

Questions and Answers: The National Veterinary Stockpile and Avian Influenza (H5 and H7) Virus Vaccine

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), provides support to States, Tribes, and Territories responding to damaging animal disease outbreaks. Within 24 hours, the NVS can provide veterinary countermeasures—including certain types of animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response services—to animal health officials in affected areas. To learn more about this program, see the NVS factsheet on APHIS' Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/veterinary_stockpile.pdf.

Two of the vaccines NVS provides are for the H5 and H7 avian influenza (AI) viruses.

Q. Does NVS hold AI virus vaccine in its inventory?

A. We do not keep AI virus vaccine in our inventory. If needed, we can acquire vaccines from licensed U.S. manufacturers.

Q. What types of AI vaccine would NVS provide?

A. Different types of AI vaccine would be used in different poultry populations. AI vaccines we provide include:

- **Conventional AI vaccine, with a killed virus**—these are prepared from various H5 and H7 isolates with various N types, including the H5 strains currently causing human influenza in Asia and Africa. These vaccines are only suitable for use in poultry 2 weeks of age or older and require parenteral (subcutaneous) inoculation. Killed AI vaccines are suitable for use in primary or booster vaccination.

- **Recombinant H5 vaccines**—these vaccines are suitable for use in day-old chickens and may be suitable for non-parenteral administration (i.e., spray vaccination), but they may not always be suitable for booster vaccination. Currently, there are no U.S.-licensed recombinant H7 vaccines.

Q. Are the AI vaccines suitable for use in vaccination programs intended to detect infection in vaccinated animals (DIVA)?

A. All AI vaccines are DIVA-compatible. The killed virus vaccines would need to be prepared from vaccine strains with heterologous N types versus the field strain. The recombinant vaccines have no N genes/antigens, so they would be suitable for use versus any field strain.

Q. How can an NVS partner request AI vaccine?

A. APHIS leadership must first approve the use of AI vaccine. This approval is typically requested jointly through the State animal health official and the APHIS area veterinarian-in-charge. After receiving approval, the NVS partner will work with the NVS to coordinate AI vaccine requests.

We have the capacity to obtain and deliver AI vaccine within weeks. If required, additional deliveries would continue during the ensuing days and weeks.

Q. What should I do if I receive vaccine that is outside of the specified storage temperature (2–8 °C)?

A. If you detect temperature excursions (i.e., either **above or below** the acceptable temperature range) with the vaccine, follow these procedures:

- 1) Immediately move and store the vaccine in an isolated area of a refrigerator/storage room confirmed to be in the acceptable temperature range.
- 2) Clearly mark the affected vaccine with "DO NOT USE" labels. (Do NOT discard the affected vaccine.)
- 3) Complete the requested information below.
- 4) Immediately email this information and the appropriate TEMPERATURE MONITORING LOG to nvs@aphis.usda.gov and call (301) 851-3595.

- 5) Collect the shipping documents and temperature monitoring devices from the shipping container for analysis and provide these to the NVS Mobile Logistics Team, if onsite. If NVS personnel are not onsite, consult with the NVS Deployment Management Team by emailing nvs@aphis.usda.gov and calling (301) 851-3595.

Make sure to record the following information:

- Date
- Time and time zone
- Name and telephone number of person detecting temperature excursion
- Temperature of refrigerator/container/storage room at time of excursion
- Estimated amount of time temperature was outside acceptable range
- Ambient air temperature (estimated if not recorded)
- The commercial carrier and shipping information (if excursion was detected upon receipt)

You also need to **record the information below for affected vaccines** using a separate line for each lot/serial number:

- Vaccine, manufacturer, and lot/serial number
- Number of containers
- Number of doses
- Actions taken

Q. Where can I find more information about AI and other animal vaccines?

A. To learn more about AI, go to the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/avian_influenza/avian_influenza.shtml. For questions, concerns, or complications related to the use of animal vaccines, visit APHIS' veterinary biologics Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics. You can also contact the Center for Veterinary Biologics program coordinator at (515) 232-5785.

In an emergency, contact the NVS through our 24/7 hotline at 1-800-940-6524.

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