

# Worried about Bird Flu?

In recent months, there has been a great deal of talk and concern regarding the spread of avian bird flu to humans and the possible future repercussions of these events. Here are the facts, as we have gathered them, from the CDC, the WHO, and our own expertise in the application of UVC technology to the eradication of pathogens since 1960.

- Although millions of people throughout the world have been exposed to the H51N type of bird flu, there have only been a total of less than 150 documented cases of humans contracting this infection since 1997.
- The virus is spread between birds and is contracted in humans by contact with the saliva, nasal secretions, or feces of infected birds. This can either happen by direct contact or by coming into contact with surfaces contaminated by these substances.
- At this time, there are no known cases of airborne transmission of Bird Flu. This type of transmission would require a mutation of the virus.
- UVC equipment can be used to sterilize surfaces suspected to be contaminated with this or any other virus, bacteria or mold. This includes SARS and Tuberculosis (TB). These particular pathogens are not much different from more common viruses and bacteria. The reason they spread and cause concern is that they are new to the human population and humans have not yet developed immunity to them.
- While the past 8 years (1997-2005) have seen 126 deaths from Bird Flu, **1.7MILLION** people, worldwide, were killed by Tuberculosis in 2003 alone. UV is a known method of stopping the spread of airborne TB and should be used in all areas where people congregate (hospital waiting rooms, government buildings, schools, prisons, etc.).
- Should Bird Flu mutate into an airborne-spread virus, the use of UVC in air handling systems will serve as a fantastic preventative measure. If the virus never mutates in this way, we can still do our part to save 1.7million people from TB by installing UVC equipment for upper-air irradiation and HVAC disinfection.

For further information, please [contact](#) American Ultraviolet's trained professionals. We will be happy to discuss the many ways we can help you protect yourself and others from these and other environmental dangers.