

From: elena smith
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: URBAN HENS - June Meeting of the Whole

Dear Clerk,

Kindly ensure that all receive my concerns:

Dear Mayor West,

Two major concerns:

- not costed (Toronto pilot study found cost prohibitive)
- health issue

Toronto staff conducted consultations on the future of UrbanHensTO and considered next steps for the program. The limited uptake in the pilot did not result in any significant issues since its introduction in 2018. However, given the considerable costs and resources required to safely administer a city-wide program and the emerging concerns of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), [City Council adopted staff recommendation to conclude the pilot](#).

Why consider this in Richmond Hill?

Bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred.

The H5N1 subtype of Avian Influenza virus continues to spread across Canada.[from Birds Canada May 23/23].

As of 24 April 2023, a total of 244 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus have been reported from four countries within the Western Pacific Region since January 2003 (Table 1). Of these cases, **136 were fatal**, resulting in a case fatality rate (CFR) of 56%.Jun 1, 2023.

Geese (plentiful in Oak Ridges with the Moraine) are considered reservoirs (natural hosts) for bird flu viruses and remain asymptomatic. Transmission of the virus can occur from **exposure to saliva, mucous, or feces from infected birds**.

Bird flu in humans can cause a range of serious and potentially fatal complications, including: eye infections. pneumonia, including viral pneumonia. acute respiratory distress.

E. Smith
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