



**USAID
Avian Influenza Program**

Prevention and control of *bird-to-human* transmission of avian influenza

Key message points (for the general population as well as farmers), grouped by topic.

Note: Even though all the message points are important and helpful in preventing and controlling avian influenza, specific aspects of topics will be more important in different local contexts and there will be times when specific information is particularly important. Users should select the message points that are most appropriate for local conditions and outbreak phase (pre-outbreak, outbreak, and post-outbreak) and transform them into suitable messages, using local expressions and language. The chart provides guidance about the importance of different message points for the different phases. Ticks indicate message points that are extremely important during the different phases while bars indicate message points that are inappropriate for that phase.

It is very difficult for humans to get avian flu, but if you have signs of a serious respiratory illness, get care.

- If you become sick with a high fever after contact with dead or sick birds, seek immediate treatment.
- If you suspect that someone has avian influenza, take them to a health care provider immediately.

	PRE	OUTBREAK	POST
	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓

Avoid close contact with birds.

- Do not touch dead or sick birds with bare hands; use gloves.
- If poultry have to be kept indoors (for example, during winter in cold climates), keep them in a specific area away from where the family sleeps and eats.
- Do not let poultry into your house.
- If possible, do not let children collect eggs and keep them away from birds – including pet birds if they are not kept indoors all the time.
- Do not let children help with slaughtering or preparing poultry or wild birds.

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Take precautions if you unintentionally come into contact with poultry or poultry feces in an affected area.

Take precautions in preparing and consuming poultry meat and eggs.

- Wash your hands well with soap and water (or ash if soap is not available) after each contact with wild birds or domestic poultry or bird feces.
- Remove your shoes outside the house and clean them of all dirt.
- If you develop a high temperature, visit a doctor or go to the nearest health care facility immediately.

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- The greatest risk of exposure to avian influenza is through the slaughter and handling of infected poultry. Remember that not all infected birds show signs of illness, so be careful when slaughtering any poultry.
- Good hygiene practices are essential during slaughter and post-slaughter handling to prevent exposure via raw poultry meat or cross contamination from poultry to other foods, food preparation surfaces or equipment.
- Keep raw meat, poultry, fish, and their juices away from other foods.
- After cutting raw meats, wash hands, cutting board, knife and counter tops with hot soapy water, and use bleach if available.
- Ensure that poultry meat and eggs are thoroughly cooked.
- Do not eat eggs or blood unless they are thoroughly cooked. Do not eat runny eggs or meat that is pink. To be safe, egg whites and yellow must be solid. Raw eggs should not be used in foods that will not be cooked.
- Eggs can contain avian influenza virus both on the outside (shell) and the inside (whites and yolk), so it is important to wash hands after handling eggs and to cook eggs thoroughly.
- The avian influenza virus is not killed by freezing or refrigeration, but cooking (temperatures at or above 70°C in all parts of a food item) will kill the avian influenza virus.

PRE	OUTBREAK	POST
✓	✓	✓
	✓	
	✓	

✓	✓	✓
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