



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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PLYMOUTH MONITORING REPORTS OF DECEASED WATERFOWL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/6/2026

PLYMOUTH, MA – As of Monday, January 5, 2026, the Town of Plymouth has received several reports of deceased waterfowl. Similar to last year, the Town is working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to monitor reports of sick or dead birds and test for Avian Influenza, commonly referred to as Bird Flu.

Waterfowl, shorebirds, oceanic species, raptors, and poultry are at the highest risk of contracting Bird Flu. Songbirds and perching birds are at very low, nearly negligible risk.

The Plymouth Department of Health and Human Services offers the following guidance to residents:

- Do **not** attempt to rescue birds or animals on ice. Rising temperatures are causing frozen ponds to melt, creating dangerous conditions for would-be rescuers.
- Backyard poultry should be corralled for the foreseeable future and not allowed to roam free-range.
- Residents who keep poultry should use protective gear when handling their flock (including feeding and cleaning) and wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water afterward.

To report 5 or more deceased birds, please contact the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at 617-626-1795.

To report less than 5 sick or deceased birds, please contact:

- Health and Human Services Public Health Division: 508-322-3339
- Animal Control Office: 508-888-1186

For more information about Bird Flu, visit mass.gov/info-details/avian-influenza.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), handling infected birds is unlikely to result in illness in humans. However, individuals should seek medical attention if they experience influenza-like symptoms or other illness within 10 days of handling sick or deceased birds.

The Town of Plymouth will continue to closely monitor the situation and work in coordination with state and federal partners.

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