

# NOW IS THE TIME TO PROTECT YOUR FLOCK AGAINST AVIAN FLU

The highly contagious and deadly avian influenza (HPAI) has the potential to be a catastrophic disease in commercial poultry and small flocks. The disease has already been detected in a number of states, and there is an immediate, high-level threat in Pennsylvania.

## Protection starts with biosecurity

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, follow it.

**Keep visitors to a minimum.** Only allow people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds. Make sure everyone who has contact with your flock follows 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.

## Look for signs of HPAI

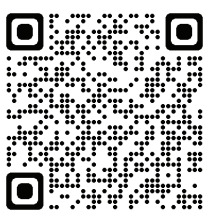
- Sudden increase in mortality
- Decreased feed or water consumption
- Decreased energy (lethargy, depression)
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled, thin-shelled, or misshapen eggs
- Swelling or purple discoloration of the head, eyelids, legs or feet
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge
- Incoordination, stumbling
- Abnormal position or twisting of the head and neck
- Diarrhea



## If you suspect HPAI in your flock

**Call the PDA hotline immediately. Do not move the birds. There is no penalty for calling and testing for surveillance is free.**

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)  
emergency number at 717-772-2852 (press option 1  
to reach the veterinarian on call)**



## Stay informed

**For more information, resources, and the latest developments in the fight against HPAI, go to the Penn State Extension web page at [extension.psu.edu/avian-influenza](http://extension.psu.edu/avian-influenza)**

