



The Falkland Islands Government

Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Service, Stanley, Falkland Islands
Telephone: (500) 27366
Facsimile: (500) 27352
E-mail: sbowles@naturalresources.gov.fk

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Dear Visitor

As you may be aware avian influenza (bird flu) has decimated poultry and wild bird populations in the Northern hemisphere this year. Avian Flu has not yet reached the Falkland Islands; however, it has now reached Northern Chile. Most migratory birds have already returned to the Falklands this season so the current highest risk movements are those of people and vagrant birds. For these reasons the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has put in enhanced biosecurity measures at airports and ports and is recommending increased biosecurity measures for tourists visiting wildlife sites in the Falkland Islands.

Preventing the introduction of the avian influenza virus on people, via clothing, boots and outdoor equipment is essential as we have some of the most internationally important and vulnerable populations of some species of wild birds.

Before you begin your journey to the Falkland Islands please do the following:

- Wash all clothing, especially outdoor trousers and coats, at 60 degrees Celsius.
- Scrub all footwear you will bring with you, removing all visible dirt from both the top and bottom. Please wipe down all footwear with either Virkon disinfectant or 3.5% diluted bleach solution. Please be aware you may be asked to show outdoor footwear again on arrival by Biosecurity staff who will routinely dip the soles in Virkon. Even if you know they are thoroughly clean – we don't! So please be patient while we check.
- Empty out / vacuum all of your coat pockets of any debris, seeds, etc., and vacuum out luggage / backpacks to remove any debris/seeds. Please pay special care to any areas of Velcro and mesh as seeds love sticking to these.
- Wipe down the outside of all backpacks / walking sticks / photography bags / tripods etc. that have been used in wildlife areas. Please wipe down all this outdoor gear with either Virkon disinfectant or 3.5% diluted bleach solution. Please be aware you may be asked to show these items again on arrival by Biosecurity staff who will routinely dip them in Virkon. Even if you know they are thoroughly clean – we don't! So please be patient while we check.

THANK YOU in advance for your time and help with this. An outbreak of avian influenza in the Falkland Islands will have devastating effects.

For further information see [2022 Avian Influenza \(falklands.gov.fk\)](https://www.falklands.gov.fk/2022-Avian-Influenza)

Enjoy your visit!

Falkland Islands Government Veterinary Service.