

Influenza Pandemic

Understanding Influenza “the flu”

	Avian (Bird) Flu	Seasonal Flu	Pandemic Flu
What is it?	A disease carried and spread among birds.	An infection carried and spread among humans.	A new type of influenza virus carried and spread among humans. Humans have little or no immunity against the new strain, allowing disease to spread quickly worldwide.
How does it spread?	<p>Usually bird → bird (wild birds are the main carriers)</p> <p>Rarely Infected bird → humans (through handling of an infected bird or contact with contaminated feces)</p>	<p>human → human (by exposure to droplets sneezed or coughed onto hands, or another person’s face or onto other surfaces)</p>	Spread just like seasonal flu.
What is the connection?	<p>Bird flu + Human flu can = Pandemic flu</p> <p>Pandemic flu can happen if bird flu mixes with human flu and makes a new flu virus that’s spread easily from human to human. A new virus can also develop if an avian flu virus changes a number of times into a virus that can cause human illness. Because it’s new, people have little to no immunity against it.</p>		

For more information, visit www.influenza.gc.ca or call toll-free **1 800 454-8302**