

Birds in Ventura County at Risk for Virulent Newcastle Disease

A disease has been found in Southern California that affects all birds. It's called **Virulent Newcastle Disease**. This disease typically does not affect humans, but it can kill birds, especially chickens. The birds can become infected by having contact with other birds carrying the disease, or with people, who can spread Virulent Newcastle Disease by wearing clothing and shoes that have been in infected areas.

Please, **do not move your birds or bring any new birds on to your property as long as the disease is in California**. If you have birds that appear to be ill with swelling around the eyes, large amounts of fluid coming from the beak and nasal areas, a twisting of the head and neck, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, please call:

The State of California Bird Hotline at 1-866-922-2473.

The disease has been found at only one location in an agricultural area west of Santa Paula in Ventura County. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, are conducting a census of any backyard flocks of chickens in a one-kilometer (0.62-mile) radius around the location. Birds found within this area will be placed under quarantine and observed for a period of time to ensure they are not infected with the disease.

Additional information regarding Virulent Newcastle Disease is available online at:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html.