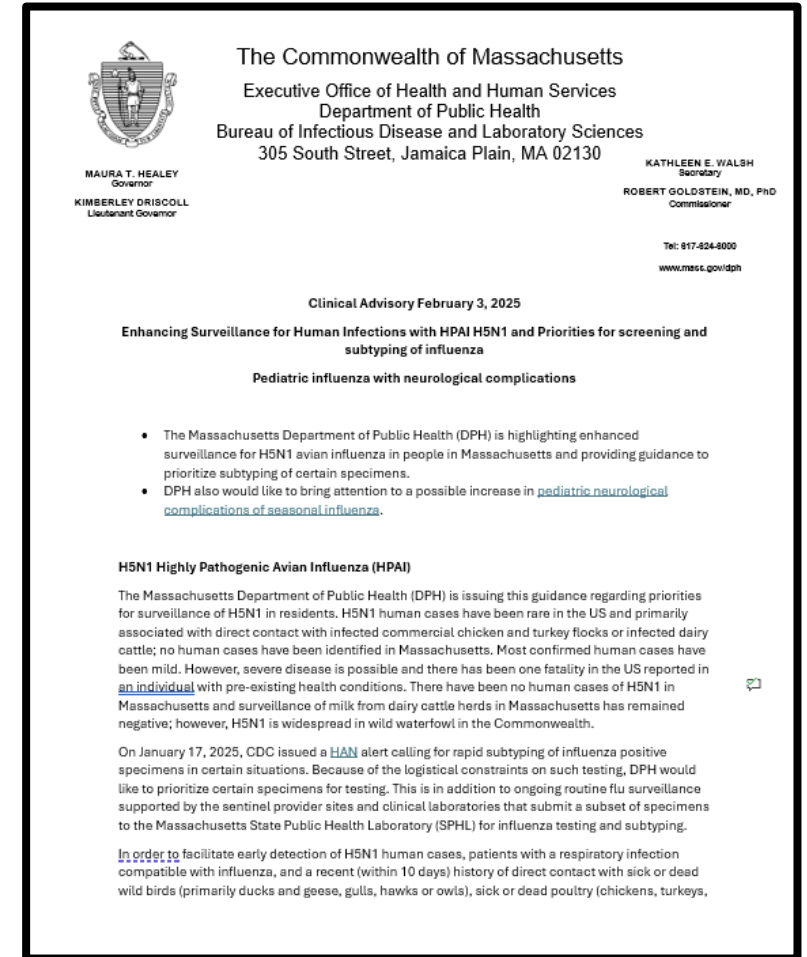
- Laboratories in Massachusetts report all positive molecular influenza test results to MDPH.
- The majority of individuals with ILI are not tested; therefore, the number of positive test results does **not** reflect the total number of influenza cases in MA.
- Lab testing provides information about the types of influenza virus circulating in Massachusetts



Note: MDPH stopped accepting rapid flu antigen labs back in 2018. Labs reported now are primarily PCR and viral culture.

# MDPH Clinical Advisory, February 3, 2025

- A clinical advisory was sent out **to providers and lab facilities in MA requesting they:**
  - prioritize testing at the State Lab for patients with compatible animal contact and illness.
  - promptly subtype Influenza A patients who are hospitalized or critically ill.
- This is to enhance our regular influenza surveillance and ensure early detection of H5N1 cases.
- The advisory also asks providers to report pediatric flu cases with neurological complications and submit specimens to the State Lab.





# Key Takeaways

- Risk of H5N1 avian influenza is low for the general public.
  - The public is advised to avoid direct contact with sick or dead animals; keep pets from direct contact with sick or dead animals as well.
- Seasonal Influenza severity is currently very high in MA.
  - Emphasize vaccination – both flu and COVID.
  - Stay home when sick and consider testing.
  - Good hand hygiene and covering coughs/sneezes.
  - Take antivirals if your clinician prescribes them for you.

# H5N1 Resources

- **CDC:**
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/signs-symptoms/index.html>
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/prevention/index.html>
- **USDA:**
  - <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections>
- **FDA:**
  - <https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/investigation-avian-influenza-h5n1-virus-dairy-cattle#Communications>
- **MDAR:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/avian-influenza>
- **MDAR Report Sick Poultry:** <https://www.mass.gov/forms/poultry-disease-reporting-form>
- **MDAR Animal Carcass Disposal:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-animal-control-officers-responding-to-avian-influenza-mortality-events-public-inquiries/download>
- **MassWildlife Hunter Safety:** <https://www.mass.gov/news/what-hunters-should-know-about-hpai>
- **MassWildlife Report Dead Birds:** <https://www.mass.gov/forms/report-observations-of-dead-wild-birds>
- **DPH:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/avian-flu>

# MAVEN Reminders for 2024 Case Closeout





## 2024 Case Closing

- **Starting late March**, DSAI staff will complete any 2024 cases that remain in the workflows by completing steps 2, 3 & 4 in the Administrative Question Package. Staff will leave a note in any cases where question packages are updated.
- **Friendly Reminder** to check your Immediate, Routine, Pending Case Report Form Workflows for 2024 events today.





# Quick MAVEN Reminders – what you will see in Notes

- If no steps are filled out in the event:

**Notes**  

**Scott Troppy [stroppy] - (Generic)** 02/05/2025 10:28 AM  
Completing LBOH Steps 2, 3 and 4 - clearing out incomplete 2024 cases from the LBOH CRF Pending Review workflow. No investigation attempted or completed.

- If any steps are filled out in the event:

**Notes**  

**Scott Troppy [stroppy] - (Generic)** 02/05/2025 10:31 AM  
Completing LBOH Step 4 - clearing out incomplete 2024 cases from the LBOH CRF Pending Review workflow.



**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

# **MDPH Tuesday Infectious Disease Webinar Series**

## **PivotTable Training for LBOH**

**February 11, 2025**

Pooja Shelke, MPH, Regional Epidemiologist

Maureen O'Reilly, Regional Epidemiologist

Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, Senior Surveillance Epidemiologist

Lionel White, MSIT, Senior Surveillance Research Analyst

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

MA Department of Public Health

# QUESTIONS?

