

# HPAI Response

## HPAI New State Checklist

December 9, 2024

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

### IS THERE A PRESUMPTIVE CASE OF HPAI?

- Reference the [H5/H7 Avian Influenza Case Definition](#) if needed, available in the HPAI Red Book, Chapter 5, Section 5.2.2.1.
- Communicate with the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) and/or District Director (DD), or designee(s), in your VS Field District immediately. To locate their contact information, please go here: [Animal Health Contacts](#).
- If duplicate samples were collected, ensure you have the tracking information of the sample sent to National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL); if a sample will be forwarded from a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory, check on its status and obtain tracking information. If samples still need to be shipped, discuss speed/transport options with your AVIC/DD immediately.
  - ◆ For a presumptive positive case of HPAI, APHIS and State response activities begin when the presumptive positive case definition is met; NVSL confirmation is needed for World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and trade notifications.
  - ◆ During a response, it may be helpful to send split samples (one to NAHLN, and one to NVSL). Tracking information for samples sent to NVSL should be provided to the AVIC/DD to ensure that NVSL prioritizes/flags the samples for testing upon arrival.
- Immediately confer about depopulation with the company/producer involved and appropriate State and APHIS officials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, and other logistics).
  - ◆ APHIS reviews *any* decision by State or industry to use ventilation shutdown plus (+) with heat. These decisions must involve APHIS and can occur immediately by phone, so that a joint State-APHIS-industry decision can be reached to meet the 24-48-hour depopulation goal.
  - ◆ Any contracts for depopulation, disposal, biosecurity, etc. entered by the State and/or producer must be approved in advance and in writing by Avian Indemnity ([AvianIndemnity@usda.gov](mailto:AvianIndemnity@usda.gov)).
- Discuss disposal options of carcasses and other materials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, applicable regulations, etc.).
- Get premises loaded into EMRS, if your State does not have pre-loaded premises data (loading prior to an incident is strongly preferred, more information is [here](#)).
- NAHLN laboratories need to begin electronic messaging of results immediately, if not already doing so. When available, results should be inputted into EMRS.
- Anyone submitting diagnostic samples *must* ensure that samples have accurate premises ID numbers on samples *and* on sample submission forms.

THEN, REVIEW POLICY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR RESPONSE...

With the ongoing threat of HPAI, unaffected States should prepare for an Infected Premises in their State. States should be aware of these procedures, processes, and information. If at any time you have a request for relevant documents or guidance available, please ask!

**Communication & Coordination**

- ◆ State Public Affairs, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS Trade Staff, & industry should coordinate timing and content for **ANY** public announcements and bilateral trade notifications.
- ◆ Calls between relevant parties, including but not limited to appropriate APHIS officials, company officials, and affected States, should begin *immediately*. More communication is almost always better in an outbreak.
- ◆ If a premises is presumptive positive, it is safer to wait until NVSL confirmation to post it publicly to provide the most accurate information. This is important for WOA and trade notifications to ensure that the latest information is accurately reported.

**Appraisal and Indemnity Procedures**

- ◆ Please start with the quick 2-page [Overview of Finance and Administration Procedures](#).
- ◆ The Indemnity and Compensation Request for HPAI as well as the Appraisal and Indemnity Requests for both poultry owners and growers are the first documents that must be signed to commence depopulation activities.  
*Note: If the flock has more than 500 birds or a total indemnity and compensation cost more than \$10,000, use the **1H – Indemnity and Compensation Request**. If the flock has 500 birds or less or a total indemnity and compensation cost equal to or less than \$10,000, use the **2H – HPAI-Affected Backyard Flock Management Agreement**.*
  - [Appendix 1H – Indemnity and Compensation Request for HPAI](#)
  - [Appendix 2H – HPAI-Affected Backyard Flock Management Agreement](#)
  - [Appraisal and Indemnity Request Form Appendix 2A: Poultry Owner](#)
  - [Appraisal and Indemnity Request Form Appendix 2B: Poultry Grower](#)
- ◆ Ensure that all information for the VS 1-23 is collected as soon as possible.
- ◆ Refer to the following policy guidance: [Permitting Live Poultry into an Infected Zone: Claims for USDA Indemnity Not Considered](#).

**Depopulation**

- ◆ Rapid depopulation and euthanasia are needed to control virus spread.
  - The goal is to depopulate within 24-48 hours after HPAI detection on a premises.
- ◆ Refer to the following policy guidance: [Response Goals & Depopulation Policy & Ventilation Shutdown Plus \(+\) Policy](#).
- ◆ Discuss possibility of the producer using the depopulation and disposal flat rate to streamline the process and expedite compensation payments for these activities.
- ◆ To learn more, review the [VS Producer Indemnity and Compensation](#) site.

**3D Activities/NVS Support**

- ◆ To contact the NVS and/or request resources, please email [NVS@usda.gov](mailto:NVS@usda.gov).
- ◆ Disposal procedures must be effective and appropriate.
  - For composting, review [Mortality Composting Protocol for AI Infected Flocks](#).
  - For landfilling, refer to the [Landfill Disposal Guidance](#) document.
- ◆ Cleaning and disinfection (virus elimination) of all areas must be conducted.
  - Please review [Cleaning & Disinfection Basics \(Virus Elimination\)](#).

**Zones and Premises**

- ◆ A Control Area needs to be established around Poultry Premises that are HPAI Infected Premises; refer to the [Ready Reference Guide—Overview of Zones](#).

**Surveillance & Epidemiology**

- ◆ Use the [Initial Epidemiological \(Epi\) Interview](#) to quickly gather the most critical information about premises.
- ◆ Review [Avian Sample Collection for Influenza A and Newcastle Disease](#).
- ◆ Immediately initiate surveillance activities to detect disease; guidance for HPAI is found in [Surveillance of Backyard Flocks Around Infected Premises](#) & [Surveillance Sampling for Commercial Premises in a Control Area](#).
- ◆ Rapidly follow up on any sick bird calls.

**Movement Control and Permitting**

- ◆ For an overview on movement control and guidance on moving into, within, and out of a Control Area, see [Movement Control](#).
- ◆ The Secure Food Supply plans provide permitting guidance ([www.securepoultrysupply.com](http://www.securepoultrysupply.com)).
- ◆ For permitting, see an [Overview of the HPAI Control Area Permitting](#); the EMRS Customer Permit Gateway can be used for submitting permit requests and receiving permits for high volume producers, alternate methods may be more suitable for lower volume producers.
  - Refer to the [Ready Reference Guide - EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway](#).

**Recovery and Restocking**

- ◆ Use the [Control Area Release](#) document for guidance on how to meet the necessary requirements prior to releasing a control area.
- ◆ The [Timeline, Eligibility, and Approval for Restocking](#) document provides a detailed timeframe on the restocking process once a premises is eligible and the quarantine is released. A [template of a restocking form](#) is also available and found on our site.

**Biosecurity**

- ◆ Rapidly implement increased biosecurity measures on any infected premises; responders also need to observe strict biosecurity procedures to prevent virus spread.
  - Many biosecurity resources are available from <http://www.poultrybiosecurity.org/>

**More Information**

- ◆ The [FAD PReP website](#) will be updated with new HPAI response and policy guidance during the outbreak; please check these documents frequently as procedures do change as needed; the [FAD PReP HPAI](#) page has additional information.
- ◆ Guidance on [PPE Recommendations for HPAI Responders](#) is available.
- ◆ [APHIS HPAI Website](#)