How you can learn more.

For updates on the H5N1 bird flu, go to www.avianflu.gov and other web resources listed on the back of this brochure.

Remember:

• The H5N1 virus that is spreading in Asia, Europe and Africa is not yet in the United States or the Western Hemisphere.
• Following proper health and safety measures can reduce the risk of catching diseases carried by birds.
• Bird flu currently does not easily infect people.
• Scientists are watching H5N1 very closely for any changes that may affect people and birds.

Government agencies are working to safeguard our health through many activities. Our federal government has a new early detection program for the H5N1 virus in wild birds. Officials are testing, monitoring and sampling birds in key locations.

The risk of the H5N1 virus arriving in New York is also reduced by federal laws restricting bird imports and by regular monitoring by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM). This agency checks for avian influenza in live poultry markets and commercial and backyard poultry farms.

Web Resources

New York State Department of Health
http://www.nyhealth.gov

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
http://www.dec.state.ny.us

Department of Health and Human Services
http://www.avianflu.gov

Centers for Disease Control bird flu page
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian

World Organization updates and further links
Regularly clean bird feeders and birdbaths.

Birds are carriers of a number of diseases that can be transmitted to people, so it is important to clean birdbaths and bird feeders as recommended by the Audubon Society and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. Bird feeders should be cleaned monthly with a solution of nine parts water to one part bleach to help get rid of bacteria and mold spores in plastic, ceramic and metal feeders.

A solution of three parts water to one part vinegar or unscented biodegradable soap can be used on wooden bird feeders. Also, sweep away and discard droppings and seed hulls from around the base of feeders. Change the water and clean birdbaths every two to three days to avoid algae build up and prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Mosquitoes can infect people with another disease, the West Nile virus.

Follow the recommended procedures if you find a dead bird in your yard.

There is no need to report a single dead bird unless it is a crow. If you find a dead crow, please call 1-866-537-BIRD. Dead crow reports are important to help track the West Nile virus, but most crows do not need to be picked up or tested.

Facts about H5N1 Bird Flu.

H5N1 bird flu is not the same as pandemic flu.

- A pandemic is a worldwide outbreak and would affect people around the world.
- Pandemic flu spreads easily from person to person.

H5N1 bird flu is hard for people to catch.

- Most people who were infected with bird flu in other parts of the world, were in direct contact with infected chickens and ducks. Some people lived in areas with chickens and ducks that had bird flu.
- Bird flu can also be transmitted by touching things that had droppings from infected birds on them.
- Meat that has been thoroughly cooked kills the bird flu virus.