

## Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

### Press Release

August 8, 2024

- Avian Influenza A(H5N1) bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several cases of H5N1 in U.S. dairy workers.
- While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures.
- Information about the latest developments around avian influenza A(H5N1) is available [www.cdc.gov/bird-flu](http://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu).

### Recommendations for Protecting Farmers and Poultry, Backyard Bird Flock, and Livestock Owners

To reduce the risk of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus infection, poultry farmers and poultry workers, backyard bird flock owners, livestock farmers and workers, veterinarians and veterinary staff, and emergency responders should avoid unprotected direct physical contact or close exposure with the following animals and materials potentially infected or confirmed to be infected with Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus:

- Sick birds, livestock, or other animals
- Carcasses of birds, livestock, or other animals
- Feces or litter
- Raw milk
- Surfaces and water (e.g., ponds, waterers, buckets, pans, troughs) that might be contaminated with animal excretions.

### Steps to Protect Yourself

If birds in your flock have Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus infection, or you suspect they might, take the following actions to protect yourself:

- Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feces or litter, or any surface or water source (e.g., ponds, waterers, buckets, pans, troughs) that might be contaminated with their saliva, feces or any other bodily fluids without wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when around sick or dead birds.
- As best as possible, during depopulation and while cleaning and disinfecting contaminated premises, avoid stirring up dust, bird waste, and feathers to prevent virus from dispersing into the air.

### Personal Protective Equipment

Put on PPE before you go into the coop or poultry environment. Do not wear or store PPE in your home after it has been worn in your coop and before it has been cleaned and disinfected. Put on and take off PPE in separate clean areas, if possible. PPE should include:

- Safety goggles (unvented or indirectly vented) that fit snugly,
- Gloves that are disposable,
- Rubber boots (or waterproof boots that can be disinfected) or boot covers,
- A N95 respirator if available, or, if not available, a well-fitting facemask (e.g., a surgical mask),
- And clean disposable head cover or hair cover.

For Cleaning and Disinfecting Poultry Enclosures visit: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

For more information on Avian Influenza A(H5N1) visit: [www.cdc.gov/bird-flu](http://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu).



United States Department of Agriculture

# Checklist for Cleaning and Disinfecting Poultry Enclosures

Keeping poultry houses, coops, and other enclosures clean is one of the best ways to prevent germs from spreading among poultry flocks. A thorough cleaning, and then applying disinfectant, takes time. But the process is vital to stop disease spread and keep our flocks healthy.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.



Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



## Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian  
Cooperative Extension Office  
State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab  
USDA

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

866.536.7593





# ✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Wear personal protective equipment** or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.
- Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning.** If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area before cleaning.
- Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- “Dry” clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- “Wet” clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- Apply disinfectant** according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
- Leave the enclosure empty** until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
- When you’re done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).

