

## Biosecurity Advice

### Bird Gathering Biosecurity

Birds must be inspected for signs of illness before travelling to a gathering and it is recommended, that upon return, birds should be kept separate from wild birds and isolated from other birds at that return premises, for at least fourteen days, while they are monitored for signs of illness.

### Signs of Bird Flu

Typically, **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** presents suddenly and often with very high mortality.

There can be considerable variation in the clinical picture and severity of the disease however affected birds usually develop

- swollen heads,
- a blue colouration of the comb and wattles,
- dullness,
- lack of appetite,
- respiratory distress,
- diarrhoea
- a significant drop in egg production.

**Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)** does not always cause obvious disease in birds but this can be aggravated by secondary infections or stressors.

Infection may be associated with

- significant drops in feed/water intake and
- significant drops in egg production in laying birds
- respiratory signs such as sneezing, coughing, ocular and nasal discharge, and sinusitis.

If you are suspicious your flock has any form of avian influenza you must contact your local animal health office immediately.

# A Small Flock Keeper's Guide to Biosecurity

If you keep poultry or other captive birds, the advice about preventing disease and reducing the risk of avian influenza (bird flu) in your flock can appear intimidating but it shouldn't.

Biosecurity doesn't have to be expensive or difficult. Every small step that you take to prevent disease in your flock will add up to improve your overall biosecurity, helping keep your birds healthy.

From the options below, identify individual actions that you can do now and others that you can do if there is a confirmed case of bird flu in your area. Review your plan and actions regularly and try and add other recommendations, as you can, in the future.

## **Discourage wild birds:**

- Provide food and water in roofed or fully enclosed areas that wild birds cannot access
- Remove spilled feed regularly

## **Keep your birds and equipment separate from wildlife:**

- Fence off any areas where wild waterfowl gather
- Store equipment, feed and bedding undercover and protected from rodents

## **Prevent contamination with good husbandry and hygiene:**

- Keep bird enclosures clean and tidy
- Regularly disinfect any hard surfaces
- Keep single-purpose footwear for accessing your bird area and disinfect them after visiting the birds
- Minimise movement in and out of bird area and discourage visitor access
- Keep chickens and turkeys separate from ducks and geese – waterfowl can carry bird flu without showing symptoms
- Control rats & mice as they can carry the virus

## **Stay informed:**

- Sign up to APHA free disease alert system and regularly check [www.gov.scot/birdflu](http://www.gov.scot/birdflu)
- Ensure you are registered with APHA so that they can quickly contact you if there is an outbreak