



CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS NOTICE NO. 17-04

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Center for Veterinary
Biologics

1920 Dayton Avenue
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Ames, IA 50010

(515) 337-6100

TO: Veterinary Services Leadership Team
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics
Biologics Licensees, Permittees, and Applicants

FROM: Byron E. Rippke
Director

SUBJECT: Availability of Avian Influenza Isolate and Sequence Information

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to furnish interested parties with the genetic sequences from the North American (AM) H7N9 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus and low pathogenic (LPAI) viruses isolated from commercial chickens in Tennessee in March 2017. The notice is also to inform interested parties that the HPAI isolate will be available for purchase from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) by mid-April, 2017.

II. BACKGROUND

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed AM H7N9 HPAI in a commercial chicken (broiler breeder) flock experiencing significant mortality in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on March 5, 2017. Subsequent AM H7N9 detections were found to be LPAI, and a second HPAI detection was confirmed at NVSL on March 15, 2017. The virus is NOT related to the China H7N9 viruses - all gene segments are North American wild bird lineage with high similarity to other wild bird viruses collected across the U.S. between 2015-2017. In addition, the virus belongs to a different lineage compared to H7N3/Mexico HPAI.

Further information on the North American H7N9 findings is available at:
<https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals/one-health/avian-influenza>

III. ACTION

Veterinary Services is making the HPAI genomic sequence, as well as the HPAI virus courtesy of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, available to facilities to encourage disease research and development to benefit the U.S. poultry industry. The complete genomic sequences for both HPAI and LPAI viruses have been submitted to GenBank and will be available under accessions as follows: H7N9 HPAI KY818808-818815 and KY818832-818839; H7N9 LPAI KY818816-818823.

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Available isolate:

- A/chicken/Tennessee/17-007147-2/2017 (H7N9) – courtesy of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory

Biologics firms that wish to obtain samples of these isolates for research purposes should:

A. Contact the NVSL Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at (515) 337-7551 for guidance regarding the appropriate forms and payments to submit.

B. Submit the completed forms and the payment associated with the order by one of the following methods:

1. Mail: NVSL User Fees, Box 844, Ames, Iowa 50010
2. Email: NVSL_concerns@aphis.usda.gov.

The NVSL will inform customers when the virus is ready to ship.

C. Note that the HPAI isolate must be transferred in compliance with the Select Agent Regulations. No Material Transfer Agreement will be required. This isolate is a not pre-tested Master Seed; it is being made available for research and development. The availability of this isolate does not infer any impending change in vaccination policy.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/ APPLICABILITY

The HPAI sequence is posted in this announcement, and the referenced reagent will be available from the NVSL no later than April 15, 2017.