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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



བྱུང་ཆེན།

SECRETARY

MoAL/SEC-7/2024-2025/05

July 12, 2024

NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock & Ministry of Health hereby notifies the general public that there is an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI/Bird Flu) at Jangcholing Lachhuthang chiwog, Phuntshopelri geog, Samtse Dzongkhag. HPAI is a highly contagious viral disease in domestic poultry as well as wild birds. The disease causes high mortality in domestic poultry. The disease is zoonotic and can affect humans producing a range of mild to severe respiratory and gastro-intestinal symptoms. Human infections with bird flu viruses can happen through contact with infected birds and their products.

The outbreak was confirmed on 11th July 2024 by the National Center for Animal Health, Serbithang. Following the meeting of the National Incident Command Committee (NICC) on 12th July 2024, the Incident Operation Center was established to respond to the outbreak as prescribed in the National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan and Standard Operating Procedures, 2020. All the concerned agencies are requested to provide necessary support as required.

MoAL and MoH would also like to remind the general public not to get alarmed since the incident is fully under control and required control measures are already being put in place. Regular updates will be provided to the general public on the status of the outbreak through various media.

The general public is requested to extend full support and cooperation during the implementation of HPAI control activities. All poultry farmers are advised to enhance their farm biosecurity to prevent HPAI infection in their farms, and immediately report unusual sickness/deaths in poultry birds, sightings of dead water fowls/wild birds to the nearest office of the Department of Livestock or BFDA office or through the Hotline numbers 1224 (DoL) and 1555 (BFDA).

Any person found not adhering to this notification shall be firmly dealt in accordance with the relevant laws of the country.

Issued for information and necessary support.

Chairman

National Incident Command Committee