



MEDIA ADVISORY FROM HEALTHCARE READY

New Healthcare Ready report monitors Avian Influenza (H5N1)

WASHINGTON (June 6, 2024) The Avian Influenza (H5N1), which began spreading among animal species in 2020, has been confirmed in 81 [dairy herds in nine states](#), while also spreading to [humans](#) exposed to infected animals.

Although the H5N1 public health risk continues to remain low – Healthcare Ready, the D.C.-based nonprofit organization that works to help ensure patient access to healthcare in times of disasters – has issued a [spot report](#) monitoring new information about the spread of the virus

"In times of uncertainty, unity and knowledge become our strongest advocates to bolster resilience against the spread of H5N1. The impact on the healthcare supply chain can be significant, but by working together and staying informed, we can ensure that essential medical supplies and resources remain available to those who need them most. Our collective efforts are crucial to navigate this response and protect public health," says Julie Abrams associate director of programs and response with Healthcare Ready.

Healthcare Ready's spot report explains what populations are of most concern and vaccine developments:

- Since March 2024, three farmworkers in the U.S. have been diagnosed with H5N1. With one case showing mild respiratory symptoms.
- Healthcare providers, especially those providing care in rural areas where workers with direct contact with animals are most likely to seek care, should be equipped to monitor for rising cases, and to provide culturally sensitive education and care in multiple languages.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) stance remains consistent in being aware and alert, but not alarmed.
- The U.S. government has [two candidate vaccine viruses](#) available for manufacturers for H5N1, which has the potential to be used for making of a vaccine.

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About Healthcare Ready

[Healthcare Ready](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a public-private nexus to prevent patient care disruptions amid crises. We do this by forging partnerships and serving as the linkage point between the healthcare supply chain and government. By working with supply chain stakeholders, emergency management, patient advocacy groups, and community-based organizations, we help safeguard patients before, during, and after crises by leveraging our core capabilities. For more information, visit healthcareready.org or @HC_Ready.

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Special note to journalists: [Julie Abrams](#), associate director of programs and response at Healthcare Ready, is available for comment. Please contact Laura Perillo to request an interview at laura@shoestringagency.org or 908-406-3413 (call or text). Journalists may sign up [here](#) for the latest situational alerts from Healthcare Ready on Avian Influenza (H5N1) outbreak.