



Avian Influenza Update: Worker Health and Safety

Lisa J. Delaney M.S.
NIOSH

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Transmission to Humans

- Majority through direct contact with infected poultry or surfaces infected with feces or respiratory secretions
- Virus may also be aerosolized and land on the mouth, nose, or eyes or be inhaled

Responder Recommendations

- **Web posting on February 17, 2003**
- **Joint CDC and USDA guidance**
 - Individuals involved in activities to control and eradicate outbreaks in poultry
 - High pathogenic and low pathogenic strains
- **Follows SOPs used by USDA**
 - Prevent transmission between bird populations
 - Adds component of protecting against human disease
- **Evaluation of ill worker/responder**
 - Emphasis on laboratory testing

Responder Recommendations

- **Basic Infection control**
 - **Hand washing with soap and water for 15-20 seconds or the use of hand disinfection procedures**
 - **Access to personal protective equipment**

Responder Recommendations

- **Personal Protective Equipment**
 - **Disposable gloves**
 - Nitrile
 - Vinyl
 - Heavy duty rubber
 - **Protective clothing**
 - Disposable outer garments or coveralls
 - Impermeable apron
 - **Disposable protective shoe covers or boots that can be disinfected**

Responder Recommendations

- **Personal Protective Equipment**
 - **Safety goggles**
 - Nonvented preferred
 - Indirectly vented with antifog coating
 - **Respiratory Protection**
 - Disposable filtering facepiece respirators (e.g., N-95) at a minimum
 - Full facepiece, hood, helmet, or loose-fitting facepiece will protect eyes from exposure

Responder Recommendations

- **Surveillance and Monitoring**
 - Watch for symptoms
 - Seek medical care for illness
 - Stay home until 24 hours after resolution of fever
 - Practice good respiratory and hand hygiene to lower transmission risk to contacts

Responder Recommendations

- **Vaccination with current season's influenza vaccine**
- **Administration of Antiviral Drugs for Prophylaxis**
 - **Daily for the duration of the time responders have direct contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces**

Poultry Worker Guidance

- **Should be aware of signs of disease in poultry**
- **Should be aware of signs and symptoms of human infection**
- **Seek medical care if they experience signs and symptoms**
- **Talk to healthcare provider about obtaining flu vaccination**

PPE Guidance: Respiratory Protection

- **Respiratory protection**
 - Provides protection against breathing in contaminated materials
 - NIOSH website contains information on the advantages and disadvantages of the use of different respirators
 - Implement complete respiratory protection program including training and fit testing

PPE Guidance: Eye Protection

- **Eye protection**
 - Reduces direct exposure to contaminated dust and aerosols through the eyes
 - Helps keep workers from touching their eyes with contaminated fingers

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/eye-infectious.html>



PPE Guidance: Protective Clothing

- **Protective clothing**
 - Prevents direct skin contact with contaminated materials and surfaces
 - Reduces the likelihood of transferring contaminated materials
- **Follow proper donning and doffing procedures**

PPE Guidance: Protective Clothing

- **Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, waterless soaps, or alcohol-based sanitizers after glove removal**
- **Discard disposable items properly**
- **Clean and disinfect non-disposable items according to outbreak-response guidelines**

Joint NIOSH-OSHA Guidance for Poultry Workers

- **Joint NIOSH and OSHA Document**
- **Intended audience: Poultry workers who could be at risk to prolonged exposure to infected poultry or avian influenza virus**
- **Will be posted on CDC website**

For Additional Information

- CDC Avian Influenza website
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>
- NIOSH
 - 1.800.35.NIOSH (1.800.356.4674)
 - Outside the U.S. 513-533-8328
- Lisa Delaney
 - 404.498.2516
 - LKD2@CDC.GOV

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