



# Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Risk of Spreading Avian Influenza

## Poultry Show and Exhibit Organizers

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. Standard biosecurity practices are important for California's poultry community at all times. Here are some recommendations for Exhibit Organizers:

### Before the Exhibition

**Advise exhibitors that if their birds show any sign of illness, they should not bring any birds no attend the exhibit themselves.**

- Arrange event poultry display areas to minimize contact between exhibition birds and wild birds/wild waterfowl.
  - House exhibition poultry indoors (or at minimum, within a screened area)
  - Remove food and water sources that attract wild birds
- House different species (e.g. chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) separate from each other.
- Minimize the total time birds are on the exhibition grounds - Ideally, exhibition birds should be on exhibition grounds for no more than 72 hours.
- Require that a veterinarian and/or poultry health inspector (PHI) be present during the exhibition to:
  - Monitor birds for clinical signs of disease,
  - Evaluate sick birds, and
  - Take additional steps as warranted to minimize the risk of illness in the birds.
- Designate an isolation pen/area where there is no contact with any other birds, and contact with humans is minimal.
- Immediately move to isolate any bird displaying clinical signs of disease.
- Establish a system to maintain records of individual bird identification (e.g. leg bands), source farms, and owner contact information to enhance the speed and accuracy of an animal disease investigation associated with the exhibition.

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:

**Sick Bird Hotline  
(866) 922-2473**

- Host a meeting with exhibitors prior to the start of the exhibition to discuss:
  - Role of designated exhibition veterinarian/PHI
  - How to report bird illnesses
  - Required actions for sick birds at the show
  - Exhibition regulations
  - Disease control measures to be utilized before, during, and after the exhibition
  - Methods of communications of avian health issues including potential enhanced biosecurity measures at the event (e.g. email addresses and/or phone numbers from show entry information, social media channels, etc.)
- Develop a fair biosecurity plan with exhibition staff to minimize contact between flocks, including movement of people from flock to flock.
- Host non-animal-related activities (i.e. dances, pizza parties, etc.) in locations other than animal barns.

### During the Exhibition

**If avian influenza-like illness is associated with the exhibition, call the Sick Bird Hotline or local CDFA/USDA immediately!**

- Require check-in of all birds.
- Make sure that your exhibit veterinarian/PHI station are well identified.
- Ensure that all birds are adequately identified and that identification, along with name and on-site contact information for owner(s), is recorded upon arrival at the show or exhibition.
- Require out-of-state exhibitors to provide a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days for all birds attending the show or exhibition.
- Require exhibitors to provide a "poultry health declaration" upon arrival at the show or exhibition stating:
  - No known exposure of your flock to sick birds, and no poultry deaths on your premises within the past 10 days and
  - No clinical signs of illness, including respiratory or neurologic disease, within the past 10 days.

- Record exit/release time of birds.
- Require exhibitors to immediately notify event staff of any bird displaying clinical signs consistent with avian influenza or other disease.
- The clinical signs of avian influenza are:
  - Sudden death,
  - Wheezing, coughing, and nasal discharge,
  - Decreased energy,
  - Decreased feed intake,
  - Drop in egg production or egg quality,
  - Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck, combs, or wattles, and
  - Tremors, circling, drooping wings, and twisting of head and neck.
- Immediately remove and isolate sick birds.
- Consult with a veterinarian to determine what diagnostic testing should be performed.

#### **For Exhibit Visitors**

- Provide easy access to hand washing/sanitizer stations.
- Restrict direct public contact with birds.
- Consider creating a system where birds can be observed from a distance, but not be touched or petted.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
  - Do not touch birds or cages,
  - No eating or drinking in the animal areas,
  - Wash hands before entering and after exiting exhibit areas, and
  - No pacifiers, sipping cups, or strollers in the animal areas.



#### **After the Exhibition**

- Clean and disinfect (C&D) the bird exhibition areas and allow these areas to completely dry before restocking.

#### **For Exhibit Visitors**

- If exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness, consult a health care provider and a county public health official as soon as possible:
  - Inform the health care provider of close contact with birds.
  - Ill people should avoid all contact with birds until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.



**CDFA Animal Health Branch**  
 Headquarters - (916) 900-5002  
 Redding District - (530) 225-2140  
 Modesto District - (209) 491-9350  
 Tulare District - (559) 685-3500  
 Ontario District - (909) 947-4462  
**USDA-APHIS-VS (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690**

For more information, please click the following:  
[Animal Health Branch](#)  
[Avian Health Program](#)