



Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR CONTACT PREMISES

Contact Premises: Contact Premises have susceptible poultry that may have been exposed to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus, either directly or indirectly, including but not limited to exposure to susceptible poultry, poultry products, fomites, or people from Infected Premises.

Tracing: A critical activity during an HPAI outbreak is to rapidly and diligently trace-back and trace-forward movements from an Infected Premises; tracing identifies Contact Premises. This tracing aids in the control of the spread of HPAI virus and limits the impact of the outbreak. Tracing should capture all movements to and from the premises including, but not limited to, susceptible poultry and livestock, non-susceptible livestock, animal products, vehicles, crops/grains, and personnel (all potential fomites). Tracing will also take into consideration all potential modes of transmission and contact with wildlife.

Tracing Period: Typically, trace-back and trace-forward information is collected from the Infected Premises for the previous 21 days.

Priority of Tracing: When resources or personnel are limited in a widespread outbreak, movements considered high-risk by Incident Command should be traced first, so that any necessary action can be rapidly taken to control and contain the spread of HPAI. Recent trace-forwards involving hatching eggs, hatchlings, or live poultry are typically the first priority.

Depopulation: When Contact Premises are identified from tracing, depopulation of poultry on Contact Premises, or poultry meeting the suspect case definition, may be authorized by USDA APHIS officials—in coordination with State and Tribal officials and Incident Command—depending on epidemiological information and outbreak characteristics.

Indemnity: If USDA APHIS officials—in coordination with State and Tribal officials and Incident Command—agree that Contact Premises need to be depopulated, USDA APHIS will provide indemnity for depopulated poultry as funds are available.

Captive Wild Birds (i.e. raptors or certified endangered species): USDA APHIS does not depopulate captive wild birds (i.e. raptors or certified endangered species). In the event captive wild birds are on a Contact Premises, State Animal Health Officials, APHIS officials, and appropriate wildlife officials will be consulted.

OVERVIEW OF STEPS FOR TRACING & IDENTIFYING CONTACT PREMISES

1. State Animal Health Officials and APHIS officials contact all facilities with traces from the Infected Premises.
2. A State quarantine or hold order is placed on each facility with poultry, hatchlings, or hatching eggs from the Infected Premises (these premises are typically called Dangerous Contact premises).

- a. Under certain circumstances, a State quarantine or hold order may also be placed on Contact Premises that received items or products determined to be high-risk movements by the Incident Command.
3. All information required for indemnity is collected (e.g., census and inventory) on the Contact Premises in the event the flock is depopulated.
4. Epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed.
5. USDA APHIS, State/Tribal officials, and Incident Command agree on the disposition of the Contact Premises. Depending on epidemiological information, outbreak characteristics, proactive risk-assessments, premises characteristics (including type and species of birds), or other information available, the Contact Premises may be:
 - a. Depopulated in full.
 - b. Partially depopulated: poultry and hatching eggs from the Infected Premises are depopulated; all other poultry remain under State quarantine and tested based on surveillance guidance to demonstrate freedom from infection (minimum testing every other day for 14 days, see *Option 2* below).
 - c. Released from quarantine or hold order if further investigation and testing indicates premises does not fit the definition of a Contact Premises.

SPECIFIC CONTACT PREMISES SCENARIOS

Hatching Eggs and Hatchlings Traced From Infected Premises

1. Identify location of all hatching eggs and hatchlings from Infected Premises.
2. If Infected Premises sends hatching eggs to more than one hatchery, the risk to each hatchery will be evaluated independently.
3. USDA APHIS, State/Tribal officials, and Incident Command assess the HPAI infection risk of the hatching eggs or hatchlings and determine their disposition.
 - a. A science and risk-based approach will be used to determine risk, based on the best available information (e.g., on the strain or risk posed and recommendations from trade staff).
 - b. A primary consideration of this assessment should be the timing of egg or hatchling movements from the Infected Premises (i.e., 2 days ago or 15 days ago), relative to the known incubation period of the circulating HPAI virus. Movements within the known incubation period are higher risk.
4. Recommended disposition is to do the following:
 - a. Isolate and depopulate hatching eggs traced from the Infected Premises and any direct in-contact eggs (i.e., same incubator) on the Contact Premises.
 - b. Isolate and depopulate hatchlings from the Infected Premises, and any direct in-contact hatchlings (i.e., in shared holding area) on the Contact Premises.
5. If these measures and the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed with no detection of HPAI, then Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released after necessary procedures, which may include virus elimination and environmental testing per Incident Command guidance.

Poultry Traced From Infected Premises

Option 1: Depopulation of All Poultry

1. Isolate and depopulate poultry traced from the Infected Premises.
2. Depopulate other poultry on the Contact Premises.
3. When these measures and the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed, with no detection of HPAI, then Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released after necessary procedures, which may include virus elimination and environmental testing per Incident Command Guidance.

Option 2: Depopulation of All Poultry that originated from Infected Premises, with Quarantine and Surveillance of All Other Poultry on Premises

1. Isolate and depopulate poultry traced from the Infected Premises.
2. Isolate and quarantine (other) poultry on the Contact Premises and conduct surveillance to determine disease status of the flock.
3. Minimum surveillance guidelines for poultry on Contact Premises is rRt-PCR testing every other day for 14 days (see general sampling guidance below).
4. State Animal Health Officials and Incident Command can use other surveillance testing schemes if they provide 95 percent confidence of detection at similar prevalence levels as described below in the general sampling guidance or as described in the Secure Supply plans.
5. If upon completion of the epidemiological investigation and surveillance testing of the Contact Premises HPAI infection has not been detected, then the Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released.

Feed Mill on Contact Premises

1. In the event that there is a feed mill on a Contact Premises:
 - a. Feed trucks and other potential fomites (e.g., people and other equipment) moving on and off the premises will require strict biosecurity measures.
 - i. This may include intensified cleaning and disinfection measures as specified by Incident Command.
 - b. If the premises is a hatchery, feed movement may be restricted until the depopulation of hatching eggs or hatchlings is completed (State officials/Incident Command will provide guidance).
 - c. If premises is part of a larger production system, feed movement may be restricted to specific premises until the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises has been completed (State officials/Incident Command will provide guidance).
2. If the Contact Premises becomes an Infected Premises, the State Animal Health Officials and Incident Command will work together to determine the disposition of the feed on the premises.

GENERAL SAMPLING GUIDANCE FOR CONTACT PREMISES

1. Commercial flocks:
 - a. For premises with gallinaceous birds (e.g., chickens and turkeys), swab and pool samples from 5 or 11 birds from each group of 50 (or less) daily dead or euthanized sick gallinaceous birds from each house on the premises.
 - i. This sampling scheme is designed to detect HPAI with 95 percent confidence as described in detail in Secure Food Supply plans.
 - ii. Do not sample apparently healthy birds as this provides negligible detection benefit. Repeat sampling every other day for 14 days.

- b. For premises with domestic waterfowl only, follow guidance in 1a if moribunds are available; otherwise sample 30 birds per house as domestic waterfowl may not show clinical signs of infection.
 - i. A 30 bird sample is sufficient to detect HPAI with approximately 95 percent confidence if within-flock prevalence is 10 percent.
 - ii. Repeat sampling every other day for 14 days.
- 2. Backyard flocks: sample as described in 1a and 1b, recognizing that smaller flocks may not reach the sample size target. Typically 5-bird pools are collected on backyard premises and other small flocks.

Example Surveillance Scheme

- ◆ The following example surveillance scheme is for live birds from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the 2014–2015 HPAI Response; please refer to Incident Command for further guidance.
- ◆ This table was intended to guide sampling for relatively small backyard flocks (Contact Premises).
- ◆ Collect swab samples from birds in each house on each premises every other day, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for 8 sample days, over a 17 day period.
- ◆ Collect the number of birds as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Example Guidance on Number of Samples

Number of birds on each premises or house	Minimum number of birds to be sampled
10 or less	Sample all
20	15
30	15
40	15
50 or greater	20

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information on HPAI epidemiology, tracing, and surveillance please see the following:

- ◆ USDA APHIS FAD PReP Website (www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep):
 - *USDA APHIS HPAI Response Plan: The Red Book*
 - *HPAI Epidemiological Investigation and Tracing SOP*
 - *HPAI Surveillance SOP*
 - *HPAI Zones and Premises.*
- ◆ [Emergency Management Response System \(EMRS\).](#)