USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

A Guide To Help You Understand the Response Process

1 Detect

You see unusual signs of illness or sudden deaths in your flock. You report it to your private or State veterinarian. Samples are taken and tested. You find out your flock is positive for HPAI.

2 Quarantine

USDA and State personnel come to your farm. We assign you a caseworker, who will be your main point of contact onsite, answer your questions, and guide you through the needed paperwork. We will also place your operation under quarantine, meaning only authorized workers are allowed in and out, and movement restrictions for poultry, poultry products, and equipment go into effect. We contact neighboring poultry farms and start testing their birds to see if they've been affected, too.

3 Appraise

We work with you to create a flock inventory. This lists how many birds you have, what species they are, their age, and other key details that will help us give you 100 percent of fair market value for your birds.

4 Depopulate

Infected flocks are depopulated as quickly as possible—ideally within 24 hours of the first HPAI detection—to get rid of the virus.

5 Compensate

You receive your first indemnity payment early on in the response process. We also pay you a standard amount for virus elimination activities (cleanup work).

6 Manage Disposal

USDA will help you dispose of the dead birds safely. Disposal methods include composting, burial, incineration, rendering, or landfilling. The options you'll have depend on several things: what type of farm you have, the specific conditions there, State and local laws, and what you prefer.

7 Eliminate Virus

The next step is to wipe out all traces of the virus at your property. To kill the virus, thoroughly clean and disinfect the barn, equipment, and all affected areas of your farm. You can do this work yourself or hire contractors to handle it.

8 Test

As soon as you're ready, let your caseworker know you're finished with cleanup. Your site must then stay empty for at least 21 days. During this time, we'll return to collect and test environmental samples. We need to confirm that your property is completely virus-free.

9 Restock

Once USDA and the State both approve, you can restock your facilities and start production again. State officials will release your farm from quarantine after all required testing and waiting periods are done.

10 Maintain Biosecurity

After restocking, you'll need to continue maintaining the highest biosecurity standards to keep the virus from coming back. For biosecurity tips, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/-publications and download the factsheet "Prevent Avian Influenza at Your Farm."

How Long Does the Process Take?

Ideally, this entire process could be completed in as soon as 60–120 days. However, the timeframe varies depending on many things (for example, flock size, depopulation and disposal methods used, test results, farm's location). We're committed to restoring production as fast as we can while also protecting poultry health.

Questions?

Talk with your caseworker or the State or Federal officials responding to the disease event in your area.

For general information and contacts, visit:

www.usda.gov/avian_influenza.html

www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep

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