

HPAI H5N1

He Pukapuka Aratohu mō ngā Hapori Māori

A guide for Māori communities



**BIRD
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BE READY

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Whakapā atu ki Te Tira Whakamātaki, tukuna mai ngā pātai, ngā wheako, me ngā whakaaro hei whakapai ake i tēnei aratohu.

Mō ngā whakahoutanga hou me ētahi atu rauemi, tirohia te pae tukutuku www.ttw.nz/mataki.

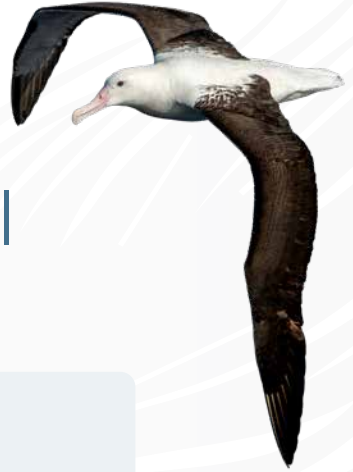
This guidance will be updated as new knowledge becomes available and as practitioners share their experiences adapting to HPAI. Contact Te Tira Whakamātaki with your questions, experiences, and suggestions for improvement. For the latest updates and additional resources check out www.ttw.nz/mataki.

This guidance was developed by Te Tira Whakamātaki (TTW) under contract to the Ministry for Primary Industries. TTW has worked to ensure cultural appropriateness of these recommendations that are based on government policy. Communities are encouraged to consider this guidance alongside their own tikanga and decision-making processes.

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“

I taua wa ka mohio ia - ehara tenei i te take mo ia anake. He take mo te iwi, mo te taiao, mo nga reanga kei te heke mai.”



He Kōrero Whakaaroaro | A reflection

He ata mātao, he manu mate

I te atapō, ka takahia atu rā te kaitiaki i te ara ki te takutai. Ka papapounamu te moana, horekau he hau e whakaohoho. Katahi ka kitea atu, kua marara ngā manu ki te one. Kāore e korikori, kua riro kē i te mate. Ka pā te wairua, ka whakaaroa, ka pupū ake ngā pātai. Me anga atu ki hea? Me waea ki a wai? Me waihotia, me kohia rānei? Me tukuna karakia? Ka noho puku, ka tau mai te māramatanga. Kāore tēnei i te take mōna anake. He take nui kē. He take mō te iwi, mō te taiao, mō ngā uri whakaheke.

A cold morning, dead birds

At dawn, the kaitiaki walks along the shoreline. There is no wind, the sea is calm. But before him lie many birds, motionless. A heaviness settles. Confusion follows: What should I do? Should I call someone? Should I collect them? Should I offer karakia? In that moment he understands – this is not an issue for him alone. It is a matter for the iwi, for the environment, and for the generations yet to come.

This guide has been adapted from Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, and The Ministry of Health's HPAI resources to ensure consistency with the national approach to HPAI.

He Mihi | Kupu Whakataki

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa,

Kei te rere haere tētahi mate ki te ao whānui, arā ko te rewharewha manu tino kino, ko te High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI). Kua pā kē tēnei mate ki ngā whenua maha, kua mate hoki te tini o ngā manu, ā, kua raru hoki ētahi atu kararehe.

Ahakoa kāore anō kia tae mai ki Aotearoa, e whakatata mai ana. Nō reira, kia mataara. Kei te whakatūpato, kei te whakarite hoki ngā hapū, ngā iwi, me ngā kaitiaki o te taiao mō taua wā ka tau mai, me ngā pānga ka pā ki te taiao, ki ngā manu — he whanaunga, he taonga, me te oranga o te tangata.

He kaupapa tēnei kei raro i te mana whakahaere o ngā kaitiaki whenua, kaitiaki tangata. E tika ana mā ngā hapū, mā ngā iwi, mā ngā kaitiaki hoki e arataki i tēnei kaupapa, arā, mā te tikanga, te mātauranga, me te whanaungatanga ki te taiao.

Ka mihi ki ngā ringa raupā o ngā kaitiaki e tiaki ana te taiao mai rā anō. Ka mihi hoki ki ngā kaipūtaiao hoki. Mā te tikanga, mā te mātauranga me te pūtaiao, ā, mā te arataki a ngā hapū me ngā iwi, ka hikina te manuka.

Tēnā koutou e ngā whānau, ngā hapū, me ngā iwi o Aotearoa.

A serious disease is spreading across the world, high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu. This disease has affected many countries, causing the deaths of large numbers of birds, and has also impacted other animals.

Although it has not yet arrived in Aotearoa, it is getting closer. We must be prepared for the possibility that it will reach us, and for the impacts it may have on our environment, our taonga species, and the wellbeing of our people.

It is important to recognise that this is not an issue for government alone. It is an issue for iwi, hapū, and all kaitiaki of the environment.

We acknowledge the expertise of scientists and kaitiaki who have long worked to protect te taiao. By working together, and by drawing on both mātauranga Māori and scientific knowledge, we can respond appropriately to this challenge.

Te Kaupapa o tēnei Aratohu | Purpose of this guide

He mea whakarite tēnei pukapuka mā ngā hapori Māori, hei āwhina i te māramatanga ki:

- ▶ te āhua o tēnei mate, arā ko te rewharewha manu (HPAI);
- ▶ ngā pānga ka pā ki te taiao, ki ngā manu, ki ngā taonga, me te oranga o te tangata;
- ▶ ngā take me noho mataara ai tātou;
- ▶ ngā mahi kia noho tātou hei kaitiaki, hei whakarite, hei anga whakamua;
- ▶ Ehara tēnei i te pukapuka whakamataku, kāore hoki i te tuhi hei whakaputa māharahara. He pukapuka mātauranga kē, he pukapuka whakakaha, e tautoko ana i a tātou ki te tiaki i te taiao me te oranga o te iwi.

Hei ārahi hoki i a tātou kia noho rite, kia tū kaha ai hei kaitiaki mō te taiao, mō ō tātou whānau, hapū, iwi hoki.

Ka ahu mai ngā kōrero o roto i tēnei pukapuka i te mātauranga me te pūtaiao. He mea whakarangatira i ngā wheako, ngā mōhiotanga, me ngā mahi rangatira o ngā hapori Māori.

This guide has been prepared for Māori communities so that we can understand what HPAI is, what it may mean for our taonga species and our whānau, and what we can do now to be ready. It is not a technical manual, and it is not written to create fear. It is a practical guide designed to support decision-making about the protection of our taiao and whānau, hapū and iwi.

This guidance draws on both scientific knowledge and mātauranga Māori, recognising the experience, insight, and leadership that already exists within our communities.





Mō tēnei raupapa aratohu | About this guide series

Koinei te pukapuka tuatahi o ngā aratohu e toru kua whakaritea mā ngā hapori Māori mō te HPAI. Ko ētahi atu o te raupapa aratohu ko:

2. me pēhea te whakahaere me te tuku tika i ngā manu māuiui, kua mate rānei i tō whenua. ā,
3. ko te HPAI me te tikanga hauhake. Me pānui tahi ēnei aratohu.

This is one of three guides prepared for Māori communities on HPAI. The guides cover:

1. General guidance for Māori communities.
2. Bird handling and disposal.
3. HPAI and cultural harvest.

These guides should be read together.

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Wāhanga 1

He aha te HPAI? | Understanding avian influenza

Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, is a viral disease that mainly affects birds, but can also infect other animals, including marine mammals such as seals and sea lions. In rare cases, humans can be infected, generally after close contact with sick or dead animals.

There are many different strains of avian influenza. Understanding the difference between them is important.

LPAI – Low pathogenicity

Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

- ▶ Usually mild or no symptoms.
- ▶ Already present in wild birds in Aotearoa.
- ▶ Often goes unnoticed, but monitored.

HPAI – High pathogenicity

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

- ▶ Causes severe illness and death.
- ▶ Spreads rapidly between birds.
- ▶ Can affect a wide range of species.





The strain of greatest global concern is HPAI H5N1. Since around 2020–2021, it has caused the deaths of millions of wild and farmed birds, spreading across much of the world. It is different from many biosecurity threats because, if it arrives in Aotearoa, it is likely that we will be living with it over the long term rather than eradicating it completely. This means our response will focus on managing impacts and protecting vulnerable species and communities, rather than attempting to eliminate the disease entirely. How we adapt our practices and prepare our communities will be more important than emergency response alone.

In December 2024, a different strain (H7N6) was detected on a poultry farm in Ōtakou/Otago. This outbreak was quickly contained and did not spread beyond the farm, but it provided valuable experience and highlighted why ongoing vigilance matters. That strain does not spread via migratory wild birds as H5N1 does.

Mō te Māori, ka ara ake ngā pātai nui mō te noho roa pea ki te taha o te HPAI: me pēhea e tiaki ai i ā tātou taonga, i te taiao, me ā tātou tikanga i tētahi horopaki ka noho tonu pea tēnei mate?

For Māori, the prospect of living with HPAI over the long term raises important questions: How do we protect our taonga species, our environments, and our tikanga in a situation where the disease may become part of the landscape?



“

Because Aotearoa shares migratory bird flyways with many of these regions, introduction is considered increasingly likely over time.”

Wāhanga 2

Te haerenga a te mate | The global journey of HPAI

HPAI H5N1 spread globally during the early 2020s, reaching Europe, the Americas, and into the Southern Hemisphere. Unlike many biosecurity threats, it is most likely to arrive in Aotearoa through migratory wild birds, not through human travel or trade. The risk of arrival through passengers, cargo, or mail is considered low as New Zealand has strict biosecurity processes at the border.

Cases have already been detected in South America, Antarctica, the Sub-Antarctic islands and Hawai'i. Because Aotearoa shares migratory bird flyways with many of these regions, introduction is considered increasingly likely over time, although it is not possible to predict exactly when this may occur. If the virus spreads to and establishes in

Australia or the wider Pacific, the risk to Aotearoa will increase significantly.

If HPAI H5N1 becomes established in wild birds here, agencies have determined that eradication would not be feasible. The focus would instead shift to managing impacts, protecting vulnerable species, and reducing spread where possible.

This means that how we respond at a local level – including how we move between sites, manage our whenua, and protect taonga species – will become increasingly important. *Once present in the country, human movement between sites (footwear, vehicles, equipment, clothing) becomes a key pathway for spread.*

Wāhanga 3

He aha me mataara ai tātou te Māori? | Why should Māori be concerned?

HPAI is not just a disease affecting birds. For Māori, it affects our relationships with te taiao, our responsibilities as kaitiaki, and the wellbeing of our communities.

Ngā manu, ngā taonga | Taonga species

Many of Aotearoa's native birds are taonga species with deep cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance. These include species such as kākāpō, takahē, kakī (black stilt), and tūturuatu (shore plover), as well as many others across different rohe. Overseas, HPAI H5N1 has caused large-scale deaths in wild bird populations and has also affected marine mammals. For Aotearoa, where many species exist nowhere else in the world, this presents a serious risk.



Te hononga ki te whenua me te wai | Connection to land and water

Māori live, work, and practise kaitiakitanga in places where birds and marine mammals are found — along coastlines, rivers, wetlands, lakes, and forests. When these species are affected, the impacts are not isolated. They affect the wider health of the environment, including ecosystems that sustain mahinga kai and cultural practices.

Te oranga me ngā tikanga | Livelihoods and practices

HPAI may affect everyday activities and practices, including:

- ▶ backyard poultry and kai security;
- ▶ customary harvest of birds and materials;
- ▶ weaving and use of feathers and other taonga;
- ▶ environmental, conservation, and restoration work;
- ▶ toi Māori practices involving feathers, bones, and natural materials.

Impacts will not be the same in every rohe. Local knowledge and leadership will be essential. (For detailed guidance on cultural harvest, see the companion guide: HPAI and Cultural Harvest.)

Te hauora o te tāngata | Human health

The risk of HPAI infection in people is currently low. Most cases overseas have involved people who had close, unprotected contact with sick or dead birds or animals. People can be exposed through touching infected animals, contact with droppings or contaminated surfaces, or touching the face after contact.

For most people, avoiding contact and practising good hygiene will significantly reduce risk. Protecting people, as well as protecting the environment, will be an important part of any response.

If you are handling untreated animals that may have died from an HPAI infection, please read and familiarise yourself with the guidelines for bird handling and disposal, and 'guidelines for HPAI and cultural harvest — both can be found at www.tw.nz/mataki



Wāhanga 4

Ngā tohu o te HPAI | The signs of HPAI

Knowing what to look for is the first step in protecting your rohe. The signs of HPAI vary depending on the species affected. Unfortunately, one of the first signs of bird flu is sudden, unexplained death in several birds.

Ngā tohu o ngā manu taiao | Signs in wild birds

- ▶ sudden death/illness of multiple birds in the same area;
- ▶ lack of coordination, tremors, or unusual movement including swimming in circles;
- ▶ twisted neck or abnormal posture;
- ▶ inability to stand or fly;
- ▶ diarrhoea;
- ▶ breathing difficulties including coughing or sneezing;
- ▶ swelling around the head, neck, and eyes;
- ▶ cloudiness or colour change in the eyes.

Ngā tohu o ngā manu mōkai | Signs in backyard and domestic birds

- ▶ sudden death/illness of multiple birds in your flock;
- ▶ sudden drop in egg production;
- ▶ droopy head or lethargy;
- ▶ darkened or swollen comb and wattles;
- ▶ swelling around the head and neck.

Ngā tohu o ngā whāngote ā-tai (kekeno, pākake) | Signs in marine mammals (seals, sea lions)

- ▶ death or illness of multiple animals in the same area;
- ▶ unusual behaviour or lack of coordination;
- ▶ weakness or difficulty moving;
- ▶ breathing difficulties.



**Weakness or
difficulty moving**

**Unusual behaviour or
lack of coordination**

**Sudden death or illness of more
than three birds or marine
mammals in the same place**







Ngā tohu o te tāngata | Signs in humans

- ▶ high temperature or feeling hot and shivery;
- ▶ aching muscles;
- ▶ headache;
- ▶ a cough or shortness of breath;
- ▶ diarrhoea;
- ▶ stomach or chest pain;
- ▶ bleeding from the nose or gums;
- ▶ eye or eyelid redness and swelling (conjunctivitis).

He kōrero pūrākau – Te taumaha o te kite

Mēnā ka kitea te tini o ngā manu mate, he whanaunga, he taonga kua riro. Ka rangona te mamae i te kitenga i ngā manu, ka pā te wairua. E kore e taea te pēhea. Engari i roto i taua mamae ka puta ake te aronga – me tiaki te hunga ora, me tiaki hoki te taiao, ahakoa ngā taumahatanga.

Seeing large numbers of sick or dead birds can be deeply distressing, particularly when those species are known and treasured. There are no easy answers. But in that grief comes purpose – to protect the living, and to protect the taiao, even when the heart is heavy.

Kaua e pā, kaua e nuku i ngā manu, i ngā kararehe māuiui, kua mate rānei

Mēnā ka kitea e toru, neke atu i te toru rānei, ngā manu taiao e māuiui ana, kua mate rānei i te wāhi kotahi, waea atu ki te rārangi pāpāho mate me ngā riha taiao: 0800 80 99 66.

Do not touch or move sick or dead birds or animals

Report sightings of three or more sick or dead wild birds or marine mammals in a group to the exotic pest and disease hotline: 0800 80 99 66.

Wāhanga 5

Te tiaki i ngā manu | Protecting your birds

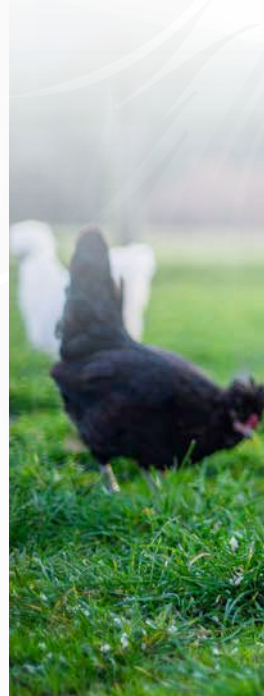
Many whānau Māori, marae, and community spaces keep backyard poultry, ducks, or other birds as a source of kai, companionship, or cultural practice. Free-range and backyard birds are at greater risk from HPAI because they are more likely to come into contact with infected wild birds. There are practical steps you can take now to reduce that risk.

Ngā mahi haumarū | Steps to protect your birds

- ▶ Keep your birds separated from wild birds where possible. Avoid areas where wild birds congregate, such as wetlands and shorelines, if your birds are free-range.
- ▶ Keep feed and water covered or indoors, so wild birds and rodents cannot contaminate it.
- ▶ Limit contact between your birds and visitors' footwear and clothing, which can carry the virus between locations.
- ▶ When introducing new birds, keep them separate from your existing flock for at least 14 days and observe them for signs of illness before mixing.
- ▶ Wash your hands and change clothing and footwear after visiting other farms, marae, or places where birds are kept.
- ▶ If you keep birds in an enclosure, check that it is secure from wild bird entry above and around the sides.

Mātaki i ngā manu mōkai | Monitor your birds

- ▶ Check your birds regularly, ideally at the same time each day.
- ▶ Watch for any of the signs listed in Wāhanga 4, particularly a sudden drop in egg production, birds not eating, or unusual deaths.
- ▶ If you are concerned, contact your veterinarian first to rule out more common diseases.



Ki te māuiui, ki te mate rānei he manu mōkai:

1. Me tatari ki ngā tohutohu a tō rata kararehe i mua i te pānga atu ki ngā manu māuiui, kua mate rānei.
2. Kaua e pā, e neke rānei i aua manu mēnā kore he taputapu whakamarumarū.
3. Me wehe atu ngā tāngata kē atu me ngā kararehe i taua wāhi.

Tirohia hoki te Wāhanga 6 me te aratohu āpiti (Te whakahaere manu) mō ngā kōrero aratohu mō te whāwhā me te tuku tika i ngā manu.

If your birds become sick or die:

- ▶ Wait for your veterinarian's instructions before handling any sick or dead birds.
- ▶ Do not handle or move them without protective equipment.
- ▶ Keep other people and animals away from the area.

See Wāhanga 6 and the companion guide (Bird Handling) for detailed guidance on handling and disposal



Keep your birds separated from wild birds where possible and keep feed and water covered to reduce the risk of contamination.”



Wāhanga 6

Mēnā ka tau atu te mate ki tō rohe | If HPAI arrives in your rohe

If HPAI H5N1 is confirmed in your rohe, there may be changes to how people access and use the environment, and how birds and other wildlife are managed. What this looks like will depend on where the disease is found, how it is spreading, and the level of risk.

You may see:

- ▶ advice to avoid areas where sick or dead birds or animals are present;
- ▶ changes to how wildlife is moved or handled;
- ▶ increased emphasis on hygiene and biosecurity practices;
- ▶ temporary changes to cultural harvest practices;
- ▶ increased monitoring and reporting of sick or dead animals.





If you see three or more sick or dead birds, avoid handling them and call the exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.”

He kōrero mō te kawenga | Roles and responsibilities

In many situations, responsibility for managing sick or dead wildlife will sit with landowners, including marae, iwi, hapū, and other whenua holders, supported by guidance from MPI, DOC, and local councils. Government agencies are unlikely to be able to respond to every site or situation. Local awareness, preparedness, and decision-making will be critical.

He aha tāu mahi mēnā ka kite koe i ngā manu māuiui, kua mate rānei? | What to do if you find dead or sick birds

If you see three or more sick or dead birds or marine mammals together:

1. Avoid handling them. Keep people and animals away.
 2. Call the Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66. Be ready to provide location, species, numbers, and photos.
- ▶ Follow any instructions given by the responding agency.

If in doubt, report it.

Tikanga Māori | Cultural protocols

Seeing dead or dying taonga species can be deeply distressing. Responses should be guided by both tikanga and safety. Local tikanga should shape how sites are approached and how decisions are made, and may include:

- ▶ recognising the tapu of affected species;
- ▶ respecting wāhi tapu and significant sites;
- ▶ allowing space for karakia before and after response activities;
- ▶ making decisions collectively at whānau, hapū, or iwi level;
- ▶ considering whether a rāhui is appropriate to restrict access to affected areas.

Tikanga will differ between rohe. Local leadership and knowledge must guide appropriate responses. Where possible, discuss protocols with your hapū and iwi before an event occurs, so that roles and processes are clear.



Te whakamaru i a koe anō | Protecting yourself

In some situations, landowners or communities may need to act, for example, where there is risk to people, animals, or water sources.

Kaua e pā atu ki ngā manu kua mate, kua māuiui rānei. Mēnā me pā atu, me [whai i ēnei aratohu](#), ā, me ū ki ngā mea katoa e whai ake nei:

- ▶ Ngā komoringa porowhiu.
- ▶ He ārai kanohi (P2/N95 anake).
- ▶ Kākahu taupoki me ngā hū kati.

Anō hoki:

- ▶ Kaua e pā ki tō kanohi (karu, ihu, waha).
- ▶ Me tino horoi ngā ringa ki te hopi me te wai ā muri i te pānga atu.
- ▶ Me horoi, me patuero hoki ngā taputapu, ngā hū, me ngā kākahu ā muri .
- ▶ Kaua e kai, e inu, e whakamahi waea pūkoro, e kaipaipa i te wā e whāwhā ana i ngā manu.
- ▶ Ki te mahi tata ki ngā puna wai, kaua e whakamahi i te wai kāore anō kia rongoāhia mō te inu, mō te whakarite kai rānei.

Avoid having contact with dead or sick birds. If it is unavoidable, you should [follow this guidance](#), and you should follow all of the below:

- ▶ Disposable gloves.
- ▶ Face mask (P2/N95 only).
- ▶ Covered clothing and closed footwear.

Also:

- ▶ Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, mouth).
- ▶ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect equipment, footwear, and clothing afterwards.
- ▶ Do not eat, drink, use your phone, or smoke while handling birds.
- ▶ If working near water sources, avoid using untreated water for drinking or food preparation.

For detailed guidance on handling and disposal of sick or dead birds, including advice for marae, iwi, and hapū, see the companion guide HPAI Bird Handling Guidance and Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand's Avian Influenza Health & Safety Guidance.

Te mahingā tahi | Working together

Iwi and hapū may wish to engage early with councils, DOC, and MPI to understand what support is available, clarify expectations, and ensure local priorities and tikanga are recognised. In some cases, iwi or hapū may choose to take their own actions, such as placing a rāhui or setting local protocols, to protect people, species, or sites of significance.

HPAI will not affect every rohe in the same way. Local knowledge, relationships, and leadership will be essential.



Wāhanga 7

Te urupare a te Karauna | Government response

If HPAI H5N1 arrives in Aotearoa, a number of government agencies will be involved in the response under a One Health approach - recognising the connections between human, animal, and environmental health.

- ▶ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will lead the overall coordination of the response.
- ▶ Department of Conservation (DOC) will focus on conservation land and threatened species.
- ▶ Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora and the Ministry of Health will focus on human health.
- ▶ Local government will support regional responses, managing public spaces and local impacts.

While agencies play an important role, response capacity will be limited, and not all situations will receive direct intervention. Māori will play a key role in preparedness, response, and recovery within their own rohe.

Te whakamahinga o ngā ture | Use of legal powers

The Biosecurity Act provides government agencies with powers that may be used in some situations, for example, to restrict movement, manage risks, or take action in specific locations. However, these powers under this Act are unlikely to be used in an outbreak of HPAI. HPAI will be managed under a One Health approach, which recognises the interconnected health of people, animals and the environment.

Te tūranga o te Māori | Role of Māori

Māori have an important role in preparedness, response, and recovery, particularly within their own rohe. This includes:

- ▶ contributing local knowledge and observations;
- ▶ supporting early detection and reporting;
- ▶ making decisions about sites, species, and tikanga;
- ▶ working alongside agencies where appropriate.

One Health recognises Māori as Treaty partners. Early engagement and clear communication will be important to ensure Māori perspectives, mātauranga, and priorities are understood and acted upon. Iwi and hapū are encouraged to engage with MPI, DOC, and local authorities early, before an event occurs, to clarify roles, responsibilities, and support available.

Wāhanga 8

He rongoā? He rongoā ārai? | Is there a cure or vaccine?

There is no cure for HPAI H5N1. There is no vaccine for humans available in Aotearoa. Vaccines for wild birds do exist, but their use is limited. They may be used in specific situations to help protect some critically endangered species, rather than as a widespread response.

In Aotearoa, the Department of Conservation (DOC), in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, has trialled a vaccine on a small number of taonga species that are highly vulnerable and rely on intensive conservation support. These include kakī (black stilt), takahē, kākāpō, tūturuatu (shore plover), and kākārīki (red-crowned parakeet, as a surrogate for the orange-fronted parakeet). The trial showed promising results and provided a potential tool for protecting some species in the future.

Vaccination is not expected to be widely used across wild bird populations. The main approach will continue to focus on reducing impacts, protecting key species, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.



Wāhanga 9

Te mahi a te Māori | What Māori can do now

Māori are kaitiaki, knowledge holders, and often the first to see and respond to changes in our environments. Preparing now will help protect our taonga species, our environments, and our whānau.

There are practical steps iwi, hapū, and whānau can take before HPAI arrives. Waiting for an outbreak to act is too late.

Whakapakari te māramatanga | Build awareness

Share information within whānau and communities about what HPAI is, what to look for, and what to do. Discuss it at hui, share this guide, and make sure kaitiaki, marae committees, and land managers are informed. Encourage kaumatua and rangatahi to talk together about what HPAI could mean for your specific rohe and species.

Whakawhanaunga ki tō rohe | Know your rohe

Identify areas in your rohe where birds and marine mammals are present such as coastlines, wetlands, rivers, forests, and sites of cultural importance. Knowing your baseline helps you spot changes. Consider mapping key locations where taonga species are known to gather or breed, and think about which species are of greatest significance.

Whakarite mahere ā-rohe | Plan a local response

Do not wait for an outbreak. Agree in advance on: who will respond if sick or dead birds are found; how reporting will happen and who will inform MPI via the 0800 number; who will inform whānau and the wider community; and what tikanga protocols will guide your response. Write this down and share it. A simple one-page plan is better than none.

Mahi tahi me ngā pokapū | Connect with agencies

Connect early with local councils, DOC, and other agencies to understand what support is available and how responses may be coordinated. Building relationships before an event means your tikanga, priorities, and local knowledge will be understood when the pressure is on. Ask your local DOC office and council what their HPAI plans involve for your rohe.



Tiaki i ngā taonga | Protect taonga species and sites

Identify priority species and places in your rohe and consider how they may be protected if HPAI arrives. This might include working with DOC on species translocation or protection planning, identifying which sites are most vulnerable, and thinking about what a rāhui or access restriction might look like.

Whakarite mō ngā panonitanga | Prepare for change

Be ready for possible changes to access, harvest practices, and how activities are carried out. This includes being prepared to pause cultural harvest temporarily, adjust how you move between sites, and follow guidance from agencies and your own hapū protocols.

Whakakaha i ngā hononga Māori | Strengthen Māori networks

Work with other iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations to share knowledge, resources, and approaches. Because HPAI is likely to arrive in some rohe before others, early movers can share lessons. Networks like Mātaki: the Māori Biosecurity Networks, and Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital can support this work.

Rārangi mahi

Whakamahia tēnei rārangi mahi i ngā hui marae, hapū, iwi hoki hei aroturuki i tō koutou noho rite. Tohaina, ā, tirohia putuputu anō hoki.

Wāhi	Mahi – tohua ina kua oti
Mōhiotanga	☐ Kua tukuna ngā kōrero mō te HPAI ki ō tātou whānau me te hapori. ☐ E mōhio ana ngā tāngata matua (kaitiaki, komiti marae, kaiwhakahaere whenua) ki te āhua o te HPAI me ngā tohu hei mātaki. ☐ Kua wānangatia ngā pānga o te HPAI ki ā tātou taonga me te rohe.
Whakawhanaunga ki tō rohe	☐ Kua tautuhia ngā wāhi matua kei reira ngā manu me ngā whāngote ā-tai i tō tātou rohe. ☐ E mōhio ana tātou ki ngā taonga kei te rohe me ā rātou huringa ā-kaupeka. ☐ Kua tuhia ngā wāhi ka nui ake te mōrea mō ngā manu mōkai, ngā manu wai rānei.
Whakarite	☐ Kua tautuhia ko wai ka urupare mēnā ka kitea ngā manu māuiui, kua mate rānei. ☐ He ara hei tuku kōrero (0800 80 99 66), ā, e mōhio ana tātou ki ngā tangata hei whakamōhio i roto i te rōpū. ☐ Kua wānangatia ngā tikanga mō te urupare ki ngā taonga kua mate. ☐ Kua tuhia tētahi mahere urupare ā-rohe (ahakoa he poto noa).
Manu mōkai	☐ Kua wehea ā tātou manu i ngā manu taiao i ngā wā e taea ana. ☐ Kua uhia, kua whakaurua ki rō whare rānei te kai me te wai. ☐ E mātaki ana tātou i ā tātou manu, ā, e mōhio ana ki ngā tohu o te māuiui.
Hononga	☐ Kua whakapā atu ki te tari DOC o te rohe me/rānei te kaunihera ā-rohe mō ā rātou mahere HPAI. ☐ Kua hono atu ki ētahi atu iwi, hapū, me ngā whatunga Māori mō ngā huarahi mahi ngātahi.

Ka taea tēnei rārangi mahi te tārua hei whakamahi i ngā hui. Whakapā atu ki Te Tira Whakamātaki hei tautoko.

Action checklist

Use this checklist at marae, hapū, and iwi hui to track your preparedness. Share it and return to it regularly.

Area	Action – tick when done
Awareness	☐ We have shared information about HPAI with our whānau and community. ☐ Key people (kaitiaki, marae committee, land managers) know what HPAI is and what to look for. ☐ We have discussed what HPAI could mean for our taonga species and rohe.
Know your rohe	☐ We have identified key sites where birds and marine mammals are present in our rohe. ☐ We know which taonga species are present and their seasonal patterns. ☐ We have noted any sites where backyard birds or waterfowl may be at higher risk.
Planning	☐ We have identified who will respond if sick or dead birds are found. ☐ We have a way to report sightings (0800 80 99 66) and know who to notify internally. ☐ We have discussed tikanga protocols for responding to dead taonga species. ☐ We have a written (even brief) local response plan.
Backyard birds	☐ Our birds are kept away from wild birds where possible. ☐ Feed and water are kept covered or indoors. ☐ We monitor our birds regularly and know the signs of illness.
Connections	☐ We have contacted our local DOC office and/or regional council about their HPAI plans. ☐ We have connected with other iwi/hapū and Māori networks about shared approaches.

This checklist can be photocopied and used at hui. Contact Te Tira Whakamātaki for support.

He Kōrero Pūrākau — Te Whakarite mō Āpōpō

I mua i te taenga mai o te mate, ka noho te iwi ki te wānanga. Ka whakatakoto he mahere, ka tutauhia ngā manu, ka kōrero ki ngā rangatahi. Kāore anō te mate kia tae, engari kua rite kē te iwi.

Before the disease arrived, the iwi gathered to discuss and plan. They mapped their taonga species, and spoke with their rangatahi. The disease had not yet come, but the iwi was already ready.

Te anga whakamua | Looking ahead

H5N1 is not an isolated threat. It sits alongside many other biosecurity challenges facing Aotearoa. How we respond will test our values, our systems, and our relationships. It is a challenge we may need to live with.

The strength of our response will come not from government alone, but from kaitiaki across Aotearoa, from those who know their rohe, who know their species, and who carry the responsibility of protecting them for generations to come.

H5N1 represents a new reality for Aotearoa. Unlike many biosecurity threats that can be eradicated, H5N1 will likely become part of our environmental landscape. Success will be measured not by elimination, but by how well we protect our taonga species, maintain our cultural practices, and keep our people safe while living alongside this challenge.

**Mā te mahi ngātahi, mā te mātauranga, mā te rangatiratanga,
ka taea e tātou te tiaki i te taiao hei oranga mō ngā uri whakatipu.**

**Through collaboration, knowledge, and leadership, we can protect
the environment and the wellbeing of future generations.**

He Puna Kōrero | Further information

For up-to-date information and guidance on HPAI, including what to do and how to prepare, the following One Health websites (MPI, DOC, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand) are useful. Guidance developed by Te Tira Whakamātaki is intended to provide additional information that addresses the specific cultural, environmental, and community considerations important to Māori.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Information on HPAI, how it spreads, and what to do if you see sick or dead birds

www.mpi.govt.nz/HPAI

Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline

0800 80 99 66



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Information on wildlife health, impacts on native species, and conservation responses

www.doc.govt.nz/avian-influenza

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Information on human health risks and how to protect yourself and your whānau

www.healthnz.govt.nz



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