

## A second Avian Influenza outbreak flash point detects in Israel

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Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development detected a second occurrence of the H5N1 strain of bird flu at Moshav Be'er Tuvia, about 350 meters away from the outbreak flash point that was detected last week. The farm has three infected buildings, containing 21,500 heavy-breeding poultry. The Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture continue to actively monitor all the poultry coop farms in the area.

In order to prevent the spread of the disease, the Ministry of Agriculture operates in accordance with the regular work procedures related to the handling of bird flu. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has informed the Ministry of Health and the Nature and Parks Authority on the subject and is in contact with them regarding increased vigilance with respect to the transmission of the disease through wild birds.

The Ministry of Agriculture reiterates that it is possible to continue to consume poultry and eggs, but care must be taken to purchase eggs only at organised sales and marketing outlets.

The eggs must be marked and packed in cardboard or wrapped in plastic on all sides.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture emphasizes that eggs and poultry should only be consumed after they have been well cooked, baked or fried.

The Ministry of Agriculture also calls on the breeders of ornamental birds and backyard poultry, as well as free-range chickens, to keep the birds inside buildings and to prevent them from roaming in the open, thereby reducing the risk of infection from wild birds.

It would be prudent to note that the Ministry of Agriculture has concluded the handling of the previous avian flu outbreak flash points that were detected last month at Moshav Shluchot, Moshav Beit Heirut, Moshav Beit Halevy, Moshav Kfar Monash, Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon, Kibbutz Hatzor, Kibbutz Ein Tzurim, Kibbutz Magal and Moshav Be'er Tovia.