



The Falkland Islands Government - Biosecurity

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HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

An outbreak of avian influenza in the Falkland Islands will have devastating consequences on internationally important populations of penguins, albatross and petrels.

Given the high number of bird deaths Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 is causing elsewhere in the world the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has put in place enhanced biosecurity measures at airports and ports and is recommending increased biosecurity measures for visitors going to wildlife sites within the Falkland Islands.

Preventing the introduction of the avian influenza virus on people, via clothing, boots and outdoor equipment is essential.

Therefore, before you begin your journey to the Falkland Islands please do the following:

- Wash all clothing, especially outdoor trousers and coats, at 60°C
- Scrub all footwear you will bring with you, removing all visible dirt from both the top and bottom.
- Wipe down cleaned footwear with Virkon disinfectant or 3.5% diluted bleach solution
- Empty out / vacuum all of your coat pockets of any debris/vegetation/seeds
- Vacuum out luggage / backpacks to remove any debris/vegetation/seeds. Please pay special care to any areas of Velcro and mesh as seeds love sticking to these.
- Using Virkon or 3.5% bleach solution, wipe down the outside of all backpacks / walking sticks / photography bags / tripods etc

Please be aware you will be asked to show outdoor footwear and equipment again on arrival by Biosecurity staff who will routinely dip the soles/tips in Virkon. Even if you know they are thoroughly clean – we don't! So please be patient while we check.

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

Enjoy your visit!

Falkland Islands Government Biosecurity Service.