Disease Prevention Guide
Backyard and Pet Bird Owners

Your birds depend on you to keep them healthy. Disease prevention means doing everything you can to protect birds against disease. Diseases move when contaminated birds, people, and materials are moved from one location to another. You can greatly decrease the risk of diseases infecting your birds by making these basic tips part of your daily routine.

**Backyard Biosecurity**

- Do not share birds, equipment, or feed with other owners.
- Avoid contact with other people’s birds; they may carry disease.
- Restrict access to your birds; visitors may carry disease on their clothing or shoes.
- Isolate new birds from your other birds for 30 days and observe them for signs of illness.
- Isolate birds and disinfect your cages and equipment after returning home from events.
- Never obtain birds from unreliable sources.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after interacting with birds.
- Dedicate footwear and clothes for bird activities.
- Consider using a disinfectant foot bath with a scrub mat at the entrance to your bird area.
- Keep wild birds, insects, and rodents away from your birds as they are also disease vectors.
- Clean and disinfect vehicle before returning from a feed store.

**Disinfectants Examples**

- Tek-trol™
- Purell®
- Nolvasan® S
- Clorox Regular Bleach®
- Lysol®

**Disinfecting Tips**

- Thoroughly clean and scrub objects before applying disinfectants.
- Prepare disinfectants regularly and change foot baths when they are dirty.
- Apply disinfectants using brushes, sponges, and spray units or use a foot bath.
- Allow adequate contact time of disinfectants and follow the manufacturer label.

**For Regional Quarantine Updates**
Visit us at cdfa.ca.gov/go/VND

**Sick Bird Hotline:**
866-922-2473

*Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of these products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds; however, they will reduce risks.*