

What to Expect if Avian Influenza is Detected on Your Farm



If avian influenza is detected on your farm, the following actions might be required in consultation and coordination with public health and agriculture departments.

Public Health Actions

Avian influenza is a virus that can infect most species of birds and some mammals. People can be exposed to avian influenza by contact with an infected animal, their manure, or bodily fluids such as nasal discharge or unpasteurized milk. The risk of getting sick from avian flu is believed to be low. However, avian flu viruses have made people sick in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Monitoring for flu symptoms in exposed people is needed when avian influenza is detected on farms. Here are public health actions you might be asked to take if avian influenza is detected on your farm:

- Contact your Local Health Department (LHD) if they have not already reached out to you
- Provide a list of potentially exposed individuals for illness monitoring purposes to your LHD
- Ask exposed individuals to monitor themselves for symptoms (listed below)
- Ask sick individuals to isolate until they have been tested and received negative test results
- Call your LHD first and/or the Communicable Disease Branch Epi on Call available 24/7 for evaluation, testing and treatment or if you have any questions

CONTACTS

Epi on Call: 919-733-3419

LHD info: ncddhs.gov/LHD

Your LHD may also ask that individuals get tested for avian influenza if symptoms are present. During the monitoring period, watch for any of these symptoms:

- Eye tearing, redness or irritation
- Fever (Temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater)
- Feeling feverish/Chills*
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing/Shortness of breath
- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Diarrhea

*Fever may not always be present

It is important to watch for symptoms and follow your local health department's instructions even if contact was short and safety measures were in place. Report any symptoms to your local health department right away.

Enhanced Biosecurity

The best way to prevent avian influenza at your farm is by consistently using appropriate biosecurity measures. Even if you're already familiar with biosecurity, it's always good to double-check your procedures. Protect animals with a few simple steps:

Keep Germs Away

- Wash hands with soap and water and wear gloves. Wash hands and change gloves between activities.
- Wear overalls/coveralls.
- Clean your boots or wear boot covers to prevent the spread of germs when walking into other areas.
- Disinfect shoes, clothes, hands, equipment, and other tools frequently.

Limit Visitors

- If you or others must visit animals, make sure to wash hands and scrub boots beforehand.

Avoid Wild Birds and Pests

- Don't let your animals have contact with migratory waterfowl or other wild birds.
- Secure feed bins and water to prevent wildlife contamination.

Have a Plan

- Have a site-specific biosecurity plan in place.
- Make sure visitors know and follow your biosecurity rules.

There are a number of good biosecurity references available. Here are some additional resources:

- [NC Agriculture: How to Protect Your Flock \(ncagr.gov\)](http://ncagr.gov)
- [Farm Biosecurity - CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](http://iastate.edu)
- [Defend the Flock \(usda.gov\)](http://usda.gov)
- [Protect Your Poultry From Avian Influenza \(usda.gov\)](http://usda.gov)



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**HEALTH AND
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Division of Public Health