

Message from Charnwood Borough Council / LCC

Bird flu outbreak at chicken farm near Barrow

New restrictions have come into force after a case of avian influenza (bird flu) was confirmed in chickens at a poultry farm near Barrow upon Soar in Charnwood.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has now put 3km and 10km Temporary Control Zones in place surrounding the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading, which means it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the affected area to follow increased biosecurity measures.

Movement of domestic poultry and other captive birds is not allowed, and all birds kept by people living within the control zone must be housed in enclosures which do not allow birds to fly in and out or have any contact with wild birds.

More information, including a map of the zones and details of the restrictions, can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england)

The UK Health Security Agency has confirmed that the risk to public health is very low and the Food Standards Agency has said that bird flu poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked eggs and poultry are safe to eat. Leicestershire County Council is working closely with DEFRA and the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) to help reduce the spread of the disease. Our Trading Standards officers will be visiting all properties within the control zone to identify bird owners, provide advice and ensure all flocks are identified for inspection by the APHA.

Information signs are being put up on roads into and out of the 10km surveillance zone to inform drivers of the restrictions that are in place to reduce the spread of bird flu.

People are being warned not to touch or pick up any dead or sick birds they find.

Anyone who finds dead swans, geese, ducks or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, should report them to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77.

Bird keepers should report suspicion of disease in captive birds to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 03000 200 301.