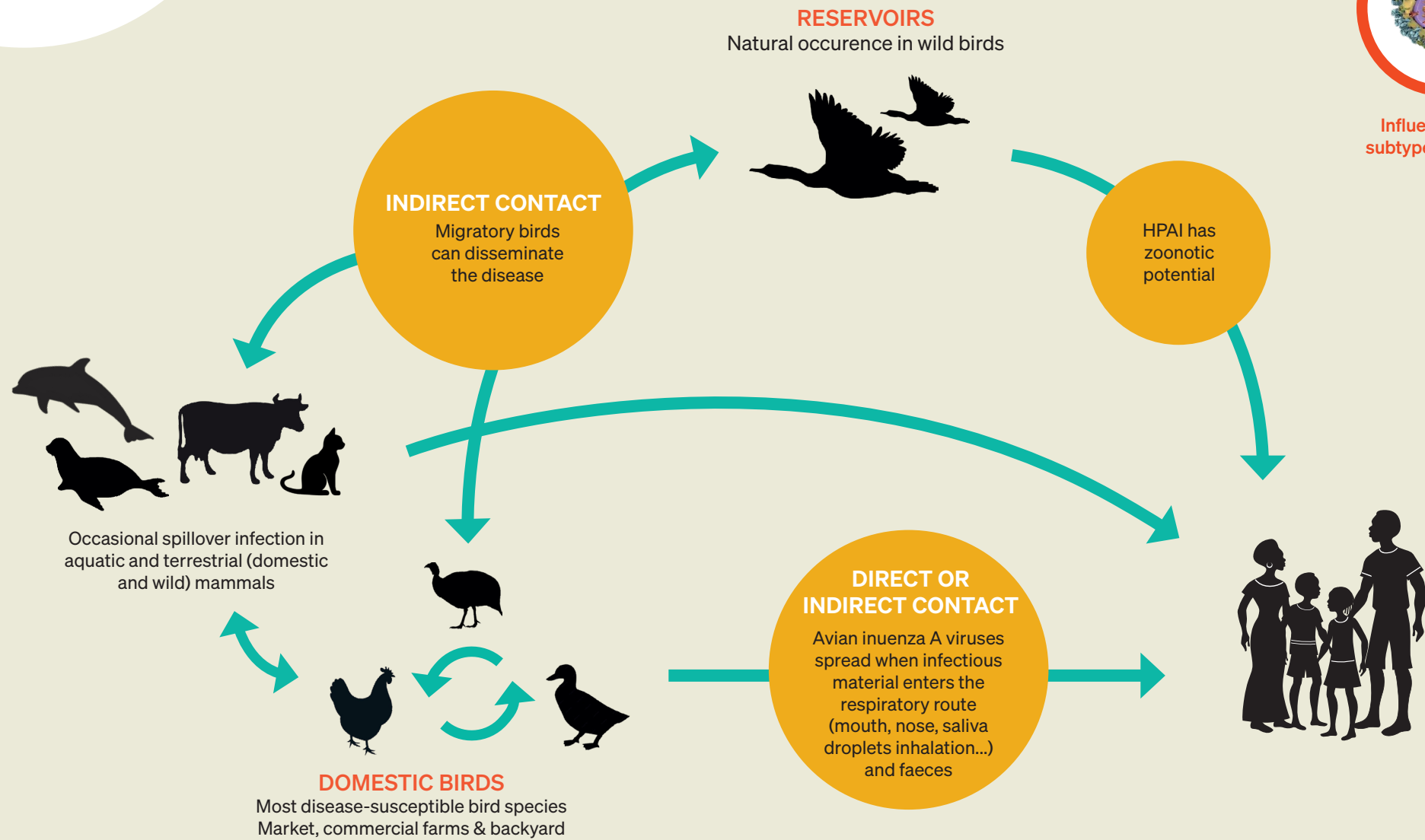


Influenza A virus
subtypes H5 and H7





High pathogenicity avian influenza is a zoonotic disease caused by influenza A viruses of the *Orthomyxoviridae* family (influenza virus) type A, and in particular by subtypes H5, and H7. The infection affects a wide range of wild and domestic bird species, especially poultry. It represents a zoonotic threat. Cases have also been reported in domestic and wild mammals.

UNDERSTANDING THE VIRUS CYCLE



SUSCEPTIBLE & SENSITIVE SPECIES

- Farm birds and ornamental birds
- Primarily some species of wild birds
- Occasionally wild mammals, particularly carnivores (terrestrial and aquatic/marine)
- Cases in domestic animals (cows and cats)



RESERVOIRS

Some species of waterfowls are potential carriers



ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION

- Wild birds migration corridors
- Direct contact through respiratory secretions and faeces from infected individuals
- Indirect contact through exposure to contaminated environment such as food, water, equipment, clothing, etc.
- Contact between domestic birds, wild birds and wild mammals
- Trading roads and live bird markets



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

The virus can persist in the environment, particularly at low temperatures

In poultry droppings, it can survive for at least 35 days at 4°C

CLINICAL SIGNS



POULTRY (CHICKENS, TURKEYS, ETC.)

- Incubation is typically 3 to 7 days, often shorter in highly virulent H5/H7 strains
- Listlessness, prostration, diarrhoea, tremors and spasms, dyspnea, nasal discharge, swollen and congested comb
- Sudden death (mortality rate can be as high as 100%)



WILD BIRD AND MAMMALS

- The incubation period is more variable and less well defined
- Carriers (especially waterfowls) may show mild or no clinical signs
- In most mammal species, it causes severe neurological disease and respiratory distress
- Death possible with H5



IN HUMANS

- Fever, 37.8°C or greater or feeling feverish
- Cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy, nose muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue
- Eye redness (or conjunctivitis)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT A CASE IN ANIMALS

- **Conduct** regular avian influenza surveillance activities in farms and along migratory pathways
- **Report** any suspicious deaths of domestic or wild birds to the veterinary services/wildlife services
- **Collect** samples to be sent to a referral laboratory
- **Notify** WOAAH through the WAHIS platform of any confirmed HPAI (H5/H7) cases as described in Chapter 1.1 of the WOAAH *Terrestrial Code*

WHAT MESSAGES SHOULD YOU SHARE WITH AT-RISK COMMUNITIES

- **Avoid** introducing birds in to the flock whose health status is unknown
- **Avoid** building poultry farms near wetlands and any other resting areas of migratory birds
- **Do not consume** sick or dead birds or other animals
- **Control** access of people and equipment to chicken farms
- **Regularly disinfect** materials and equipment
- **Install footbaths/wheel baths** for vehicles at the entrance to farms
- **Use protective gloves** and wash your hands after handling sick or dead domestic or wild birds
- **Properly dispose** of dead poultry or wild birds including byproducts
- **Immediately alert** the Veterinary Services or Wildlife Services