

Surveillance - Appendix 4

Animal Exposure Guide

Avian influenza (AI) viruses are viruses that mainly infect birds. Although AI viruses do not usually infect humans, rare cases of human illness caused by AI have been documented throughout the world, including in the United States. Individuals involved in occupations/activities that routinely handle birds and/or bird products are at increased risk for AI infection. The following are general guidelines for use by individuals who routinely handle birds and bird products.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Basic Infection Control

The following is an excerpt from CDC guidelines regarding PPE and infection control used by persons involved in activities to control and eradicate outbreaks of avian influenza among poultry. The full document can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/protect-guid.htm>.

- Understand and adhere to proper hand hygiene after contact with infected or exposed poultry, contact with contaminated surfaces, or after removing gloves. Hand hygiene should consist of washing with soap and water for 15-20 seconds or the use of other standard hand-disinfection procedures as specified by state government, industry, or USDA outbreak-response guidelines.
- Disposable gloves made of lightweight nitrile, vinyl or heavy duty rubber work gloves that can be disinfected should be worn.
- Protective clothing, preferably disposable outer garments or coveralls, an impermeable apron or surgical gowns with long cuffed sleeves, plus an impermeable apron should be worn.
- Disposable protective shoe covers or rubber or polyurethane boots that can be cleaned and disinfected should be worn.
- Safety goggles should be worn to protect the mucous membranes of eyes.
- Appropriate respiratory protection should be worn based upon the activity being performed. Additional information regarding appropriate respiratory protection can be found at the websites indicated in the resources section of this appendix.
- Disposable PPE should be properly discarded, and non-disposable PPE should be cleaned and disinfected as specified in state government, industry, or USDA outbreak-response guidelines. Hand hygiene measures should be performed after removal of PPE.

NJDHSS will work with occupational health and safety agencies (i.e., Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health [PEOSH] Program) to develop specific guidelines regarding worker safety once an animal outbreak occurs in New Jersey.

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Vaccination with Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- Unvaccinated workers should receive the current season's influenza vaccine to reduce the possibility of dual infection with avian and human influenza viruses.
- Vaccination of all residents of affected areas is not necessary.

Resources

1. CDC's Interim Guidance for Protection of Persons Involved in US Avian Influenza Outbreak Disease Control and Eradication Activities. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/protect-guid.htm>
2. Avian Influenza - Protecting Poultry Workers at Risk. OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin, December 13, 2004. Available at: <http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib121304.pdf>