

ZAHP Update: April 2020

HPAI and COVID-19 Updates

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

On April 9th, the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) announced](#) the detection of a highly pathogenic Avian influenza (H7N3) in a commercial turkey flock in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. No human cases have been detected, and there is no immediate public health concern.

This is the first detection of HPAI in the US since 2017 and is believed to have mutated from low pathogenic H7N3 previously detected at commercial turkey facilities in North Carolina, near the South Carolina border. State animal health officials in both states and the USDA implemented standard response protocols including increased observational surveillance and disease testing in the area beginning in mid-March when the initial detection was made.

Rapid actions to limit the spread of disease were taken by the producer and State Animal Health Officials, with USDA support. The premises has been placed under quarantined and birds have been depopulated and will not enter the food chain.

This event is a good reminder that an industry can deal with multiple disasters at one time, in this case, COVID 19 and HPAI. All bird owners should continue to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. Additional information on biosecurity for can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

For more information on HPAI preparedness for Special Avian Collections, see the following links:

- [Concept of Operations Plan for the Management of an Avian Influenza Outbreak at a Zoological Institution](#)
- [HPAI Zoological Preparedness web exercise](#)
- [Avian Influenza Outbreak Management Plan for Zoological Parks and Exhibitors](#)

COVID-19: Resources and Updates

For additional information and resources for the exotic animal industry visit the [COVID-19 landing page on the ZAHP Fusion Center website](#).

Tiger at Bronx Zoo Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2

On April 5th the [USDA announced](#) that SARs-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans, had been confirmed in one tiger at the Bronx Zoo in New York. Samples from the female Malayan tiger were tested after multiple tigers and lions began showing signs of respiratory illness. The [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) has reported that the tiger and all of the zoo's other cats are doing well at this time.

Naturally, this news has sparked a lot of questions within the zoological industry and

beyond. [This statement prepared by veterinary advisors to the AZA Felid TAG](#) made by veterinary advisors of the AZA Felid TAG is being shared with their permission to address some of the most common questions and concerns.

For additional information on this case please refer to the questions and answers provided in the [Statement from USDA](#) .

Additional Animal Care Guidance:

- [Science-Based Facts & Knowledge About Wild Animals, Zoos and SARS-CoV-2 Virus](#) - European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV) Infectious Disease Working Group
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) considerations for bats in human care](#) - Information and recommendations from the AZA Bat TAG veterinary advisors
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): considerations for Great Apes in human care](#) - prepared by Dr. Hayley Murphy, Deputy Director of Zoo Atlanta and Director of the Great Ape Heart Project and reviewed by great ape veterinary advisors

Assistance Resources

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Part of the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program authorized up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19 cover their operating expenses.

The [Coronavirus Emergency Loans: Small Business Guide and Checklist](#) produced by the US Chamber of Commerce is an excellent resource to help facility owners and operators:

- Determine eligibility
- Identify what information is needed by lenders
- Calculate how much they can borrow; and
- Find out how much of the loan may be forgiven.

Application information and additional resources are available on the [US Department of the Treasury website](#).

Additional resources:

- [Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#) - U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- [Webinar Recording: US Chamber of Commerce Foundation Briefing on Nonprofits and the CARES Act](#)
- [Zoo Advisors COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

USDA Rural Development

USDA has implemented immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by COVID-19. If you are located in a rural area, your business may be eligible for [opportunities for immediate relief](#).

To view a full matrix of resources that may be available, see the [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#).

Additional Recommended Resources

- Cybersecurity: [Stay Safe Online - COVID-19 Security Resource Library from the National Cybersecurity Alliance](#)
- PPE: [AVMA Guidelines for use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) during the COVID-19 pandemic when demand exceeds supply](#)
- Emerging Research: [LitCOVID - A curated collection of the latest scientific research regarding COVID-19](#)
- Mental Health: [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) Disaster Responders Resource Portal](#)
- Essential Personnel Documentation: [AVMA Essential Employee Authorization Letter Template](#)

COVID-19 Resource Pages

Industry:

- [American Association of Zoo Veterinarians](#)
- [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions](#)
- [American Alliance of Museums](#)

Government:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture COVID-19 FAQ](#)
- [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#)
- [US Department of Labor](#)
- [US Chamber of Commerce](#)

Content Submissions

If you have content you would like to see added to the website please send that using the following format: a title, link or attachment, and a short description and/or call to action. If submitting an original resource such as a blog post or advisory group document please note how the author(s) should be credited on the site. P

Please send submissions to azielinski@aza.org using the subject: *content submit:* _____.

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