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## Protecting Avian Influenza Responders



**NIEHS**

National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

**September 16–19, 2007**

Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Maryland

*Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Worker Education and Training Program (WETP)*

### **Purpose and Scope**

An avian influenza (AI) response could involve emergency responders, skilled support personnel, veterinarians, personnel from Federal agencies and State departments of agriculture, employees from private industry, and State and local public-health workers.

This conference will bring together agencies and organizations that may be involved in an AI response to discuss, coordinate, and participate in a practice exercise for such an incident. The following issues will be addressed and discussed:

- Improving incident communications among participating organizations and agencies (as it relates to health and safety) including injury and illness reporting and surveillance;
- Testing proposed health and safety plans and training programs;
- Identifying shortfalls or needs to ensure that responders are empowered through education and personal protective equipment to conduct their duties in a manner that will prevent acute and chronic injury to themselves, coworkers, and the public; and
- Identifying hazards associated with the AI response and methods to control their impact on responders.

Addressing and keeping as a priority the health and safety of responders will ensure that these possible outcomes are addressed and prevented:

- Responder physical injury from biologic and physical hazards;
- Responder mental injury from duties associated with remediation; and
- The public's physical and mental health; and
- Any adverse economic impact that could result from inadvertent migration of the biologic agent from the work zone by responders.

Addressing these issues will facilitate the rapid control and remediation of the incident; increase efficient use of resources; reduce redundancy of activities; and increase public confidence while ensuring the protection of all parties involved in an AI response.

**For more information, contact the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training at [info@wetp.org](mailto:info@wetp.org) or 202-331-7733.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

### **Who should attend this conference?**

- Emergency responders
- Skilled support personnel
- Veterinarians
- Personnel from private industry
- Personnel from State Departments of Agriculture
- Federal agency personnel with a role in an AI response
- State and local public-health workers