



## 1. Why are birds euthanized?

There is no cure for virulent Newcastle disease (VND). It is a foreign animal disease, not normally found in the U.S. For this reason, must be eradicated. All birds that test positive for VND are euthanized. If a flock is too close to a positive flock, (next door, sharing a fence line, within the same block or blocks, etc.), although those birds may seem healthy they may be euthanized because they have been exposed to the virus. Unfortunately, this is the only way to stop the spread of the disease. In areas where many positive cases have been found, birds on entire blocks, or within sections of neighborhoods, may be euthanized to prevent the spread of disease (*see HIA map reverse side*).

## 2. Are there different types of quarantines?

Yes. There is a regional quarantine in effect for all of Los Angeles County, and large parts of western San Bernardino and Riverside counties (*see regional quarantine map reverse side*) that prohibits anyone from moving poultry and poultry products. There are residential quarantines in place for properties where infected or exposed birds have been euthanized. There are also residential quarantines that prohibit bird movement from a property to prevent those birds from being infected.

## 3. How do you determine which birds are euthanized?

If birds on a property are infected, they are euthanized. Epidemiologists then develop a perimeter around an infected property based upon the level of infection. Birds within that perimeter are a single flock. Since they have also been exposed to the virus, and are likely to become infected, they are euthanized to keep the disease from spreading.

## 4. How long will a quarantine remain in effect?

There is no way to know how long it will take to eradicate VND, or how long quarantines will remain in place. If your birds are euthanized, your property must remain clean, disease-free, and unpopulated with any birds (*known as a fallow period*) for a **minimum** of 120 days. However, even though you have successfully completed your 120-day fallow period, you cannot repopulate your property.

All quarantines, including individual quarantines with birds and individual quarantines where birds have been euthanized, must remain in place until a letter is received from the state veterinarian releasing the property, area, or region from the quarantine.

**NOTE – No quarantines are lifted until you receive a letter from the state veterinarian telling you that your quarantine has been released.**

## 5. How does the disease spread?

Moving infected or exposed birds is the primary way in which VND is spread. Your birds may look healthy but could carry the virus because they're just starting to get sick. Do not move birds. A chicken could be exposed but showing clinical signs (the incubation period) can vary from a few days to up to 21 days. People in contact with infected birds can also move the virus on their hands, clothes, shoes, and equipment. Do not allow people to handle your birds. Bird owners should have a strong cleaning and disinfection process in place year-round. Residents in the regional quarantine area **SHALL NOT MOVE ANY POULTRY OR POULTRY PRODUCTS ONTO OR OFF OF THEIR PROPERTY.** "No birds on and no birds off" any property until written notice is received releasing the quarantine.

## 6. Is this disease contagious to humans?

In rare cases, people in extremely close contact with VND infected birds may develop redness or swelling around their eyes. A mild fever is also possible. It is important to avoid any additional contact with birds until your symptoms are completely gone. As with any medical condition, if you're concerned, please consult your physician. Properly cooked meat and eggs from infected birds do not pose any human health risk.

## 7. If my birds are vaccinated will they remain free of the disease?

Not necessarily. The proper timing of vaccinations may provide some protection from disease, but it is not recommended during an outbreak. Many vaccinated birds die from VND. Vaccinated birds that survive shed disease for months, potentially infecting otherwise healthy birds. Vaccine do not prevent the VND virus, they only reduce the level of infection.

***For questions, or to report sick birds, please call the Sick Bird Hotline 1-866-922-2473.***