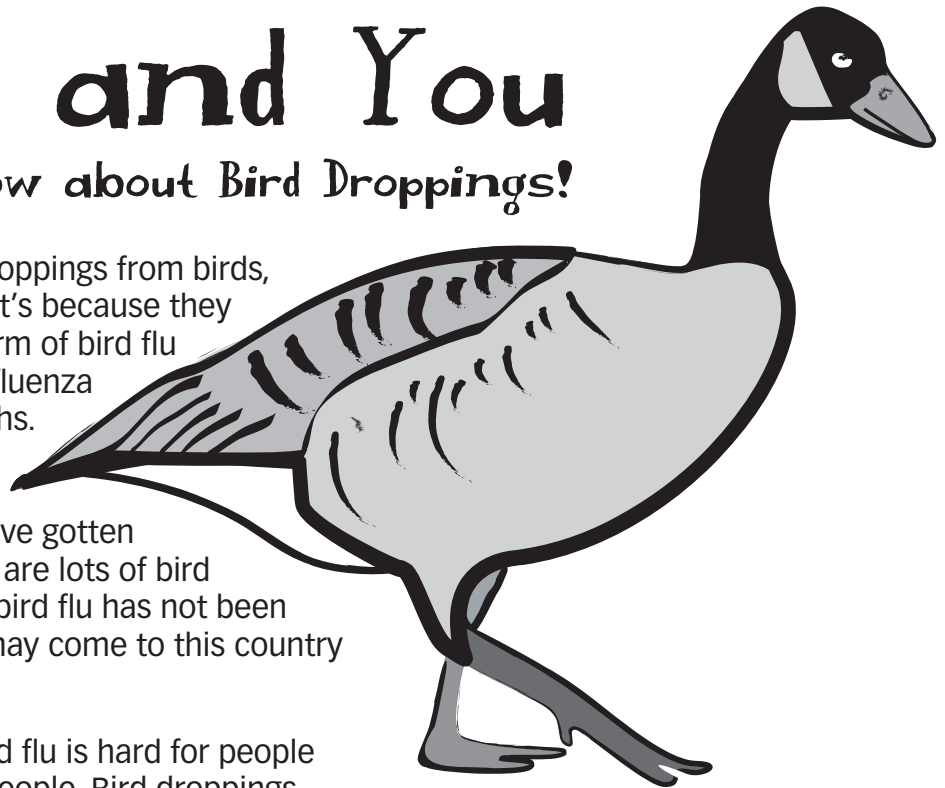


Bird Flu and You

What You Should Know about Bird Droppings!

Some people are worried about droppings from birds, especially from Canada geese. That's because they may have heard about a severe form of bird flu called "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1" that causes many bird deaths. It is also referred to as HPAI H5N1. In parts of the world where this bird flu is present, some people have gotten sick who live in areas where there are lots of bird droppings. Right now, this form of bird flu has not been found in the United States. But it may come to this country sometime in the future.



It's important to know that this bird flu is hard for people to catch. It does not easily infect people. Bird droppings, however, have other germs that can make people sick. So take these steps to stay healthy:

Don't touch goose and bird droppings.

- Droppings carry germs that can cause many different diseases. Wash your hands thoroughly after coming in contact with droppings.
- If you must pick up droppings, use a shovel, "pooper scooper," or gloves. Never use your bare hands.
- Try to avoid contact with dirt or grass that is soiled with bird droppings.
- Teach children to always wash their hands after playing outside.

Avoid contact with goose and bird droppings during outdoor activities.

- After being outside, take off shoes and other footwear before entering the home. You can disinfect footwear by using a weak bleach and water solution. Use one part bleach in nine parts water.
- Don't walk barefooted where there are bird droppings.
- If you are worried about swimming, swim at a regulated beach, where water tests are done. Water tests check to be sure the water is not polluted from human, farm or animal waste.

Keep updated on bird flu news.

- Stay informed about bird flu so you will know quickly if it becomes a local issue.

To learn more about bird flu, visit
www.nyhealth.gov



H5N1 Avian Influenza