June 1, 2020

Field Biosecurity Guidelines for State/County/City Personnel Entering Shell Egg Packing Facilities, Poultry Harvest Facilities, and Poultry Farms

To: All California State/County/City Personnel

Effective June 1, 2020, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released the Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) Regional Quarantine following successful completion of the Freedom of Disease Testing phase. The last detected case of VND was confirmed February 25, 2020. Since that time, CDFA has conducted extensive surveillance testing throughout Southern California area. To date, no additional cases have been found.

While on-farm poultry area visits and inspections in Southern California start to pick up again, we request continued assistance and cooperation in following some important biosecurity precautions to prevent spread of any potential diseases. State, county, city, and private inspectors, auditors and service providers should still adhere to the following:

1. Do not enter farms where eggs are hatched or poultry are raised if you have birds or live poultry at home.

2. Never visit any poultry farm within 72 hours after visiting another commercial poultry farm, egg or meat processor; after duck hunting or having had other exposure to wild migratory waterfowl; or visiting any backyard, school, feed store, swap meet, live bird market, pet store, fair, veterinary clinic, zoo, bird hunt club, or other facility which has live poultry or birds.

3. Always wash your vehicle before entering a farm/egg processing facility. A commercial car wash can be used for this purpose. Park your vehicle in a designated area per the company’s biosecurity plan or if there is none, try to park on cement or a paved area away from the production houses. Keep the inside of the vehicle clean and free of any organic material.

4. Use good personal hygiene measures including freshly laundered clothes and showering before visiting a poultry farm or processing facility. Clothing that has been worn to premises with birds or live poultry should never be worn to another farm or processing facility without being laundered between visits.
5. Never enter a poultry farm unless trained to apply and remove (don and doff) biosecurity clothing without spreading disease. If entering live bird areas, use clean, dedicated rubber boots or disposable plastic shoe covers, disposable coveralls, and a hair net. Use disposable gloves and a mask as directed by the company being inspected.

6. **ALWAYS** follow all the biosecurity instructions of the commercial poultry farm/egg processing facility which may include: registering in a logbook, answering queries about bird and poultry premises visited previously, using company supplied protective clothing and footwear, footbaths, hand cleaning stations, tire/truck wash stations and other biosecurity measures.

Remember, people, equipment, and vehicles can easily spread dangerous diseases from one location to another. CDFA appreciates your efforts to protect poultry health in California on a daily basis.

*For more information about biosecurity, please visit: cdfa.ca.gov/go/poultrybiosecurity*

Sincerely,

Dr. Annette Jones, D.V.M.
Director and State Veterinarian