BIOSECURITY GUIDE
for Poultry and Bird Owners

LOOK
for Signs.

REPORT
Sick Birds.

PRACTICE
Backyard Biosecurity.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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BIOSECURITY GUIDE
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April 2014

This guide was designed to provide useful information on biosecurity for poultry and bird owners. The United States works very hard to prevent infectious poultry diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease from being introduced into the country. To accomplish this, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that all imported birds (poultry, pet birds, birds exhibited at zoos, and ratites), except those from Canada, be quarantined and tested for the viruses that cause these two diseases before entering the country.

USDA works cooperatively with State animal health officials and the poultry industry to look for disease in breeding flocks, in backyard poultry, and at live bird markets, livestock auctions, poultry dealer locations, and small bird sales, fairs, and shows. In addition to international import restrictions, USDA and State veterinarians specifically trained to diagnose foreign animal diseases regularly conduct field investigations of suspicious disease conditions. University personnel, State animal health officials, USDA-accredited veterinarians, and members of industry all help in this surveillance work.

Since 2004, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has been conducting an extensive outreach and education program called Biosecurity For Birds. The program reaches out to backyard poultry producers and pet bird owners to educate them about the signs of infectious poultry diseases, the need to practice biosecurity, and the importance of reporting sick or dead birds. In fact, APHIS has a toll-free number (1-866-536-7593) for bird owners to report such cases.

This Biosecurity Guide is part of our outreach program, and I encourage you to look at the other materials we have developed, including excellent videos on practicing biosecurity that are available on our YouTube site. Printed and PDF materials are free and can be found on our Web site at http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.

John R. Clifford
Chief Veterinary Officer
USDA-APHIS, Washington, DC

SECTION ONE

BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity:

The Key To Keeping Your Birds Healthy

If you deal directly with poultry or pet birds, you have the responsibility to protect them against disease. By practicing biosecurity precautions, you can reduce the risk of disease-causing germs going to or coming from your farm or home. Understanding the importance of biosecurity can help you take the necessary precautions to avoid spreading disease among your poultry and livestock.

In this section, you will find information about

- **Biosecurity,**
- **The importance of biosecurity, and**
- **Economic impacts of disease outbreaks.**

As a bird owner, keeping your birds healthy is a top priority.

What Is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to keep diseases out of your flock. "Bio" refers to life, and "security" indicates protection. Biosecurity is the key to keeping your poultry healthy. It is what you do to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried to your farm, your poultry yard, your aviary, or your pet birds by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles, either accidentally or on purpose.

Biosecurity is

- Using common sense practices to protect your poultry and birds from all types of infectious agents—viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic;
- Doing everything possible to protect your birds from infectious diseases like exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI); and
- Preventing disease-causing germs or microbes from entering your premises.

Why Biosecurity Is Important

"Biosecurity" may not be a common household word. But for poultry and bird owners, it can spell the difference between health and disease. Practicing biosecurity can help keep disease away from your farm and keep your birds healthy; healthy birds produce better and increase your profits. Biosecurity measures are important for you as a poultry owner, for your neighbors, and for the U.S. poultry industry.

Biosecurity measures decrease the risk for

- Diseases such as END and AI on poultry farms;
- Loss of export markets; public concern; and cancellation of poultry shows, auctions, fairs, and exhibits as a result of disease outbreaks; and
- Quarantines resulting in financial losses due to disease outbreaks.

Why Be Concerned?

Economic Impact of a Major Disease Outbreak

Diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and END can strike poultry quickly—without any warning signs of infection—and cause major economic losses. So it is important for you as an individual bird owner, and for the U.S. poultry industry, to be alert to this disease threat.

In 2012, the value of the U.S. poultry industry was $38.1 billion. Therefore, a major outbreak of HPAI or END would be costly to poultry owners, consumers, and taxpayers. (See Section Three, which starts on page 19 of this guide, for information about HPAI and END.)

- To eradicate END during the 2002–03 outbreak in southern California and other Western States, more than 3.2 million birds were euthanized at a cost of more than $170 million. That figure does not take into account the personal loss of pets, which cannot be measured in dollars and cents.
- An outbreak of HPAI occurred in 1983 through 1984 in the Northeastern United States and resulted in the destruction of more than 17 million birds at a cost of nearly $65 million in today's dollars. This outbreak also caused retail egg prices to increase by more than 30 percent.

SECTION TWO

PRACTICING BIOSECURITY

Steps to Disease Prevention

Disease Prevention

As a bird owner, prevention is an important step you can take to keep disease from reaching your premises. Good bird management and strict biosecurity precautions will protect your birds against most infectious diseases and keep them healthy. Biosecurity is also important for your neighbors so that you don't spread illness from your birds to theirs or bring home diseases from their birds after visiting. And finally, biosecurity is important so our country's poultry industry is not at risk.

Biosecurity: Make It Your Daily Routine

Consistent biosecurity practices are the best way to prevent bird diseases like END and AI from spreading in the United States if we have an outbreak. These viruses can be carried to poultry in multiple ways—people, animals, equipment, or vehicles—either accidentally or on purpose, increasing the risk of healthy birds becoming sick birds. By practicing biosecurity as highlighted in the six steps shown below, you are keeping your birds safe from potentially deadly diseases. Making biosecurity a part of your daily routine while caring for your birds will decrease the chance of END or AI showing up on your doorstep.

How Biosecurity Can Prevent the Spread of Disease

Proper biosecurity can prevent the spread of infection from

- **Humans** (hands, hair, clothing, footwear);
- **Vehicles** (contaminated vehicles and equipment);
- **Animals** (domestic and wild, including rodents);
- **Carcasses** (those that are improperly disposed of) and manure, litter, debris, and feathers; and
- **Flocks** (other people's backyard flocks, particularly if the birds are housed outside).

Biosecurity Tips: 6 Ways To Prevent Poultry Disease

If you are a backyard or pet bird owner, you know your birds depend on you to keep them healthy. There are some basic practices you can follow to prevent poultry disease.

1. Keep Your Distance.

Restrict access to your property and your birds. Consider fencing off the area where your birds are to form a barrier between "clean" and "dirty" areas. The clean area is the immediate area completely surrounding your birds. The dirty (or "buffer") area is the immediate adjacent area—consider this area to be infected with germs, even if your birds appear healthy and disease free.

Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them. Your caretakers should not attend bird shows or other events where birds are present. If visitors to your property want to see your birds, be sure they wash up first and clean their shoes. Better yet, keep clean boots or shoe covers for visitors to wear. If your visitors have birds of their own, do not let them enter your bird area or have access to your birds.

Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases. If your birds are outdoors, try to keep them in a screened area.

2. Keep It Clean.

Since germs can be picked up on shoes and clothing, moved from one area to another, and can potentially make your birds sick, you need to protect your birds' home by keeping it clean.

To keep your birds "germ-free," have a pair of shoes and a set of clothes to wear only around your birds. Many people store these clean clothes in a covered pail at the entrance to their bird area. Or, clean and disinfect your shoes and launder your clothes before you check on or work with your birds.

Scrubbing your shoes with a long-handled scrub brush and disinfectant will remove droppings, mud, or debris. Wash your clothes with laundry detergent. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before entering your bird area.

Keep cages clean and change food and water daily. Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings. That includes tools such as feed scoops, shovels, rakes, and brooms. All manure must be removed before disinfectant can work, so clean surfaces with soap and water first. Properly dispose of dead birds by burial or incineration or take them to a landfill. Check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.

3. Don't Haul Disease Home.

Car and truck tires, poultry cages, and equipment can all harbor "germs." If you travel to a location where other birds are present, or even to the feed store, be sure to clean and disinfect these items before you return to your property.

Taking some of your birds to a fair or exhibition? Keep those birds separated from the rest of your flock and watch them for at least 2 weeks after the event to ensure that they didn't pick up a disease. New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days before putting them with the rest of your birds. To prevent disease, it is best not to mix young and old birds or birds from different species or different sources.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning and disinfecting is one of the most important parts of backyard biosecurity. But you need to make sure you do it correctly to inactivate disease.

1. Thoroughly clean and scrub objects before applying disinfectants. Disinfectants cannot work on top of caked-on dirt and manure, so wash surfaces thoroughly before disinfecting them.

2. Apply disinfectants using brushes, sponges, or spray units. Allow adequate contact time (follow manufacturer's instructions).

3. Dispose of used disinfectant according to local regulations.

Below are some examples of disinfectants available on the market. Follow the directions on the label carefully for the best results.

- Roccal: Mix one-half fluid ounce (oz) of Roccal per gallon of water.
- Nolvasan (chlorhexidine diacetate 2 percent): Mix 3 fluid oz of Nolvasan per gallon of water.
- Household bleach (sodium hypochlorite 6 percent): Mix three-fourths of a cup of household bleach per gallon of water.
- Lysol spray for footwear.
- Purell hand pump for hand disinfection.

Making an Easy Footbath

A footbath is a handy tool to help you practice backyard biosecurity. You can easily make one yourself. You will need:

- A low plastic pan or bin, wide enough to fit an adult's foot and shallow enough to step into easily.
- A plastic doormat (the "fake grass" mats work well).
- A disinfectant that works well for most situations, such as Tek-trol or One Stroke Environ.
- Water.

Mix the disinfectant with water according to the label instructions. Put the doormat in the plastic pan. Add disinfectant so that the bottom of the mat is wet.

Ask visitors to walk through the footbath, wiping their feet on the mat. The mat scrubs their shoes a bit as they wipe them and applies the disinfectant.

When the liquid starts to get dirty, empty it and put in new disinfectant.

Using "fake grass" in a footbath helps scrub shoes.

Mix disinfectant with water and cover the "grass" mat in the bottom of the pan.

4. Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.

Do not share birds, lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners. If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property. And remember to clean and disinfect borrowed items before returning them.

Never share items such as wooden pallets or cardboard egg cartons because they are porous and cannot be adequately cleaned and disinfected.

5. Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.

Many bird diseases can be difficult to diagnose. The list below includes some of the things to look for that signal something might be wrong with your birds. Early detection of signs is very important to prevent the spread of disease.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs (AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

6. Report Sick Birds.

Do not wait to report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your birds. Call your agricultural extension office/agent, local veterinarian, local animal health diagnostic laboratory, the State veterinarian, or USDA Veterinary Services office.

USDA operates a toll-free hotline (1-866-536-7593) with veterinarians to help you. (For specific contact numbers, please see the **contact information** section on page 31 of this handbook.) USDA wants to test sick birds to make sure they do not have a serious poultry disease. There is no charge for USDA veterinarians to work with you to conduct a disease investigation. Early reporting is important to protect the health of your birds.

An outbreak of a bird disease such as END and HPAI could not only harm or kill your birds, but also spread so quickly that it could kill other neighboring birds.

A Note About Vaccines

Vaccination is another tool to protect your birds against END. Your local agricultural extension office, veterinarian, or feed stores that sell vaccines in your area can give vital information on the proper vaccines for your birds. Good health for your birds benefits everyone.

In the United States, vaccination against AI is not routine, nor is it our first choice for dealing with an outbreak. HPAI is not common in our country—it is considered an exotic disease here. If HPAI is detected in U.S. poultry, APHIS will work with the States to respond and quickly eliminate it.

While AI vaccines reduce outward signs of the disease in birds, they do not prevent birds from becoming infected. If used, vaccines can help slow the spread of AI to protect healthy birds outside a quarantine area. But vaccines cannot eliminate the disease itself.

Vaccination is, therefore, one tool we can use as part of our overall eradication strategy, along with many other actions needed to stop an HPAI outbreak: quarantines and animal movement restrictions, emergency humane euthanasia and depopulation of animals, cleaning and disinfection at affected locations, surveillance to detect any disease spread, and proper biosecurity.

If approved for use during an outbreak, vaccination would be directed by Federal officials.

Biosecurity Tips for Pet Bird Owners

Biosecurity doesn't apply only to backyard chickens. It's important to practice biosecurity when you have pet birds, too.

Here are some basic tips you can follow to help protect your pet birds' health:

- When buying a pet bird, request certification from the seller that the bird was legally imported or came from U.S. stock and was healthy before shipment.
- Separate new birds from your other birds for at least 30 days.
- Restrict access to your birds, especially from people who own birds that are housed outside.
- Keep your birds away from other birds.
- Clean and disinfect your clothing and shoes if you have been near other birds, such as at a bird club meeting, bird fair, or other venue with live poultry.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap, water, and a disinfectant before handling your birds.
- Keep cages clean and change food and water daily.
- Remove feed from bags; place it in a clean, sealed container; and throw bags away.
- Do not borrow or share bird supplies. If you must do so, clean and disinfect the items before bringing them home.
- Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.

Report Sick Birds at 1-866-536-7593.

If your birds are sick or dying, call your agricultural extension office/agent, local veterinarian, local animal health diagnostic laboratory, or the State veterinarian. Or, call USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593, and we'll put you in touch with a local contact.

Biosecurity Tips for Handling Wild Birds

Wild birds can carry several diseases, including avian influenza. It's best to observe wildlife from a distance. That way, you are less likely to disturb the animal or pick up any germs it may carry.

If you do come into contact with wild birds, here are some basic precautions to take:

- Do not handle dead or obviously sick birds.
- Avoid contact with bird droppings and nests.
- Wash hands with soap and water, hand sanitizer, or alcohol wipes immediately after handling bird feeders or bird baths.
- If you have contact with wild birds, wash your hands with soap and water before you eat, drink, smoke, or rub your eyes.
- To dispose of a dead bird, pick it up with an inverted bag or disposable gloves. Place it in another plastic bag, and dispose of it in a trash can that is secure against access by children, pets, or animals.

Hunters should also follow routine precautions when handling wild birds. These include:

- Do not handle or consume game animals that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wear rubber gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash hands with soap and water, or alcohol wipes, immediately after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water and then disinfect them.
- Keep uncooked game in a separate container, away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods. Cook game meat thoroughly; poultry should reach an internal temperature of 165 °F to kill disease organisms and parasites.

SECTION THREE

AVIAN INFLUENZA AND EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease

Today, raising poultry of all kinds is growing in popularity. You need caring, perseverance, and a good deal of knowledge to breed and raise birds, including awareness of diseases that can potentially affect your flock.

In this section, you will find information about

- **How a virus can spread,**
- **Avian influenza (AI),**
- **Exotic Newcastle disease (END), and**
- **The interconnectivity of the global marketplace and avian diseases.**

What Is Disease?

In common terms, disease is an abnormal condition that is the result of infection, genetic defect, environmental stress, or sickness in general. Disease prevents normal functioning. Its effects in birds can range from reduced production and loss of energy to death. Disease can be infectious or noninfectious.

In poultry, there are four main classes of disease-causing agents: bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Viruses cause disease, such as AI ("bird flu") and END.

How a Virus Spreads in the Environment

1. Directly

- As a result of contact between a sick or infected bird and a healthy bird or between carrier birds (those that already carry the disease but show no signs of illness) and healthy birds;
- Contact with infected manure, litter, debris, or feathers; or
- Aerosol transmission through respiratory droplets.

2. Indirectly

- Virus-bearing material picked up on shoes, clothing, hands, and vehicles is then carried to healthy birds.

3. Other Pathways for Disease Spread

- Wild animals, rodents, and insects

Avian Influenza (AI)

AI—also known as bird flu, fowl pest, or fowl plague—is a respiratory disease of birds. AI viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl, as well as a wide variety of other birds. Migratory waterfowl seem to be a natural reservoir or host for AI viruses. Type A influenza viruses are classified according to the severity of illness they cause. AI viruses are divided into two groups: low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI).

Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI): Most AI strains are classified as LPAI and cause few clinical signs in infected birds. Birds with LPAI may appear healthy and without signs of sickness; however, LPAI can cause mild clinical signs, such as slight facial swelling and some respiratory signs. LPAI is monitored because two of its virus strains—the H5 and H7 strains—can mutate into highly pathogenic forms.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): This is a very infectious and fatal form of the disease that, once established, can spread rapidly from bird to bird or flock to flock. HPAI typically causes severe illness with high death losses. See next page for clinical signs of HPAI.

How AI Spreads

AI spreads quickly by bird-to-bird contact. AI virus can travel on manure, egg flats, crates, other farming materials or equipment, and people who have picked up the virus on their clothing, shoes, or hands. Migratory waterfowl can also carry the disease.

Diseases spread easily from infected waterfowl to domestic birds and poultry.

Survival Period of the AI Virus

HPAI viruses can survive for long periods at low temperatures.

Know the Signs of HPAI

HPAI can strike quickly and spread rapidly without any warning. When infected birds do show signs, here's what to look for:

- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Thin-shelled, soft-shelled, or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Lack of coordination
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs

Birds with HPAI may show swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, and wattles.

Nasal discharge may indicate HPAI.

Purple discoloration of the comb may indicate HPAI.

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)

END is a contagious and fatal viral disease that affects all bird species. It is one of the most infectious poultry diseases in the world. END is so deadly that many birds die without showing any signs of disease. In unvaccinated poultry flocks, a death rate of almost 100 percent can occur, and END can cause death even in vaccinated poultry. Poultry hobbyists and owners of pet birds should be especially careful—birds illegally smuggled into the United States are not quarantined and tested by USDA and, therefore, may carry the END virus.

If you buy a pet bird, be sure to request certification that the bird has been legally imported or is of U.S. stock. Also, be aware that smuggled pet birds, especially Amazon parrots from Latin America, pose a great risk of introducing END to poultry flocks in the United States. As carriers of the disease, Amazon parrots do not show any typical signs of infection but are capable of shedding the virus for more than a year.

Exotic Newcastle Disease

- Is a contagious and fatal viral disease,
- Affects all species of birds, and
- Is so deadly that many birds die without showing any signs of disease.

How END Spreads

END spreads when healthy birds come in direct contact with bodily fluids from sick birds. The disease affects almost all birds and poultry, even vaccinated poultry. The END virus can travel on manure, egg flats, crates, other farming materials or equipment, and people who have picked up the virus on their clothing, shoes, or hands.

Birds raised in close confinement may spread diseases such as END.

Survival Period of the END Virus

The virus that causes END can survive in a warm and humid environment for several weeks. This environment could be birds' feathers, manure, and other materials. In freezing temperatures, the virus can survive for extremely long periods. However, it is destroyed quickly by severe dryness or sunlight.

Know the Signs of END

- Sudden death and increased death loss in flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing
- Greenish, watery diarrhea
- Decreased activity, tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck, circling, complete stiffness
- Swelling around the eyes and neck

Twisting of the neck is one of the signs birds may show when END has affected their nervous system.

Birds with END exhibit swelling of the tissues around the eyes and neck.

END can result in sudden death and a high overall mortality rate.

Global Marketplace and Avian Diseases

Today's global marketplace means greater access than ever before to agricultural commodities from around the world. While the United States exercises great vigilance to ensure that imports and exports meet international trade standards, with world trade, business travel, and global tourism, it has become easier to transport unwanted pests and diseases. For example:

- A visitor to a farm in Southeast Asia that has poultry infected with a disease can be on his or her or someone else's farm in the United States within a day or two, and possibly carry the virus there on his or her body, clothes, or shoes.
- Disease can come in through mislabeled, illegally imported poultry products, as it did in one instance with frozen ducks.
- Foreign animal diseases can be brought into the United States through smuggled products.

Preventing HPAI and END From Entering the Country

A disease outbreak can cause millions of dollars in losses to the U.S. agricultural industry, as well as to individual producers and manufacturers. Agricultural diseases can spread easily through the illegal export and import of animals, and an outbreak in one country can rapidly affect the birds of another country. In fact, it is possible for birds illegally transported or exported from countries with a disease outbreak to spread the disease across the world within a matter of days. That is why USDA has strict regulations for importing animals and animal products. Current information on importing animals and animal products can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport, the Web site for USDA's National Import Export Services.

USDA maintains clear rules for trade involving animals, animal products, and plants imported into or exported from the United States. We recognize that HPAI and END pose significant threats to animal health, and in the case of HPAI, it has the potential to threaten human health. Accordingly, USDA has safeguards in place to protect against the introduction of HPAI and END into the United States.

Import Restrictions

- The primary safeguard to keep HPAI and other viruses out of the country is the trade restrictions USDA maintains on the importation of poultry and poultry products from countries affected by specific diseases.
- USDA works closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent international passengers from bringing in foreign pests and diseases. More than 300 USDA veterinarians are stationed throughout the United States to investigate suspected foreign animal diseases. USDA updates DHS on agricultural threats so its employees can be extra vigilant in checking for prohibited products.
- In response to the growing volume of smuggled and improperly imported agricultural products entering the country, USDA created the Smuggling, Interdiction, and Trade Compliance (SITC) unit, a program within APHIS that conducts anti-smuggling activities.

International Standards

- To make sure that international animal health standards represent the interests and concerns of the United States, USDA is active in the World Organization for Animal Health, the international standards-setting body in Paris (known by the acronym OIE, which stands for L'Office International des Epizooties, its former name). Such international standards shape the future of animal trade worldwide.
- USDA works closely with international organizations like OIE and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) to assist HPAI-affected countries with disease prevention, management, and eradication activities. By helping these organizations prepare for, manage, or eradicate HPAI (H5N1) outbreaks, USDA can reduce the risk of the disease spreading from overseas to the United States.

A SITC officer demonstrates how exotic birds can be smuggled into the country in containers strapped to the smuggler's legs.

Quarantine

All imported live birds must be quarantined for 30 days at a USDA quarantine facility and tested for AI and END viruses before entering the country, except birds coming in from Canada. Returning U.S.-origin pet birds must be tested for AI and home-quarantined unless they have been in Canada.

Birds quarantined at USDA-APHIS' New York Animal Import Center are housed in an area with ample room for movement.

Surveillance

USDA works with Federal, State, and industry partners to monitor U.S. bird populations. Surveillance is conducted in four key areas: the live bird marketing system, commercial breeding and production flocks, backyard flocks, and migratory bird populations.

AI and END

SECTION FOUR

PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES

Protecting the United States From Avian Diseases

Federal and State Responses to a Disease Outbreak

Federal and State agencies have response procedures for disease outbreaks. If there is an outbreak of HPAI or END, USDA will head the emergency response and work with the affected State departments of agriculture and the affected premises to quarantine, clean, disinfect, and cull the infected and exposed bird population in order to quickly contain and eradicate the disease. USDA can also turn to its roster of accredited veterinarians and animal health technicians for additional help if needed.

USDA provides funding and support to States when LPAI is detected. Close attention is paid to the H5 and H7 strains of LPAI because of their potential to mutate into HPAI.

Response Plans—USDA works closely with its Federal, State, and tribal partners, as well as industry stakeholders, to ensure that effective and coordinated emergency response plans are ready if an outbreak of HPAI or END occurs here.

Testing—USDA scientists have developed a rapid diagnostic test for AI and continue to improve the test's sensitivity. The test diagnoses AI within 3 hours, while older tests used to take up to 2 weeks.

Contact Information for Federal and State Offices

ALABAMA
Federal Office
(615) 781-5310

State Office
(334) 240-7255

ALASKA
Federal Office
(360) 753-9430

State Office
(907) 375-8215

AMERICAN SAMOA
Federal Office
(916) 854-3950

ARIZONA
Federal Office
(505) 761-3160

State Office
(602) 542-4293

ARKANSAS
Federal Office
(501) 224-9515

State Office
(501) 907-2400

CALIFORNIA
Federal Office
(916) 854-3950

State Office
(916) 900-5000

COLORADO
Federal Office
(303) 231-5385

State Office
(303) 239-4161

CONNECTICUT
Federal Office
(508) 363-2290

State Office
(860) 713-2505

DELAWARE
Federal Office
(804) 343-2560

State Office
(302) 698-4500

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Federal Office
(804) 343-2560

FLORIDA
Federal Office
(770) 761-5420

State Office
(850) 410-0900

GEORGIA
Federal Office
(770) 761-5420

State Office
(404) 656-3671

GUAM
Federal Office
(916) 854-3950

Territorial Office
(671) 753-3988

HAWAII
Federal Office
(916) 854-3950

State Office
(808) 483-7111

IDAHO
Federal Office
(208) 373-1620

State Office
(208) 322-8540

ILLINOIS
Federal Office
(317) 347-3100

State Office
(877) 747-3038

INDIANA
Federal Office
(317) 347-3100

State Office
(317) 544-2400

IOWA
Federal Office
(515) 284-4140

State Office
(515) 281-5305

KANSAS
Federal Office
(402) 434-2300

State Office
(785) 296-2326

KENTUCKY
Federal Office
(502) 848-2040

State Office
(502) 564-3956

LOUISIANA
Federal Office
(601) 965-4307

State Office
(225) 925-3962

MAINE
Federal Office
(508) 363-2290

State Office
(207) 287-7615

MARYLAND
Federal Office
(804) 343-2560

State Office
(410) 841-5810

MASSACHUSETTS
Federal Office
(508) 363-2290

State Office
(617) 626-1795

MICHIGAN
Federal Office
(517) 377-4700

State Office
(800) 292-3939

MINNESOTA
Federal Office
(651) 290-3691

State Office
(601) 359-1160

MISSISSIPPI
Federal Office
(601) 965-4307

State Office
(601) 359-1170

MISSOURI
Federal Office
(573) 636-3116

State Office
(573) 751-3377

MONTANA
Federal Office
(406) 449-2220

State Office
(406) 444-2043

NEBRASKA
Federal Office
(402) 434-2300

State Office
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NEVADA
Federal Office
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State Office
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NEW HAMPSHIRE
Federal Office
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State Office
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NEW JERSEY
Federal Office
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State Office
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NEW MEXICO
Federal Office
(505) 761-3160

State Office
(505) 841-6156

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State Office
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NORTH CAROLINA
Federal Office
(919) 855-7700

State Office
(919) 733-7601

NORTH DAKOTA
Federal Office
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State Office
(701) 328-2657

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Federal Office
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Federal Office
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State Office
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Federal Office
(501) 224-9515

State Office
(405) 522-6141

OREGON
Federal Office
(360) 753-9430

State Office
(503) 986-4680

PENNSYLVANIA
Federal Office
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State Office
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PUERTO RICO
Federal Office
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Commonwealth Office
(787) 796-1650

RHODE ISLAND
Federal Office
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State Office
(401) 222-2781

SOUTH CAROLINA
Federal Office
(803) 462-2910

State Office
(803) 788-2260

SOUTH DAKOTA
Federal Office
(605) 224-6186

State Office
(605) 773-5425

TENNESSEE

Federal Office
(615) 781-5310

State Office
(615) 837-5120

TEXAS

Federal Office
(512) 383-2400

State Office
(512) 719-0704

UTAH

Federal Office
(801) 524-5010, 12

State Office
(801) 538-7162

VERMONT

Federal Office
(508) 363-2290

State Office
(802) 828-2426

VIRGINIA

Federal Office
(804) 343-2560

State Office
(804) 692-0601

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Federal Office
(787) 766-6050, 6055, 6060, 6061

Territorial Office
(340) 778-0991

WASHINGTON

Federal Office
(360) 753-9430

State Office
(360) 902-1878

WEST VIRGINIA

Federal Office
(919) 855-7700

State Office
(304) 558-2214

WISCONSIN

Federal Office
(651) 290-3691

State Office
(608) 224-4872

WYOMING

Federal Office
(307) 432-7960

State Office
(307) 857-4140