

FY2016 HPAI Response

Timeline, Eligibility, and Approval for Restocking

(Guidance updated March 30, 2016)



Policy Update

- Provides responders with revised procedures learned from the 2014–2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak.

Key Components

- General Information
- Biosecurity Measures
- Timeline to Restocking
- Indemnity
- Restocking Process
- Approval for Restocking
- Premises that are Eligible but Not Approved
- Premises that Do Not Plan to Restock
- Testing for Restocked Birds

Document History & Related Documents

This document updates and supersedes the following documents:

- *Timeline to Restocking & Environmental Sampling Procedures*
- *Restocking Criteria for Previously Infected Premises.*

Please also see the following, related policy documents:

- *Protocol for Environmental Sample Collection and Testing for Avian Influenza Virus*
- *Cleaning & Disinfection Basics (Virus Elimination).*



Intended Use

- This document provides guidance to State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs), USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) officials, and Incident Management Teams (IMTs) for the restocking of HPAI-infected commercial poultry premises.
- This includes the timeline to restocking and criteria that must be met for premises to restock.
- In order for premises to restock after HPAI-infection, they must meet the minimum time requirements, criteria to be eligible to restock, AND be approved to restock.
- Premises are eligible to restock/pending restock approval as they meet the criteria that are laid out in the restocking process.
- Being **approved to restock** indicates that the premises has met any additional criteria that may have been laid out in the restocking process, met any additional criteria that may be required by the State or APHIS officials, and that State and APHIS officials have agreed in writing that the premises can be restocked.

Biosecurity Measures

All biosecurity practices currently in place on the premises (including use of personal protective equipment [PPE]) will be followed for activities discussed here, including sample collection for environmental testing and final inspection of the premises prior to quarantine release.

The level of PPE needed for different activities (for example, environmental sampling) will be determined by the SAHOs and/or IMTs.



Timeline to Restocking for Premises

The timelines provided here (for premises using both composting and burial) offer guidance on just the *steps, time, and sampling* it takes to reach the point to be eligible to begin the restocking process and, ultimately, approved to restock.

- For premises using composting:
 - Figure 1 covers in-house composting,
 - Figure 2 covers outdoor composting, and
 - Figure 3 covers the combination of in-house/outdoor composting.
 - Environmental sampling inside the houses/barns occurs after the compost pile is complete and removed from inside the barns.
- For outdoor composting, environmental sampling inside the houses/barns can occur after the houses/barns are cleaned and disinfected.
- **Please note:** There is no requirement OR option to release compost based upon compost sample testing.

Figure 1. Timeline for Disposal & Premises Restocking: In-House Composting

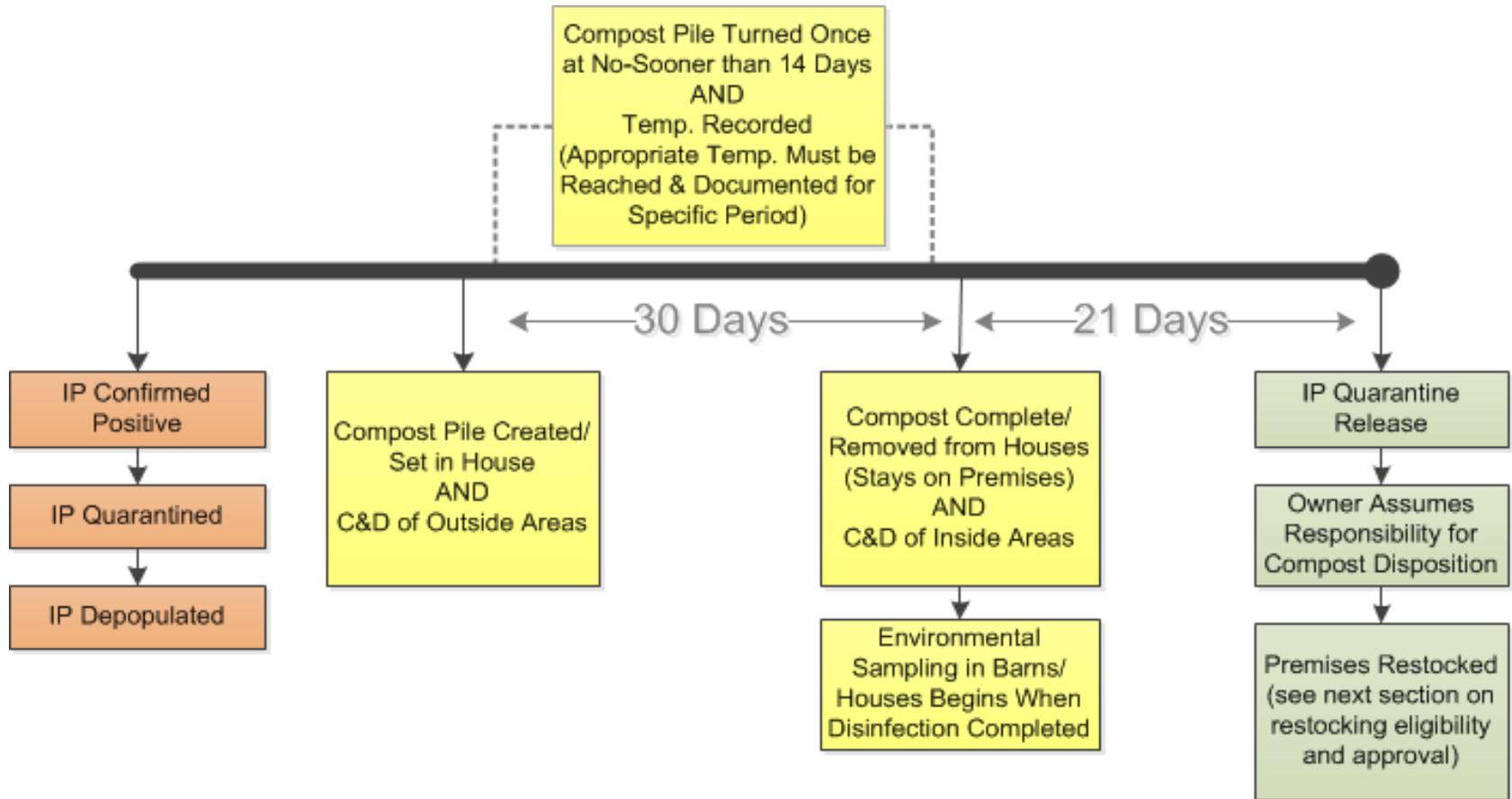


Figure 2. Timeline for Disposal & Premises Restocking: Outdoor Composting

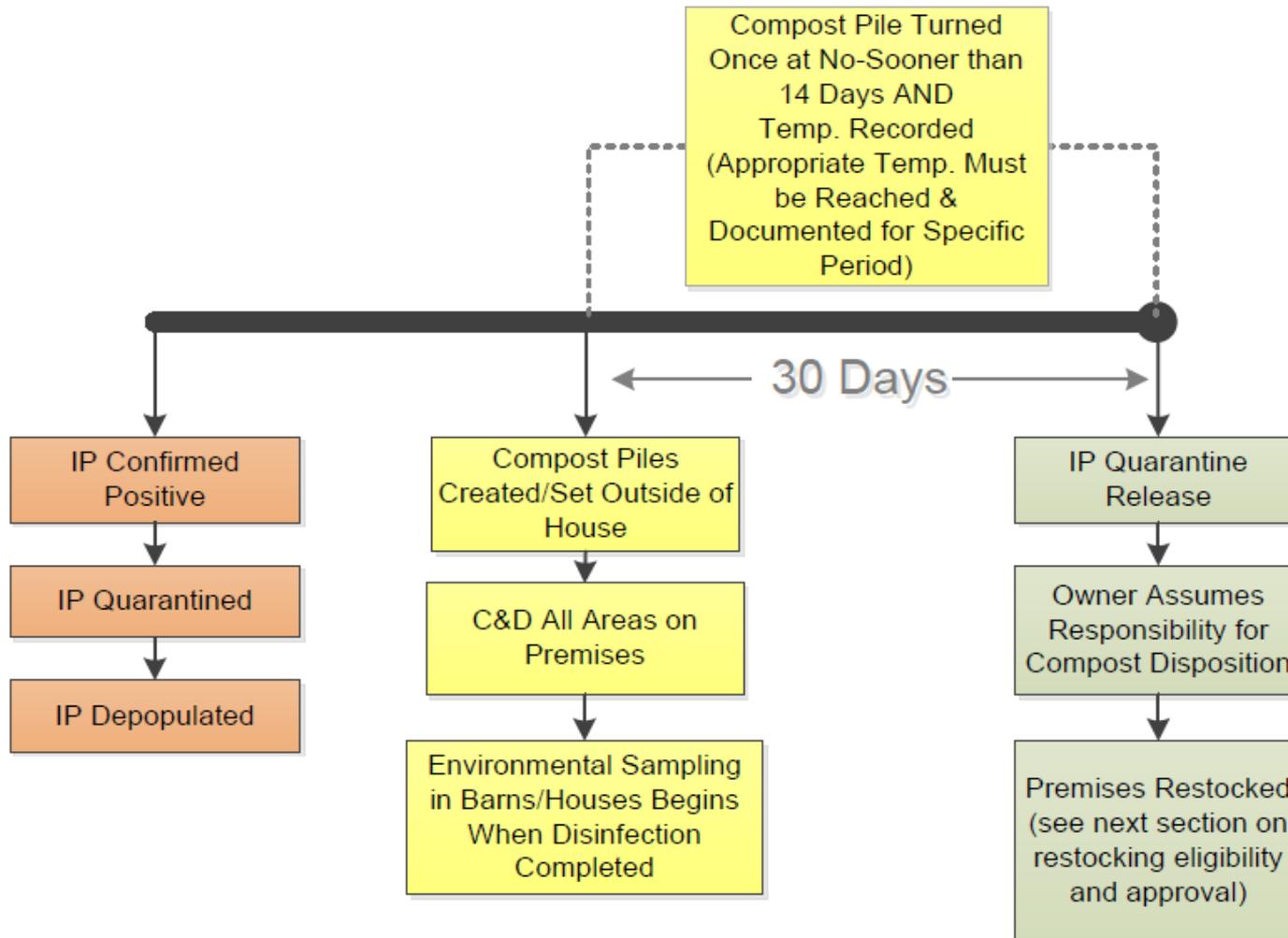
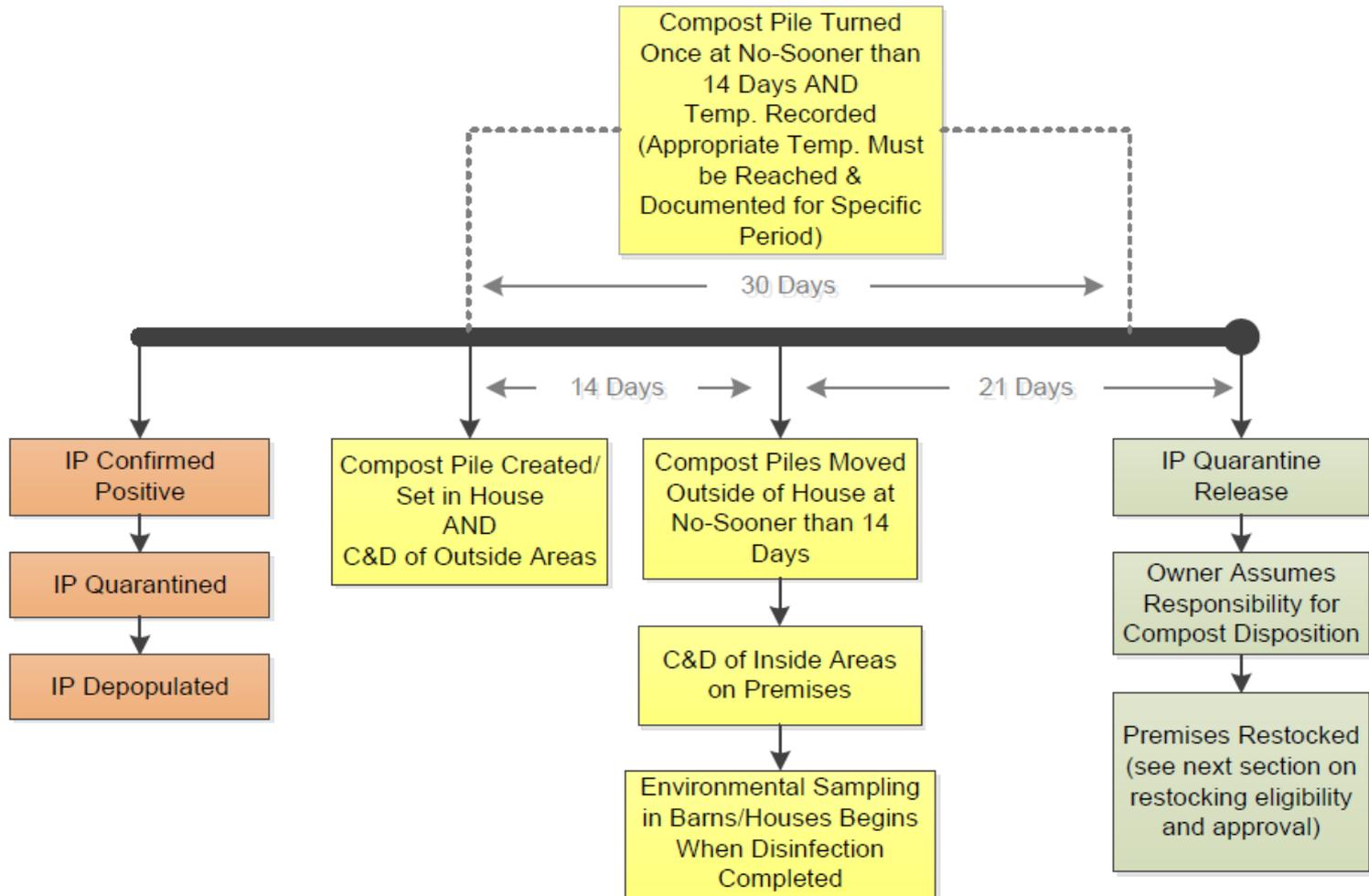


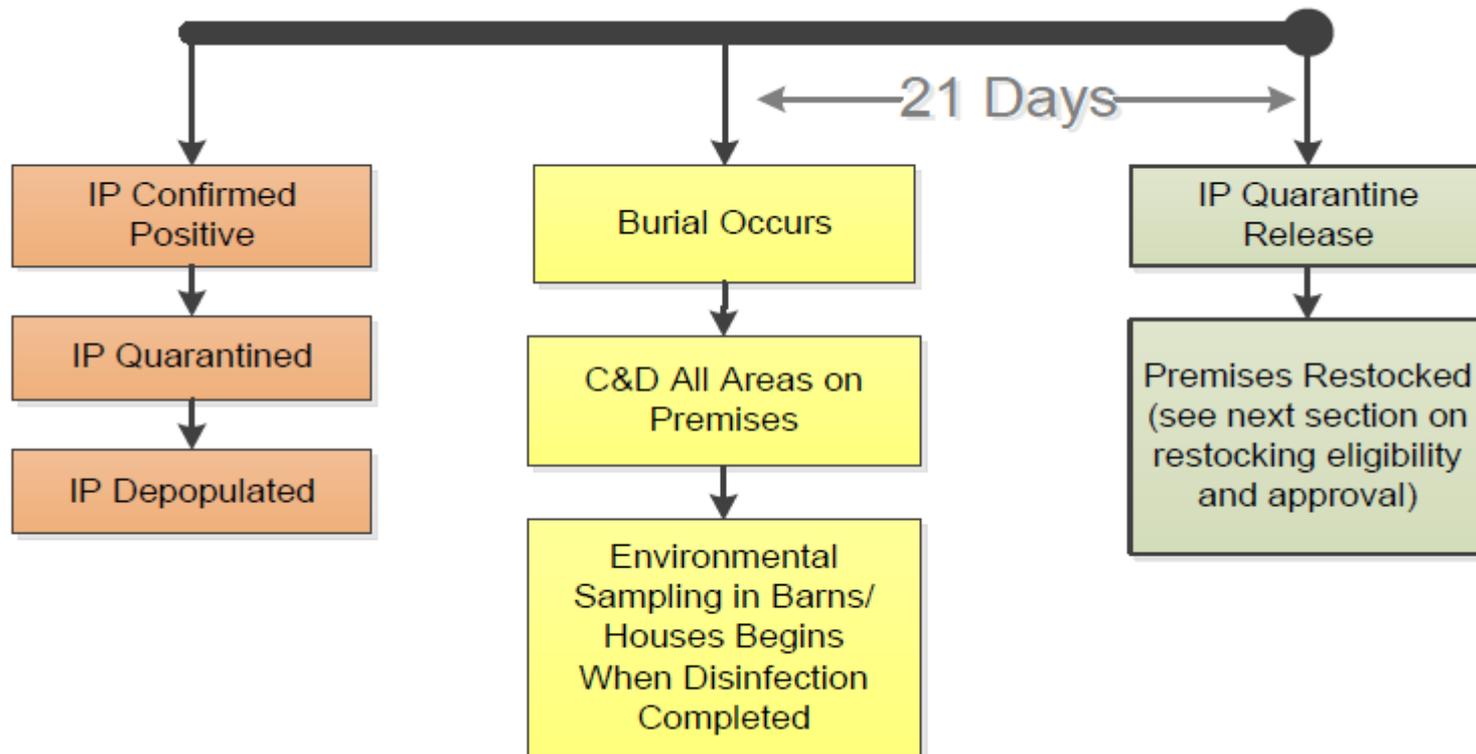
Figure 3. Timeline for Disposal & Premises Restocking: Combo of In-House/Outdoor Composting



Timeline to Restocking for Premises Using Burial

Figure 4. Timeline for Disposal & Premises Restocking: Burial

Environmental sampling is performed inside the houses/barns *after* the premises is cleaned and disinfected following disposal.



Restocking Previously Infected Premises

- A primary goal of the HPAI response is to ensure that the response efforts and activities do not cause more damage and disruption than the disease outbreak itself.
- Restocked premises that subsequently become infected with HPAI a second time place added stress on already strained resources and continue the risk of ongoing HPAI transmission in commercial poultry.
- As such, APHIS urges appropriate caution restocking premises in an HPAI outbreak.



Restocking Assessments

Two assessments must occur to restock previously infected premises:

1. An assessment of the previously Infected Premises being restocked. This includes the environmental sampling results and assessment of whether the premises has met the timeline requirements in Figures 1–4 (as applicable to the specific premises).
2. An assessment of the surrounding area or Control Area in which the Infected Premises is located. Assessment information including the epidemiological curve (rate of new infected premises), geospatial risk factors, and other epidemiological risk factors for the previously infected premises.

Indemnity

- APHIS will not indemnify previously Infected Premises that are restocked without written APHIS **and** State approval and subsequently become an Infected Premises a second time.
- For premises that meet the following criteria, including written approval by APHIS and State officials that restocking can occur, full indemnification will be provided by APHIS as funds are available.



Restocking Process

When a premises finishes virus isolation, and a final inspection of the premises has been completed, the premises enters the restocking phase of the response. At this point, the premises can begin the restocking process (in other words, the premises is “eligible to begin the restocking process/pending restock approval”), but is not yet approved to restock.

In order to be eligible to restock a previously Infected Premises, all the following criteria must be met:

1. The owner and/or grower has met, for the original Infected Premises, the requirements of the:
 - a. State Quarantine Notice or Hold Order(s); AND
 - b. USDA Flock Plan.
2. The premises has met the minimum conditions laid out in this document with regard to timeline to restocking, including the:
 - a. Minimum fallow time, for the method of disposal chosen; AND
 - b. Environmental sampling, with no evidence of HPAI infection.
3. In consultation with the SAHO, the owner will evaluate risk factors at the start of the 21 day fallow that begins upon completion of the final cleaning and disinfection.

When steps 1–3 are complete, the premises can seek approval from APHIS and State officials to restock.

Restocking Process Continued

To summarize:

A premises may only seek approval to restock when the premises is 21-days post completion of final virus elimination, environmental sampling is complete and shows no evidence of HPAI, and the premises meets requirements of the State Quarantine Notice/Hold Order and the USDA Flock Plan.



Approval for Restocking

After all of the “Restocking Process” criteria are met, premises become ready for State and APHIS officials to approve the restocking. Additional criteria, particularly further biosecurity measures, may be required by State and/or APHIS officials in order for the premises to be restocked; State requirements may vary by State:

1. The owner and/or grower will complete any additional surveillance, biosecurity procedures, and requirements for movement as may be required by the State and APHIS upon and following restocking. These biosecurity requirements may include, but are not limited to the following areas:
 - a. C&D procedures for all movement onto the farm, and all movement into and between barns.
 - b. Personnel-specific biosecurity measures, including barn-specific clothing not to be worn outside.
 - c. Exclusion of wild birds and rodents from the barn structure.
 - d. Measures to ensure feed and water are not contaminated by wild birds or their feces.
 - e. Immediate mitigation of standing water, feed spills, and other environmental factors that may attract wild birds.
 - f. Elimination of visits by non-essential personnel.

Approval for Restocking Continued

After State/APHIS criteria have been met and State and APHIS officials have assessed the Control Area, they will approve, in writing, that the premises can be restocked. The premises is now “approved to restock.” This means that the premises has:

- met all requirements to be approved to restock,
- has a signed restock agreement.

In some cases, the formal Restock Approval letter may be issued a few days prior to the end of the fallow period; however, the premises cannot restock until the date on the letter. Any USDA Flock Plan requirements pertaining to restocking remain in place.



Premises that are Eligible but Not Approved for Restocking

- A premises may have completed the 21-day fallow period and have negative environmental testing, but not be approved to restock because of ongoing disease cases in the Control Area.
- These premises are “eligible to begin the restocking process/pending restock approval” until State and APHIS officials assess the Control Area and determine that a Restock Approval letter can be issued to the premises.
- At this point the premises is “approved to restock.”

Premises that Do Not Plan to Restock

- Those that do not, will not seek a Restock Approval letter (but may complete the rest of the steps outlined prior).
- These premises will continue to be “Pending Restock Approval” until State and/or APHIS officials approve, in writing, that the premises can be restocked.
- These steps in the “Restocking Process” section must be documented in EMRS in the same manner regardless of the premises’ intention to obtain a Restock Approval letter from State/APHIS officials.

Testing for Restocked Birds

Birds used for restocking must be from flocks tested for HPAI. These flocks must be tested for HPAI prior to movement; the minimum standard is 2 negative rRT-PCR tests at least 24 hours apart, with one negative test within 24 hours of movement.

