

VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Virulent Newcastle disease (vND) is a fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease spreads so quickly that many birds and poultry die without showing any signs.

vND is not a food safety concern. No human cases of Newcastle disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat.

In very rare instances, vaccination crews and people working directly with sick birds can become infected with mild symptoms, such as conjunctivitis (pinkeye). This is easily prevented by using personal protective equipment.



Know the Signs and Report Sick Birds

Virulent Newcastle disease spreads quickly and can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry. It is essential that poultry owners know the signs of illness and report any sick birds right away.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Sudden death and increased death loss in flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, difficulty breathing
- Greenish, watery diarrhea
- Ruffled feathers
- Lack of appetite
- Decreased activity, tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck, circling, complete stiffness
- Swelling around the eyes and neck
- Marked decrease in egg production and egg quality

HOW TO REPORT

If your flock shows any of these signs, report it immediately to your veterinarian, State animal health officials, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1-866-536-7593 for appropriate testing. Quick detection is essential to prevent the spread of vND.



Help keep this disease from spreading to new flocks!
Need more info? www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/vnd

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